

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 29

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 8, 2023

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

## Old Town Hall, New Town Hall, Skatepark Will See Aid Money

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

At Tuesday's Montague selectboard meeting, the board approved spending funds the town received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on five projects recommended by the capital improvements committee (CIC). These included solar panels on the roof of the "annex" of the current town hall in Turners Falls, estimated at \$205,000; new windows and a roof repair at the historic town hall in Montague Center, together estimat-

ed at \$250,000; and enhanced lighting at Unity Skatepark, at \$125,000.

The CIC also recommended that the town scale back proposed renovations of a park in Montague Center, focusing on its playground, and approve the project as an "alternate" provided enough ARPA money is left after the first four projects are bid. The park project was estimated to cost \$472,000 and would be partially funded by a \$272,000 grant.

CIC chair Greg Garrison, who presented the recommendations, see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## Amid Long-Stalled Contract Negotiations, G-M Teachers Authorize Workplace Action

By **MIKE JACKSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – "Doing just the bare minimum of the contract feels really hard, because as teachers, it's not who we are," Pam Reynolds, waiting with colleagues Wednesday morning in the staff parking lot behind Hillcrest Elementary School, explained. "But I voted to to work to rule because I feel like we're kind of at our limit."

Reynolds, a special education teacher with the district since 2009, said that it "feels yucky" to not do many of the things she regularly does that are not officially part of her job, like eating lunch with a certain student once a week.

"But I also feel like we have been negotiating for a long time in good faith with the school committee," Reynolds told the Reporter, "and they need to move."

The district's union, the Gill-Montague Education Association (GMEA), has been negotiating for a new contract since March 2022, and staff have technically been between without a contract since last summer. The sole stick-



JACKSON PHOTO

Hillcrest Elementary School staff, wearing Gill-Montague Education Association t-shirts, stood quietly at the rolling drop-off Wednesday morning, signalling the third day of a "work-to-rule" action calling public attention to stalled contract talks.

ing point, according to both GMEA representatives and school committee chair Jane Oakes, is the plan for cost-of-living increases.

Union negotiators suggested a compromise last fall that would write 2%, 3%, and 2% annual bumps into the three-year contract,

but their membership voted it down.

Since then the situation has evolved, but only slightly: the GMEA is now publicly calling for a four-year course of 2%, 3%, 3%, and 3% – beginning with the school year now ending – which see **ACTION** page A6

## Turners and Tech Face Off In State Quarterfinal Game



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Morgan Dobias slammed a first-inning double as the Thunder rolled to a 9-2 win over the visiting Lenox Memorial Millionaires on Wednesday. They advance to the quarterfinals, hosting crosstown rival Franklin Tech Saturday.

By **MATT ROBINSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – After a hot and smoky week, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles and Turners Falls Softball Thunder will face each other Saturday in the MIAA Division 5 state quarterfinals.

After becoming repeat state champions in the Small Vocational division last week, the Eagles had little time to rest. They jumped right into the MIAA playoffs, hosting one game and then traveling to Pittsfield to shut out higher-seeded Taconic. Over the three games they held their opponents to just one run.

Across town the Thunder, the Pioneer Valley Class D champions, beat two visiting teams by a combined score of 24-2, setting up a rematch with Tech.

Also this week, another sports fixture was dedicated to a local legend, as the backstop at the Newt Guilbault Little League field

was named in honor of one of the League's founders, Mr. George F. Bush. Mr. Bush has served area youth tirelessly as a teacher, coach, and friend for generations now.

FCTS 5 – Tri-County 0  
FCTS 3 – Bourne 1  
FCTS 6 – Taconic 0

The Franklin Tech Softball Eagles hosted the Tri-County Cougars last Thursday in a bid to defend the Small Vocational state title. It was nearing 90 degrees, and both teams sweltered in their navy blue jerseys while fans took breaks under the trees.

The very first Cougar chopped a base hit, and a passed ball advanced the runner, but two strikeouts and a grounder ended the threat. In the home half, Lillian Ross hit a one-out single and Hannah Gilbert blasted a two-run homer to give the Lady Birds a lead.

see **SOFTBALL** page A4

## Gill Signs Rec Settlement Agreement: 'Do We Have Much of an Option?'

By **KATE SAVAGE**

In a 15-minute meeting on Monday, the Gill selectboard approved the FirstLight relicensing recreation settlement agreement by a 2-1 vote.

"Do we have much of an option?" selectboard member Charles Garbiel asked before voting. "Everything's done in secrecy, and with non-disclosures... The whole thing's a little suspect in my mind. But what can you do at this point?"

FirstLight convened the settlement talks as part of its application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to renew its licenses to operate the

Turners Falls dam and power canal and the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage hydroelectric plant.

Before voting, the members agreed they shouldn't approve the agreement unanimously.

"At least it sends some type of message," said chair Randy Crochier. "Honestly, I don't think FirstLight gives a damn whether we sign it or not," he added. "And I don't think FERC does either."

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker, who was participating remotely, voted "nay," while Garbiel and Crochier voted "yea."

In the previous selectboard meeting, concerns were see **GILL** page A5

## May Freeze Damaged Region's Fruit Crop

By **BRIAN ZAYATZ**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – In the days leading up to May 17, fruit growers across New England watched weather predictions with alarm as temperatures threatened to plunge well below freezing that night.

There is little that can be done to prepare a budding apple tree for a freeze, and when the night came to pass with lows well into the 20s across the area north of the Mass Pike, growers set out in the following days to assess the damage.

For some, it was historically bad. "I've been told by my elders that the last time the farm had a freeze-out was 1940," Tim Smith, a seventh-generation apple grower and owner of Apex Orchards in Shelburne, told this reporter. "With climate change, we don't have the stability that we used to. They talk about global warming, but the side that hits us harder is the swings [in temperature]."

Apex Orchards lost about one third of the orchard's crop to the



ZAYATZ PHOTO

Tim Smith of Apex Orchards shows the inside of an apple bud damaged by May's late freeze.

freeze, Smith said. The damage at Apex was concentrated in a low-lying area, sparing the orchard's pick-your-own and home farm areas.

"It's not a general, widespread event," Smith said. "If you're high enough, probably 800 to 1,000 feet of elevation, you're safer," he added, explaining that cool air can

drain into valleys and avoid damaging apple blossoms.

According to Dave Hayes, a local weather tracker and self-proclaimed "weather nut," the cold snap was a result of a system bringing cold air down from the north.

"This air was also very dry," he see **FREEZE** page A5

## Wendell Town Meeting Debates Professionalization, Citizenship

By **SARAH ROBERTSON**

Wendell voters approved all articles on the warrant at Tuesday night's annual town meeting, with the exception of a resolution to form a committee to offer Native Americans use of the town common. About 50 people attended the three-hour meeting in town hall, and a number watched over Zoom. It was the first Wendell town meeting broadcast online, though viewers could not vote from home.

With minor amendments, voters unanimously approved a \$3.7

million budget for FY'24. The general government budget will be \$300,797; "protection," which includes police, fire, building inspectors, and open space, will be \$256,903, up 15%; and the highway department \$569,735, the same as this year. Education, by far the largest portion, will be \$2,078,388, up 4.8% from the present year.

Residents voted unanimously to use \$200,000 from the town's stabilization fund to balance the budget while lowering the tax rate, leaving \$532,432 in stabilization.

see **WENDELL** page A6

### A Fine Particulate Haze Blankets The Air, Or Whatever

Letters to the Editors.....	A2	Sunshine for Gonzo.....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	West Along the River: Dugout Bailout.....	B1
Eye[On]Newt.....	A4	Your Sick Friend.....	B2
Erving Selectboard Notes.....	A5	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A6	Our Monthly Kids' Page.....	B6
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....	A7	Arts & Entertainment Listing.....	B7
Leverett Selectboard Notes.....	A8	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7
Heartfelt Cafe: Coconut Song.....	B1	Fibermania at the LCA.....	B8



# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

## Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*  
 Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*  
 Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*  
 Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*  
 Ken Washburn, *Editorial Assistant*  
 Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*  
 Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*  
 Spencer Shorkey, *Science Page*

## Production Staff

Garth Shaneyfelt, *Business Manager*  
 Lyn Clark, *Distribution Manager*  
 Jae Southerland, *Layout & Subscriptions*  
 Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*  
 Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*  
 Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*  
 Brian Faldasz, *Technical Administration*

## Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
 August 2002

## That Magic Money

"We have two unusual opportunities in FY'24," Montague finance committee member John Hanold wrote in these pages back on May 4. "The revenue sources are non-recurring, so we are careful to avoid building them into our annual operating budgets."

Two million extra dollars in tax revenue lay quivering on the town's plate, and after a favorable settlement, another quarter million no longer needed to be hidden away in the tax assessors' sock drawer.

The finance committee was recommending putting a million and a half into capital stabilization (the town's rainy-day account for big projects) and the other \$750,000 into the trust fund for "other post-employment benefits," the looming future liability of retired town staff living long, healthy lives.

Two days later, former fin com chair Jen Audley asked a good question from the floor of town meeting. "Did you, in the course of those conversations, talk about your approach to unanticipated, large amounts of free cash," she asked, "under the terms of the affordable assessment and the Compact?"

The Compact – no, wait, don't leave, this is important. The Compact for Funding Education was an agreement hashed out a decade ago by the towns of Montague and Gill and the Gill-Montague Regional School District that managed to cut the Gordian knot of austerity and adversarial budgeting in the two-town district.

Long story short, each year Montague will very honestly tally

up all its revenue that can be put to operations, and offer up 48.5% of it to the school district, a sum called the "affordable assessment." Gill's assessment is a function of that figure, proportionate to the number of kids from each town enrolled in the schools, and then the school administration can add in a projection of state aid and start hammering out the next year's budget.

Audley's question shone a light on an uncomfortable reality: as the bad old days that spawned the Compact recede into history, there are all sorts of small ways cash might be trickling out and around and back to the town coffers without counting in that 48.5%.

The schools have a looming retirement liability too; why shouldn't they be dealt in?

We're bringing this up now because the headline news this week – huge news to a lot of kids, and a lot of families, in our community – is that educators have reached a breaking point and are carrying out a work-to-rule action. Drilling into the situation, though, it seems like the impasse is over roughly \$80,000 in each of FY'25 and FY'26.

The town of Montague, on the same front page, is deciding to put \$125,000 into lighting at the skate park. Don't get us wrong, we love that... but, huh? In a period flush with emergency aid, the distinction between non-recurring and annual expenses is important, but the different scales of these numbers highlights that something is going wrong. Does this town want its schools to succeed?

## Entertained Anyway

One recent Sunday I dialed what I thought was PJ Diemand's phone number to ask a plumbing question. A man answered who didn't sound quite like Pete. "Jonathan here. Is this Pete?" I asked.

The response was a little bit inconclusive, but I pressed on: "Can you help me with a question about foot valves and check valves?"

Hesitation – and a muffled "I can try."

"Is this (413) 824-[REDACTED]?" I asked.

"Umm..." (Many folks rarely dial their own number, I realized. Still...)

"Well, I've got a hand pump situation. I seem to have gotten leaks with new valves from both FW Webb and Premiere Plumbing..."

"For that, I may not be the best

one. I deal more with..."

We finally established that the party I'd reached was *not* Pete Diemand, but the owner of Greenfield's Bete Fog Nozzle, "Bete" sounding a lot like "Pete." (I believe it's Matthew Bete?) We had a laugh over that, and that his business also had to do with water valves – though mostly giant ones. The phone number, once he fully recalled it, was only one digit off the one I'd tried to call.

Multiple coincidences let the call go on a bit – kindness, too – and the man gave a mis-dialer with weird questions the time of day, so to speak!

**Jonathan von Ranson**  
**Wendell**



Michael Lovely and Tina Fedas were the smiling faces serving coffee, food, beer, and more from behind the counter at the Lady Killigrew Cafe last Tuesday. The cafe is located at the Bookmill in Montague Center and is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

## Letters to the Editors

### Reply: Gill-Montague Fair Compensation

There has been a great deal of discussion about the ongoing Gill-Montague Regional School Committee Negotiations with Unit A (Teachers). I feel it is important to share a few relevant facts so that those that are interested in the topic can be informed by accurate information.

In March 2022 negotiations were initiated between Unit A and the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) school committee to agree to a new three-year contract. After four months of interest-based bargaining using cooperative, constructive problem solving, a tentative agreement was reached on August 4, 2022.

The bargaining sessions were very collaborative. As we began to discuss percentages for annual cost-of-living increases, the union proposed an 8% increase over three years. The district counter-proposed an increase of 6%. After each side caucused, both sides of the negotiating teams agreed on 7%, with the breakdown to be 2% in the first year, 3% in the second year, and 2% in the third year.

The final step to conclude this process was to have the members of Unit A approve ratification, followed by school committee approval. The Unit A staff gathered for a ratification vote on October 3, 2022 – and voted the contract down.

When a contract is not approved by one side or the other, it is common practice to involve a mediator. Both sides agreed to come back to the table to try again before tak-

ing that step. On December 12, the union returned with a new request of 11% over the three years of the contract. The new proposal from the union was a full 3% higher than the union's original proposal.

At this point, it was clear that mediation was necessary. Both sides began mediation in March, and are continuing to meet.

The school committee believed that our agreed-upon three-year salary increase was not only reasonable and appropriate, but was also comparable to many school district settlement agreements negotiated by our attorneys in Western Massachusetts:

all Franklin County public school district teachers for the 2021-22 school year, provided by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education:

\$72,102	Frontier
\$73,507	Gill-Montague
\$59,209	Greenfield
\$75,073	Mohawk
\$67,774	Pioneer Valley
\$68,123	Mahar

More local data can be found at [www.bit.ly/GMRSDFC](http://www.bit.ly/GMRSDFC).

Uncertainty about state funding in future years makes negotiating larger increases in those future years risky. It could lead to a budget shortfall, should state funding not keep up with contractual salary increases. For instance, ESSER funding was provided to districts to overcome learning loss caused by the pandemic, which allowed us to hire additional staff. Those funds will expire early in FY'25. Budget shortfalls usually result in staff layoffs and/or reductions in programs for students as the staff salaries are the largest portion of our budget.

The school committee is charged with making decisions in the best interest of the entire school community – students, family and staff – as well as the community at large.

**Jane Oakes, Gill**  
 Chair, Gill-Montague Regional School Committee

**Editors' Note:** While this letter describes the employees' offer in December to accept an 11% raise spread over a three-year contract, the Gill-Montague Education Association says that its current negotiating position is for 11% over four years, 2/3/3, and that school committee negotiators have offered 2/3/2.

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
 Every other week in July and August.  
 No paper the fourth week of November,  
 or the final week of December.

**PHONE: (413) 863-8666**

**EMAIL:**

[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)  
[features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org)  
[ads@montaguereporter.org](mailto:ads@montaguereporter.org)  
[bills@montaguereporter.org](mailto:bills@montaguereporter.org)  
[circulation@montaguereporter.org](mailto:circulation@montaguereporter.org)  
[events@montaguereporter.org](mailto:events@montaguereporter.org)  
[poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)

Send address changes to:

**The Montague Reporter**  
 177 Avenue A  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is  
**MONDAY at NOON.**

*This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.*

**Annual Subscription Rate:**

**\$40** for walking subscriptions;  
**\$50** for driving route subscriptions;  
**\$75** for mailed subscriptions;  
**\$40 to \$75** for digital subscriptions.

Call us or contact  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)  
 with any questions.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**

*ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE LIMIT 4 PER YEAR*

Montague Reporter  
 177 Avenue A  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)

## Sign Me Up!

**\$20** { 6 months (23 issues) for our walking routes  
 4½ months (18 issues) for our driving routes  
 3 months (12 issues) for mailed subscriptions

## The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The **Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship** Committee announces that three students will receive scholarships for their academics and contribution to sports at Turners Falls High School and Franklin County Technical School. The \$2,000 awards are payable to each student for their second semester of college.

The winners are Nikolas Martin and Brayden McCord of Turners Falls High School, and Kendra Campbell of Franklin County Technical School. Congrats!

The **Leverett Village Coop** has music lined up for their Friday night pizza-on-the-patio events in June: klezmer band Tree Suits this Friday, June 9; Stephen Merriman on June 16; and an open mic night on June 23. There is a coop member meeting on the 30th. Pizza evenings run from 4 to 8 p.m. Call (413) 367-9794 for more information.

The Greenfield Players will present **Shakespeare's Twelfth Night** at the Greenfield Energy Park, with the first free performance this Friday at 6 p.m. followed by Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. There are additional performances on the 17th and 18th. Find out more at [greenfieldrecreation.com](http://greenfieldrecreation.com).

Two **original play readings** are being held at the LAVA Center this Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, at 7 p.m. *Time in Tatters*, a story of identity, uprooting, exile, and traumas of war, written by Silvia Martinez-Howard, a native of Argentina, and *Inheritance* by Nina Gross, which is about privilege, power, and deception during the

late antebellum South.

**Great Falls Books Behind Bars** will hold a volunteer day this Saturday, June 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. at their 104 Fourth Street space in Turners Falls. Help them respond to letters and pack books for incarcerated people. There is also a library, a free store, and a community pantry at the location. Masks are required indoors, and the first floor is wheelchair accessible.

Check out a **"trunk show" at Sawmill River Arts**, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague this Saturday, June 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale highlights hand-sewn scarves, skirts, bags, and more made by Annie Collins.

This Saturday evening, June 10, is the monthly **Open Mic at the Common Hall** in Montague Center. Doors open and sign-up begins at 6:15 p.m. Featured artist Louise Mosrie will share her bluegrass and country-inspired originals. Donations are welcome, and all are invited to attend, and to bring their own food and beverage.

Brian Casey will host a free **Old Time Radio Hour** at the New Salem Public Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, June 13. The evening consists of listening to shows on a working, fully restored 1936 Crosley radio at the library, 23 South Main Street in New Salem.

This month's presentation is devoted to George Burns and Gracie Allen. Casey will discuss and play episodes involving Gracie's lost brother, her 1940 presidential campaign as the Surprise Party candidate, and an episode with one of the

most famous flubs in radio.

For more information, contact (978) 544-6334.

The next **Montague Center Concert Series** on Wednesday evening, June 14, features Little House Blues. The music begins at 6 p.m. outside the Montague Center branch library. People are invited to bring chairs or blankets.

I will be on the bass with Little House as we play a selection of original, dance-able, Chicago-style blues. Ms. Annye Anderson, the 97-year-old stepsister of famous blues legend Robert Johnson, will also be there, with copies to sign and sell of her memoir, *Brother Robert: Growing Up with Robert Johnson*.

The **Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center** are holding their annual meeting next Thursday, June 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Center in Turners Falls. The Friends share an interest in providing educational resources about local nature and culture. All are welcome to socialize, enjoy light refreshments, and learn a bit about activities at GFDC over the past year. The museum will be open for browsing, and there will be a tour of the grounds.

If you are a member, it's a nice chance to catch up with others, and if not, this is a good opportunity to get to know the group and what they do.

Slate Roof Press is now taking applications for their **annual chapbook award**, open to all poets in the US. The contest closes on June 15.

The winner receives the 2023 Elyse Wolf Prize and \$500, and becomes an active member of the press. The first runner-up receives \$100. Slate Roof is a member-run, not-for-profit collaborative publishing new voices in poetry. See [slateroofpress.com](http://slateroofpress.com) for submission details.

The Butterfly Swing Band will be **"Swinging in Montague"** on the third Friday of each month at the Common Hall in Montague Center starting next Friday, June 16 at 7 p.m. The three-hour dance event costs \$15, and for an extra \$5

you can take a dance lesson. The next swing nights are July 21, August 18, and September 15.

The annual **Brick House 5K Race** is scheduled for Saturday, June 17 on the Canalside Rail Trail/Unity Park in Turners Falls. This fundraiser for the community resource center is for all ages, with walkers, skateboarders, bicyclists, and strollers encouraged to join.

Check-in is at 9 a.m., and the race starts at 10 a.m. Entry is \$20 with pre-registration and \$25 on race day, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. There will be prizes. Register online at [www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k](http://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k).

**Pollinator Week** kicks off at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Sunday, June 18 with a presentation from 10:30 a.m. to noon titled "Fields and forests – what do bees need?" Learn how important native bees are, and what they need to thrive.

Attendees can make their own native bee habitat by "painting" with yarn, fleecy, pre-felt shapes, and soapy water. For ages 4 and up, including teens and adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Designed especially for families – including dads – but all are welcome to this event held in the Great Hall.

Over the next few weeks, the **Art Garden in Shelburne Falls** needs help preparing materials for the art activity tent at the Green River Festival, which takes place the last weekend in June. Volunteer groups are busy preparing compostable and repurposed materials to provide free art-making opportunities for festival-goers. Join a work bee at the Art Garden by contacting [csartgarden@gmail.com](mailto:csartgarden@gmail.com). There is also work you can take home to complete instead.

A group of people in Montague have begun talking about how people in our town can stay in their homes as they grow older. They are looking into creating a network of volunteers to provide support and services.

These networks, known as "Villages," provide support services and opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors. The first Village was started in Boston in 2001, and there are now about 20 Villages in Massachusetts and over 350 around the US. An information session for the new **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** group will be held Tuesday, June 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts announces that their **Family Support Group** has resumed in-person meetings on the last Wednesday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Clinical Support Options, 296 Federal Street in Greenfield.

"Families join a caring group of individuals helping one another by utilizing their collective lived experiences and learned wisdom," they write. "Family members can achieve a renewed sense of hope for their loved one living with mental health challenges."

For more information, contact [information@namiw.org](mailto:information@namiw.org) or (413) 786-9139.

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

## GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*This Week's Vendors*  
Big Foot Food Forest  
Moon Beam Steams  
Stout Pigeon Coffee  
Blue Cross Blue Shield

Peskeomskut Park  
Turners Falls

**WENDELL COUNTRY STORE**  
"It's just a stone's throw from reality."  
Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods  
Beer - Wine - Liquor  
MON - SAT 7-9. SUNDAY 8-8  
978-544-8646  
Lockes Village Rd.  
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

Formerly Jay K's - bigger & better!

**Connecticut River**  
Liquor & Wine  
Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm  
Fri & Sat 10am - 11pm • Sun Noon-8pm  
123 Avenue A • Turners Falls  
863-5066

**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1916  
269 High Street - Greenfield  
(413) 773-9639  
**Local Farmer-Owned**  
Products for the home, farm, pets, yard & garden  
If you Feed it - Seed it - Weed it We GOT it!  
[www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com](http://www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com)

**Mesa Verde**  
Eat In or Take Out!  
BURRITOS,  
BOWLS,  
SOFT TACOS,  
QUESADILLAS  
Now Serving  
BBC Steel Rail  
(413) 772-2531  
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield  
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

## RUBBLE... AND DUST



Demolition of the Farren Memorial Hospital in Montague City is well underway. "Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield, MA are charged with the razing project, which may take as long as a month to complete," Ed Gregory reported with this May 30 photo. "This photo shows the smaller of two excavators (Caterpillar 330D) taking a chomp out of the west side of the kitchen area wall, exposing the innards." This week the Montague Reporter reviewed video of the work taken by neighbors who say they believe the contractors are not taking sufficient measures to suppress dust. We are watching the story with interest.

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

**Pipione's**  
SPORT SHOP  
• Fishing supplies; Live bait  
• Fishing & Hunting Licenses  
• Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills  
• Guns & Ammo  
Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

**Dudek Tax Service**  
10 Masonic Ave  
Turners Falls  
MA 01376  
Frank J. Dudek  
413.863.5394 - Office  
413.775.3327 - Cell  
frankd\_74@yahoo.com

**BOOK MILL**  
440 Greenfield Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351  
413-367-9206 [www.montaguebookmill.com](http://www.montaguebookmill.com)  
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

**RECYCLE**

**BOTTLES & CANS**  
Week of June 12  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

**THE BRICK HOUSE**  
**5K RUN AND WALK**  
SAT, JUNE 17th, 10am  
The DCR Canalside Railtrail  
Unity Park, Turners Falls, MA

Scan or visit  
**Facebook** to  
Pre-Register  
And Save!




WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
THEBRICKHOUSE5K

**\$20**  
PRE-REG  
**18 AND**  
UNDER FREE  
**\$25**  
RACE DAY

PROCEEDS SUPPORT  
THE BRICK HOUSE CRC

**NANCY L. DOLE**  
**BOOKS & EPHEMERA**



20 State Street, Bucklandside  
Shelburne Falls  
413-625-9850  
ndole@crocker.com


OPEN three days a week  
Tues, Weds, Thurs - 11 to 6  
(also by chance or appt.)

**WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY**

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service




**(413) 773-3622**



**THE LADY KILLIGREW:**

Awesome Beer  
Amazing Food



Awesome, Amazing  
Employees!

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)  
(413)367-9666

**SOFTBALL** from page A1

Cougars loaded the bases with one out in the second, but another K and a ground ball kept the Cats off the board. For the next few innings, both teams got runners on base but neither could score.

Kyra Goodell led off the home fourth with a base hit, stole second, and advanced to third base on a Kendra Campbell fielder's choice. She was then batted home on a Keira Stevens sacrifice, and Franklin was up 3-zip; in the fifth, Ross scored on a wild pitch to give the team a four-run cushion.

Tri switched pitchers in the sixth, but Campbell proceeded to crack the ball to the fence for a stand-up double. She advanced to third on a fielder's choice, and scored off a Gianna DiSciullo sac.

Ross, Campbell, Gilbert, Goodell, and Cordelia Guerin had hits in the win, while DiSciullo and Stevens batted in runs. In the circle, Gilbert let up two hits while walking three and striking out 12.

The weather broke over the weekend, and on Sunday the temperature dropped to 54°. Hoodies and coats had replaced sunblock and water when the Bourne Purple Canal(wo)men came to town for the MIAA Round of 32.

Both teams displayed excellent fielding, with most of the outs orchestrated by infielders. After retiring the first side in order Tech got a hit, but Bourne's catcher has a gun, and threw the runner out on her way to second. Bourne's leadoff batter in the next inning hit a double, advanced on a fielder's choice, and scored on a sacrifice to give the Canalmen a 1-0 lead.

The lead was temporary. In the bottom of the same inning Guer-

in got a base hit, advanced on a wild pitch, and scored on a sacrifice by Stevens.

Tech put two insurance runs in the bank in the fifth. DiSciullo reached on a walk and advanced to second on a Goodell ground out, and Kaitlin Trudeau put runners on the corners with a base hit. Ross hit a sacrifice to give the Eagles a lead, and Gilbert placed a hit to make it 3-1.

Both teams went one-two-three in the sixth, but in their last at-bats of the year, Bourne made some noise. A walk and a hit-by-pitch put two runners on base, sending coach Joe Gamache to the circle to calm his pitcher down. The second out of the inning put the runners on second and third. With the go-ahead run at the plate, Gilbert struck the batter out on three pitches, and Tech advanced deeper into the playoffs.

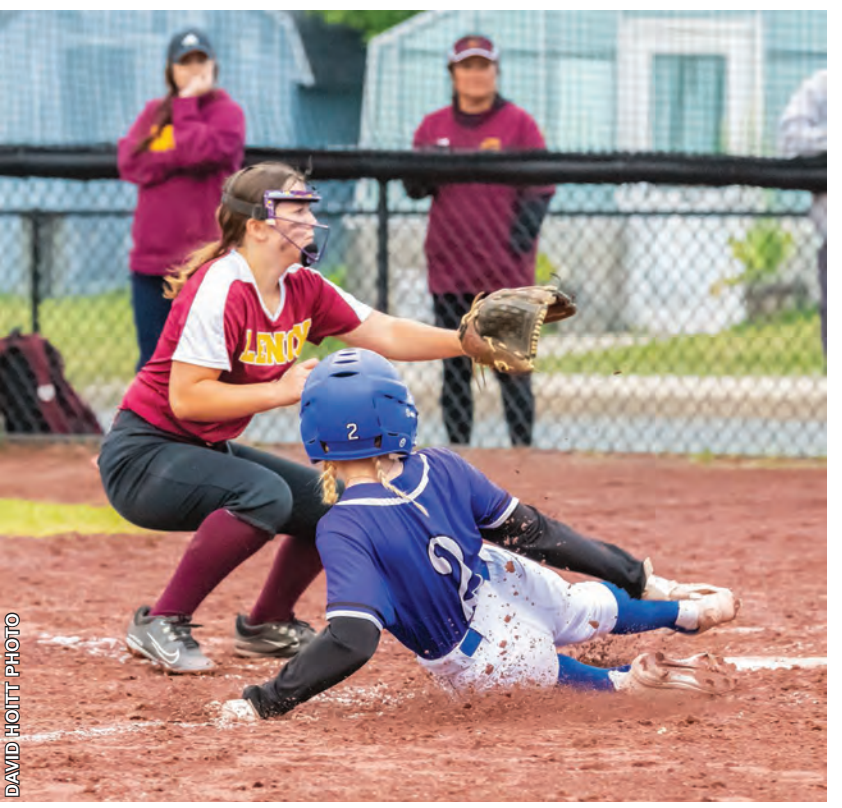
Guerin, Trudeau, and Gilbert got hits in the win and Ross, Gilbert, and Stevens scored RBIs. Gilbert gave two bases on balls and two hits, and struck out 8.

On Wednesday the Lady Birds trekked over the mountain to challenge the Taconic Green Thunder of Pittsfield. Under the haze of Canadian wildfires, the Eagles shut Green out, 6-0.

Franklin scored single runs in the second, third, and fifth, then poured on three in the seventh. Campbell clocked a double, and Gilbert blasted a triple and a homer. Gilbert scattered four hits, gave five walks, and struck out 12.

TFHS 15 - Bristol County 0  
TFHS 9 - Lenox 2

The Blue Thunder decimated the Bristol County Maroon Agricultural Chieftains on Monday in their first MIAA D5 playoff game.



Turners Falls' Madysyn Dietz is safe at the plate during Wednesday's MIAA Division 5 tournament win over the Lenox Millionaires.

Turners' first 11 batters had all scored runs before the Chiefs got their first out. It was pretty painful to watch, as several runs came off bases-loaded-walks. Blue packed two more on in the second and another pair crossed the plate in the third. The game was called mercifully in the fifth after the Aggies failed to cut into the deficit, and Turners advanced into the Sweet 16.

Four Powertown batters, Madison Liimatainen, Holly Myers, Morgan Dobias, and Madysyn Dietz, hit doubles, and Janelle Massey and Mia Marigliano helped out with hits. In the circle, Liimatainen threw a five-inning no-hitter, striking out 10 and surrendering three walks.

On Wednesday the Lenox Maroon Millionaires came to Turners

Falls. They put two runners in scoring position in the first inning, but a three-pitch strikeout ended the threat. Liimatainen would go on to retire 14 batters via strikeouts.

At this point in the season, Powertown does not seem to have a soft spot in the batting order. From lead-off to bottom, every girl presents a threat. Blue scored two runs in the first, another in the second, and four in the third to make it 8-1 going into the fourth. Their last run came in the sixth after a Dietz double and a series of Millionaire errors.

The win advances the Thunder into the Elite Eight where they face their crosstown rivals, the Franklin Tech Eagles. The game starts at 7 p.m. Saturday at Gary Mullins Field.

**Scene Report: Newt Guilbault All-Star Game**

By HANNAH SKORUPA



Honorees George F. Bush (left) and Cayden Lehtomaki, who threw the opening pitch at the All Star Game.

**TURNERS FALLS** - It was an exciting day at the Newt Guilbault baseball fields on Saturday, June 3!

A parade of players, an All-Star Game, and a batting cage dedication were held throughout the day. The nine teams - Pipione's Sport Shop, Booska's Flooring, Montague Elks, Turners Falls Athletic Club, Greenfield Savings Bank, Travel Kuz, St. Stan's, Bache Plumbing and Heating, and Martino Tree Service - marched to the fields where a pep rally was held.

Aubrey Kocjan, St. Stan's player mom and Newt board member, beautifully sang our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Cayden Lehtomaki, a graduating senior from the Franklin County Technical School, was then acknowledged for receiving the Frederick Lego Scholarship. The scholarship honors a graduating senior who "has played at least four years with Newt, who shows excellence in academics



Players waited as the All-Star teams were announced.

and outstanding sportsmanship," Newt Guilbault president Kyle Cogswell explained in his speech.

Lehtomaki then threw out the symbolic first pitch to Frederick Lego's great-nephew, Travel Kuz coach Larry Couch, and his son Jameson.

Next Cogswell dedicated the recently-built batting cages to George F. Bush with a plaque that reads: "Batting cages in honor of George F. Bush, founding member of Newt Guilbault, coach, teacher, and a friend to all."

Mr. Bush, the last living founding member of the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League, gave a short speech on the league's history. Bush, a Turners Falls native, earned his town's respect by serving our country in the United States Navy as a sailor. Additionally, he is the last living member of the 1942 Turners Falls High School state baseball champions, who played at Fenway Park for their final game.

The culminating event was the All-Star Game, which was between East and West teams comprised of players selected from each of the six major Newt Guilbault teams. Together they participated in the Strong Arm and the All Star Home Run Derby before facing off against one another.

Ultimately it was the East squad that won, in a 6-2 victory.

League secretary Lesley Cogswell noted that the teams' success was "beyond my expectations" in terms of progress since the start of the season, and many agreed with her. Kyle Cogswell added that he was "so pleased that there was such a great turnout. Anytime we can put the league in positive light... Hopefully we can get more involvement."

League play will continue into next week, when players will vie for the 2023 championship title.

Hannah Skorupa is a fifth grader at Sheffield Elementary School.

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

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
**LOCKSMITH - CRL**  
certified - bonded - insured

Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of  
locks & entry devices for business & homes



- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed


863-2471  
28 Montague St  
Turners Falls, MA

**French King**  
**Restaurant & Motel**

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH  
FRIDAY - 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

DINNER  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY - 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328



**Fred Holmgren**  
**Piano Tuning & Repair**

Stay  
tuned!

(978)544-5494  
fredholmgren@gmail.com



**GILL** from page A1

raised about Section 4.5 of the agreement, which requires signatories to provide written “support of any administrative approval process that may be required for implementation of this Settlement Agreement or related articles of the New Project Licenses” at FirstLight’s request.

Over the next year, FERC is expected to send a proposed version of the company’s new licenses to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, who must hold a public review process and issue a “water quality certification” before the licenses are issued.

Purinton reported that he had spoken with two representatives of FirstLight, as well as Franklin Regional Council of Governments planning director Peggy Sloan and attorney Ron Shems, who has been advising several local towns through this phase of the settlement agreements, and that all of them agreed “that’s really not a section to be worried about.”

The provision, Purinton said, limits the town’s support just to permits required by the recreation agreement that specifically require

support from Gill representatives. Furthermore, he said, “we have the clause that limits it subject to the availability of our resources to provide the support.”

“I agree with Ray that, on the surface, it seems there’s nothing to be concerned about,” said Snedeker. “But I’ve heard that a lot in the past,” he chuckled. He expressed concern that there could still be unforeseen problems in the future, “but for now I’m okay with it, I guess.”

Following the vote, Crochier said “I’d love to say, after 10 years, that we’re done talking about this. But it ain’t gonna be happening.”

**Road Improvements**

The town of Gill still has \$73,319.20 remaining from the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP), which will no longer be available if it is not spent by June 30. The selectboard had already approved a request from the highway department to use these funds to place a 10% rubber-chip seal on one mile of North Cross Road and the north end of Boyle Road.

Highway superintendent John Miner said that with All States Asphalt doing the work for \$3.95 a

square yard, there’s enough money in the WRAP fund to cover an extra fifth of a mile of North Cross Road. He requested an additional \$16,684.80 from the town’s Chapter 90 fund to complete the full mile and a half of the road at this price.

The board approved the request. Crochier told Miner that his colleagues from other towns have commented on Gill’s high-quality roads. “They say it’s because I’m spoiled and don’t want my butt bouncing when I drive,” he laughed.

**Other Business**

Gill’s annual town meeting will take place next Monday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the town hall. Purinton reported that work on the building’s first floor is almost complete, and expressed confidence that offices could relocate back to the first floor this week, clearing out the upper floor for the annual meeting.

State senator Jo Comerford will attend the next selectboard meeting on Tuesday, June 20, at 5:30 p.m. Purinton said she will be there “to listen to what’s on the mind of the selectboard, other town officials, and anyone else who wants to attend.”



**Tip of the week ...**

Boating enthusiasts, the season you’ve been waiting for is finally here! However, it’s important to note that homeowners insurance does not automatically provide coverage for all boats. Before heading out on the water, make sure to check that you have the proper insurance coverage to protect yourself and your boat.



We have more than insurance. We have experience...

25 Millers Falls Road (413) 863-4331 www.pzinc.com

auto | home | business

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

**All Departments Should Have a Shot At Override Money, Selectboard Says**

By **KATIE NOLAN**

The Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee met Monday night to review the draft warrant for a special town meeting on June 28.

Articles include using \$10,000 from the recreation commission reserve fund to renovate and redesign Veterans’ Field, appropriating \$51,000 for the water department’s mixing tank project, acquiring temporary easements for the Church Street Bridge replacement, and amending several provisions of the zoning bylaws. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith characterized the zoning changes as “hundreds of pages.”

Two articles would rescind borrowing authority: for a project to inventory and replace lead pipes, which could be funded by a state Department of Environmental Protection grant, and for the cost of the new Church Street Bridge itself, which could be covered by state and federal grants.

Officials wanted more information about Veterans’ Field, and suggested a rec commission member should attend the next selectboard meeting. The finance and capital planning committees voted to recommend the water department project. All three committees wanted more information from the state Department of Transportation before recommending not borrowing for the bridge project.

The warrant will be discussed further on June 12.

**Budget Overdrive**

School funding was adjusted upward at the annual town meeting in May. On Monday, Jacob Smith pointed out that many other department requests had been reduced to balance the town budget, and suggested a department-by-department review to consider increasing other line items, possibly leading to a Proposition 2½ override vote in August or September.

Fin com chair Debra Smith asked town administrator Bryan Smith for a list of all cuts that had been made. Jacob Smith and selectboard member Scott Bastarache recommended working with department heads to develop long-range cost estimates so that a potential override vote would be sustainable over many years.

Town planner Mariah Kurtz discussed the idea of participatory budgeting, involving public meetings where citizens work together to decide the town’s budgetary priorities. Board members expressed interest, and asked for more information at future meetings.

Bastarache and Debra Smith reported that town treasurer Jennifer Eichorn had prepared estimates for employee cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) under seven different scenarios.

Bastarache said he had met with the fin com, and

recommended a COLA of at least 4%. He warned that there would be a lot more information on the topic to digest at the June 12 meeting.

The board decided to make reviewing annual budgets a regular agenda item. Bastarache proposed that any department whose funding is restored by an override vote be asked to pledge to continue reviewing its budget for sustainability.

**Swamp Road Bridge**

Bryan Smith reported that the project to replace the Swamp Road Bridge has been delayed by a question about its layout. He said the bridge had a very narrow right of way, laid out by county commissioners in the 1900s, and it looked like the location of the rebuilt bridge would encroach on private property. The private owner, however, believes the town owns the land in question.

The town, Bryan Smith said, would need to make a survey and resolve the discrepancy.

There are two options for how the bridge will be rebuilt, and they will be reviewed by the selectboard and fin com and later in public forums. Bryan Smith said the project is likely to cost about \$2 million, and the town has about \$500,000 earmarked for the project.

Kurtz will apply for a small bridge project grant from the state, which could fund up to \$300,000 for construction or \$200,000 for engineering, but not both in the same year.

**Other Business**

Nine or so triaxial loads of asphalt millings were donated to the town last fall during the milling and repaving of Route 2. “The town needs to act before the pile solidifies and the material is unusable,” highway superintendent Glenn McCrory warned in a memo.

With residents taking the millings in five-gallon pails and pickup trucks, he said, “it’s going to take forever to get rid of it.” The selectboard decided to allow residents to pick up millings from the DPW yard until the end of June, and then allow contractors or others to take large amounts.

The board approved a job description for highway foreman, after agreeing the new foreman should complete CPR and first aid certification within the first year of employment. They then appointed 17-year highway employee Thomas Duffy to the position. The laborer position Duffy has held will be advertised.

Bryan Smith reported that at a meeting in May, residents complained about traffic and speeding on North Street after the Church Street Bridge was made one lane. He and McCrory said rubber speed cushions could be installed temporarily. The board agreed to order two for North Street and two for Church Street.

**FREEZE** from page A1

explained. “Skies were clear as high pressure worked into the region behind a cold front, and winds died down. With cool air advection, clear skies, very dry air and very still air, radiational cooling maximized, which refers to the escape of heat into space at night.”

Not all of the area’s orchards experienced the same damaging conditions. Carr’s Ciderhouse in Hadley reported very little damage, in part because of a difference in climate between their floodplain orchard and others at higher elevations and latitudes.

“We got lucky, for sure,” said owner Jonathan Carr, who added that the frost might have been less severe at their orchard. Generally warmer temperatures at the location also hasten bud development, meaning that their trees were less vulnerable to damage.

“Our main crop of apples had already gone through bloom, they bloomed early and had set their fruit early – it offers a little more protection than an orchard in full bloom,” he said, explaining that the pistil and stamen, the reproductive parts of the flower that need pollination to produce fruit, are “really only a few cells wide.”

Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield, meanwhile, described “severe” damage to apples, pears, cherries, and grapes in a Facebook post. The damage, they said, “is making for one of the most challenging growing seasons in the history of our farm.”

In a comment on that post, the farm clarified that it was in “good shape financially.” Similarly, Smith did not seem existentially concerned about the loss at Apex Orchards, citing crop insurance. Though Apex’s insurer declined to comment, Smith reported that they told him they had “been fielding calls nonstop from New England and New York for the last five days.”

Crop insurance is subsidized and managed by the USDA and administered through private insurers, who apply rates and regulations set by the federal government. Each grower selects their own coverage level, so some orchards may be covered better than others.

“It was always very complicated,” Smith said of the insurance system. “But now it’s even more complicated.” The payout for Apex’s crop loss will likely not come until this time next year, and will not come close to covering the full loss, he said.

But while farms themselves are protected to some extent, seasonal workers whose work has been eliminated by the freeze are not. Even, and sometimes especially, when an orchard suffers a crop loss, there is still work to do during the season – like pruning the peach trees, which will also not be fruiting this year due to periods of extreme cold over the winter. But, Smith said, while there is plenty of work to do, “the cash flow just isn’t there this year, so it’s hard to justify the capital improvements.”

Like many orchards, Apex hires a crew of mostly Jamaican visa workers each year. According to Smith, the crew is made up of the same people over the course of decades, and now some fathers on the crew are bringing their sons with them. One worker has been with Apex for 50 years.

Smith said the orchard has not yet decided what to do about their crew of visa workers this year.

Smith and Hayes both declined to speculate whether destructive late freezes could become more common in the future due to climate change. But Hayes said he has noticed the region’s winter weather pattern, in which ridges and troughs in the atmosphere bring cold air from the north, has been setting up later into the year over the last half dozen years.

“Just look at this past winter,” Hayes wrote via email. “There were some cold times in January and especially early February with that cold snap, but it was overall mild. Then we got three snowstorms in March, culminating with a hilltown dumper that brought 1-4 feet of snow to the high terrain.”

For now, the changes in climate have not been too chaotic to totally destabilize fruit growers, those interviewed for this story said.

“The flip side of it is, when I was a kid we didn’t grow peaches,” Smith reflected. “We just have that risk of the occasional drop of 10 to 15 below [zero]. In 20 to 25 years of peaches, this is the second total freeze out we’ve had.”

But that doesn’t mean a freeze doesn’t sting.

“We’ll be feeling repercussions from this for a long time,” Smith concluded as we stood among rows of dry, brown apple blossoms.

*This article first appeared in The Shoestring (theshoestring.org), where Brian Zayatz is a co-editor.*



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

**HUGE WASHERS!**  
**HOT DRYERS!**  
Open 365 Days  
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

**SUZEE'S THIRD STREET LAUNDRY**  
TURNERS FALLS  
SUZEE'S THIRD ST. LAUNDRY  
241-01376

**Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC**  
Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation  
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows  
Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com  
Now Accepting Credit Cards  
Office: (413)775-9006  
Lic # 083982  
Reg # 139564  
Bryan G. Hobbs  
PO Box 1535  
Greenfield, MA 01302  
mass save PARTNER

**WOODCAT CONSTRUCTION LLC**  
SERVING FRANKLIN & MIDDLESEX COUNTIES  
**SLOW RENOVATIONS OF ODD STRUCTURES**  
info@woodcat.co / ig: woodcat\_builds / 508 306 1822  
BONDED / INSURED / MA CSL & HIC

**ACTION** from page A1

would match the most recent contract won by Greenfield teachers. GMEA vice president Jesse Sinclair said school committee negotiators have suggested they would support 2%, 3%, 2%, and 2%.

"You know, the funny thing is the difference – the actual dollar amount for FY'25 and '26 – is about \$160,000," Sinclair, a kindergarten and first-grade special education teacher, marveled. "Total. That's roughly \$80,000 per year, out of a twenty-plus-million-dollar budget."

By Wednesday, the third day

of an official work-to-rule policy approved by a majority vote of GMEA members, Hillcrest teachers knew their routine. At 8:15 a.m. they walked together around the building, wearing bright red GMEA shirts, to stand vigil as a group while children arrived in buses and cars at the "rolling drop-off."

Normally they would be in the classrooms already, greeting their students before the official 8:30 a.m. start of the day. Today, they walked quietly into the building, shoulder to shoulder, at 8:29 a.m.

Oakes and Gill-Montague superintendent Brian Beck declined

to comment on the negotiations, or on the teachers' work-to-rule action. (*A letter from Oakes outlining the school committee's official position appears on Page A2.*)

Reynolds, Sinclair, and other GMEA members say that the union's "11%" proposal does not keep up with cost-of-living projections, but that they feel it is the minimum adjustment the district needs to make to retain staff. According to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Gill-Montague's teacher retention rate this year is at 77.9% – 310<sup>th</sup> of 397 Massachusetts districts for

which data was available.

The GMEA follows several other area teachers' unions this year in adopting a work-to-rule policy. Teachers at South Hadley stuck to the minimum from early November until late January, when they ratified a new contract by a slim majority.

This spring, the tactic has been authorized by Amherst-Pelham union members and, more recently, Hampshire Regional.

"Our compensation is a really big factor in being competitive in the marketplace," Sinclair said. "I've heard that we've offered some positions that applicants have not taken because of the financial impact.... We've got a pretty darn good crew, we've got a really decent school district for what we pay, but we could do so much better."

"We have as a district, many times, taken zero or half a percent [cost-of-living adjustments]," Reynolds said. "That's money for retirement you never make up over the years, even when you do get the increases... There are lots of dedicated people here, and my own kids got a great education here, but there are absolutely people who leave because they get better offers

at other schools."

Sarah Chase, an integrated preschool teacher, said she left the district to work in Chicopee but came back because, as a mother of two young children, she needed a shorter commute. She took a pay cut when she returned.

Since then, Chase said, "I've had to get a second job, because of the cost of living going up and up. I have two bachelors' and a master's, and here I am waitressing on the side to make ends meet.... Doing this work-to-rule is something I feel strongly about."

Chase said she felt driven to action by what she perceived as the committee's "inflexibility" at the bargaining table.

With only two weeks of school left and the next Unit A bargaining session – supervised now by a mediator – not scheduled until early summer, Sinclair said GMEA members could still vote at any time to call off the action if the school committee makes a proposal they like.

"We're definitely sticking together," said Reynolds, returning a parent's solemn nod at the drop-off. "I feel like the community is noticing."

**WENDELL** from page A1

"We're sort of eating away at our savings a bit, but we're trying to keep a balance between the tax rate and savings," said finance committee co-chair Thomas Richardson.

"We've been up against some real challenges that have raised our costs a good amount this year. It's a good indicator of what to expect," said finance committee member Al MacIntyre. "A \$500,000 stabilization fund can go away rather quickly, in the wrong event."

MacIntyre said that Swift River School, first opened in 1976, will soon need capital investments beyond what the town can afford. "Without outside money, it's not clear how we're going to be able to pull that off," he said.

Voters approved lowering the interest rate for deferred property tax payments, and increasing the limit of how much income a person receiving a deferral may make. MacIntyre said no resident has received a deferral in recent years, but the option exists as a way to "help people stay in their homes."

From the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) enterprise fund, voters approved appropriating \$50,000 to pay the estimated costs of Wendell's share of the Eastern Tier network redundancy project. The project is intended to provide a backup internet connection to the town in case of a major outage elsewhere.

**Police Budget**

Voters agreed to increase the police budget from \$49,970 in the current year to \$74,841. Wendell is entering the third year of shared services with Leverett, and under an agreement between the two towns will now pay its full share of police services based on call volumes.

Leverett police responded to 870 calls for service in Wendell over the last 12 months, according to police chief Scott Minckler, who attended the meeting.

"You're seeing these agreements in communities happen because towns cannot afford a full-time police department by themselves," Minckler said. "I believe this is the policing of the future in small towns with the rising costs. We can't continue to run individual police departments in small towns. We just can't do it."

Minckler said that training and retaining officers is a major problem for his department now that the state requires part-time police to be fully trained. A statewide officer shortage, he said, is being felt acutely in Leverett, where seven of the 10 positions are part-time, two of the part-time positions are vacant, and more departures are expected.

The garage that formerly served as the Wendell police department

headquarters is being renovated and is expected to reopen in the coming months as a satellite facility for the Leverett police. Minckler said a \$125,000 grant is paying for the facility, which could save time for officers having to drive to and from the Orange courthouse.

**Skyrocketing**

Several people spoke about turnover in town departments, and said there was a need for experienced professionals to handle complex issues. Planning board member Doug Tanner asked why the town was relying on an outside contractor, Regional Resource Group Inc., rather than a town employee to handle most of the property assessment. He pointed out the assessor's expense line item of \$44,700.

Board of assessors member Martha Sen explained that the company is helping the board standardize its processes and keep up with a demanding workload.

"Without their help and expertise, we would really be floundering," Sen said. "As everyone knows, especially during COVID, all these people from the cities moved out here, outbidding each other, and it sent property values really skyrocketing."

One voter asked why the planning board line, \$1,224, was the same as the current year given the complexity of the proposed battery storage project on Wendell Depot Road.

"The planning board, as is the case with a lot of town committees, has a lot of new members," said former member Nina Keller, who said the board has discussed hiring a specialist, particularly in light of the proposed storage facility.

Wendell resident Jenny Gross suggested coordinating with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to find land use specialists. "It's a real need," she said.

**Common Space**

Keller introduced the only article that did not pass: a resolution calling for the town to form a committee to reach out to members of the Nipmuc, Abenaki, and any other tribes native to the area to offer them use of the town common.

"The act of tribal sharing will not include the financial burden of maintenance, residence or unilateral reconstruction," it read, "but rather is an offering to recognize partnership as guardian conservationist in preserving the Earth and the inequity of land acquisition in the past."

Keller said she was inspired to introduce the resolution after attending a remembrance ceremony for Native people in Turners Falls, and consulting with a member of the Nolumbeka Project.

"This is a show of support and respect for Native values to not be owners, but caretakers of the Earth," she explained. "Local tribes have their places already, but if they wanted to have a powwow or a drum circle here, they could do that."

Some voters said they were hesitant to pass the article without understanding the resolution's intent or what authority it would grant to the new committee. Keller introduced an amendment giving the selectboard the final say over decisions made by the committee, but it was voted down unanimously after some debate.

"I have concerns about this, and I am tormented to even admit it as a descendant of an Indian-killing family of settlers," said Kathy-Ann Becker. "I know it means something, and I know we are trying to do something good..."

"I think if Native Americans wanted to use our town common, we would feel honored to let them come here and do that. It takes away our ability to do something on our own when we make this symbolic gesture."

General confusion and concern over the proposed committee persisted, and voters moved to pass over the resolution and reconsider it at a later date.

"We are struggling right now to populate committees," said selectboard member Gillian Budine. "If people are really interested in this, they will have to step up."

**Enfranchisement**

Another article sought to allow Wendell to petition the state legislature to allow non-citizen permanent residents to vote in town elections and serve on municipal committees. When asked about the benefit of allowing non-citizens to vote in town elections, town clerk Anna Wetherby said, "Because more people get to vote in our elections."

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said that Leverett recently passed a similar article, and that Wendell would need state approval before the policy could be implemented.

"My feeling is that if an individual does not take the time or bother to become a citizen of the United States, then they should not be given the privilege of citizenship," said Florence Blackbird, one of the few dissenting voters. "If they want all these privileges, then take the time to become a citizen."

"We're talking about our friends and our neighbors, and people who are super active in town," said Anna Gyorgy. "They pay taxes, they work here, and they should be able to vote." The article passed with a handful of dissenting votes.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

## Staff Look Forward To New Website

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard's agenda for its May 31 meeting was long, but many of the items could be finished quickly, and the meeting was short, just over an hour, ending just as the spring sky began to fade into evening.

The annual town meeting was scheduled for June 6, and the warrant was posted but details still needed attention. Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said the annual report was prepared but would not be ready in book form for the meeting, as in 2022 it will be a collection of copied papers. He suggested that people could sign up at the town meeting to receive the book versions of both reports, saving the town some printing costs and not adding to the collection of old reports filling space in the office building.

Johnson-Mussad said New Salem was unable to change the date of its town meeting, also June 6, as the schools requested so officials could speak at both meetings.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said there was not much alarming in what the schools were asking. School officials could either split into two groups, one for each meeting, or a school committee member could speak in Wendell about the school budget. On another note, she said the sign-in table at the meeting should have a list of town positions in need of being filled.

The meeting will be in the town hall and on Zoom. Budine and member Paul Doud planned to meet on June 2 with finance committee member Al MacIntyre, who has provided sound equipment for the town's outdoor meetings, and confirm that all the equipment works.

Johnson-Mussad said he had

sent to board members a not-quite-up-to-date list of projects he was working on. He scheduled the June 21 selectboard meeting for a pole hearing.

National Grid hopes to stage poles along the roads to be available as replacements for poles that have become too weak. Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said they should contact the highway department to confirm they will not be in the way of roadside cutting or other road work. The board allowed the proposal, pending the highway department's consent.

Johnson-Mussad said someone had asked to rent the town hall tables, and he wondered if the selectboard's consent was necessary for that, or even for town hall rentals. He has a calendar of regularly scheduled uses and sometimes requests are made just before the need. The board unanimously granted him that authority.

DiDonato said that in the long term the town hall schedule will be on the new town website, along with a request form for its use.

The board approved using the town's American Rescue Plan Act money, after fin com approval, for expenses associated with launching the new website, and for new accounting software.

They decided to check with town counsel for two things: a request for proposals and logistics for transferring the town-owned property at 40 Gate Lane; and guidance for changing the official meeting posting location.

An article on the town meeting warrant would affirm the selectboard's intention to change the official location where public meetings must be posted to the new town website, once that is available. A hard copy would still be available outside the town office building.

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

 **OrigamiUSA**

*Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!*

Join us at: **OrigamiUSA.org**  
Email: **admin@origamiusa.org**  
Tel: **212.769.5635**

- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!

**REAL PICKLES**

Locally grown vegetables  
Fermented & raw  
100% organic

A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA  
**www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600**

 **FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield  
**federalstreetbooks.com**

**MONTAGUE** from page A1

said his committee judged projects based on “readiness to proceed, community benefit, and return on investment.” The total estimated cost in ARPA money for the five projects, after other grants and solar reimbursements are applied, would be \$780,000.

The town received a total of \$2,454,622 in ARPA aid. On April 24 the selectboard agreed on a plan to spend 30%, or \$736,387, on capital projects not associated with the Clean Water Facility.

The CIC also reviewed other proposals that have been considered for ARPA funding, including solar panels on the new public works garage (\$770,000); a new meeting room, storage, and accessible bathrooms at the town hall annex (\$500,000); reconstructing the town hall parking lot (\$200,000), replacing a culvert over the Sawmill River on South Ferry Road (\$250,000); and repairing the parking lot, driveway, and sidewalk at Hillcrest Elementary School (\$460,000).

These were put on hold for a variety of reasons, including cost in the case of the town hall annex and electrical interconnection challenges in the case of the highway garage solar array. The CIC suggested that some projects, including the town hall parking lot, Hillcrest school, and Sawmill culvert, should be funded by regular town meeting appropriations within the framework of a long-term capital plan.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, who has worked on the ARPA list, said the estimates were preliminary “round numbers,” not the results of a bidding process.

Selectboard member Matt Lord reviewed the “involved and detailed” process of allocating ARPA funds during several meetings in March and April. “I want to thank Walter and Greg, and all of the committee, for taking the bull by the horns and making this happen,” he said.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz endorsed the repairs on the old town hall. “If we’re going to keep that building, we need to take care of it,” he said. “I’m sure there’s other work to do there, but it gets the ball rolling.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis discussed the impact of the federal debt limit compromise on ARPA funds not yet “obligated” by municipalities. The bill would not “claw back” funds from towns as previously feared, he said because they are considered already obligated by the Department of the Treasury, a development that “a number of media outlets have done a good job of covering.”

**Slow Village**

During the meeting’s public comment period, Michael Marcotrigiano and Susan Dorais of Union Street complained to the board about cars speeding through Montague Center. This has been a frequent complaint of residents of the neighborhood over the years, and the town has periodically beefed up the police presence and added signage and other traffic-calming measures.

“I was in the crosswalk when a car maybe going 50 came by,” said Marcotrigiano. “She stopped, and it almost turned into an altercation as she double-bird-flipped me.” He reported the incident to the police, he said, but “realize[d] they can not be there all the time.”

He recommended using measures UMass Amherst has taken to calm traffic near the Mullins Center.

Dorais said that on the same day, she was walking across Main Street with her dog when a car failed to slow down despite passing warning signs. “I don’t think people even know that they’re supposed to stop for people in a crosswalk,” she said. “It’s a state law.”

“We’ve put up some signs, but obviously those don’t help,” responded Kuklewicz, noting that the town had narrowed that stretch of Main Street, but “not enough to impede travel.”

He recommended Ellis talk with police chief Chris Williams “to get a patrol out there from time to time.” “We have a couple of other locations in town as well that tend to need people to really slow down,” he said, suggesting that Williams and public works superintendent Tom Bergeron should discuss the problem with the selectboard this summer.

**Regional Plots**

The board approved a request from the new public health director Ryan Paxton to renew an inter-municipal agreement with Greenfield, Leverett, Sunderland, Shutesbury, and Deerfield, for shared services funded by a state grant.

The services, according to documents shared by Paxton, include a coordinator, an inspector, full-time and part-time public health nurses, and potentially an epidemiologist. The Greenfield health department serves as the “lead agency” for the group, collectively referred to as the Valley Health Collaborative.

The board amended an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for legal services associated with the First-Light power company federal relicensing process. The agreement

would extend the end date for those services through September 2024 and increase Montague’s cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

The board reviewed a report from this reporter on the May annual meeting of the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority advisory board, on which he serves. (See sidebar below.)

Acting in its role as personnel board, the board accepted the resignation of Mike Naughton as one of the town’s representatives on the six-town regional planning board, which has been investigating the potential consolidation of the Gill-Montague and Pioneer School Districts. Dorinda Bell-Upp was then appointed to the position.

**Other Business**

The board approved amending an agreement for a state grant to fund “bubble diffusers” to aid secondary treatment at the Clean Water Facility. Ellis said this “ancient grant” had not been spent because “the scope got too big,” and the project required more funding.

Since then, he said, additional grant money had been obtained and a new scope of work developed. Ellis said the board’s approval would “clear the way” for the project to be completed by June 2025.

The board authorized payment of \$990 to Berkshire Design for services regarding the Avenue A Streetscape project, and appointed Easton Smith to the position of library assistant beginning July 1.

A request by Kim Williams of the Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts to close the loop at the end of Industrial Boulevard for a “fun run” on August 26 was approved by the board, as was a request from Kathy Davis to use the Montague Center town common for a “rest stop” for cyclists on July 9. The cyclists will be raising money for Anchor House of Artists in Northampton, and some will be riding as far as Trenton, New Jersey.

Annie Levine, manager of the farmers market in Turners Falls, was approved to use a portion of Avenue A next to Peskeomskut Park on Thursdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m through the end of October for a “mobile market” sponsored by Atlas Farm.

Ellis announced that state senator Ann Gobi had been appointed as the state’s first director of rural affairs, and thanked students at the Franklin County Technical School for rebuilding a metal archway at Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled to be held June 12.



**LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here’s the way it was on June 6, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

**Pleas for Local Health Care; Thumbs Down to Medical MJ**

This week Wendell became the tenth community to pass a town meeting resolution calling on Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC), the only hospital in Franklin County, to reinstate services now only available at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Presented by Wendell resident and BFMC nurse Lena Morimoto, the resolution calls on Baystate to “commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of all needed services and to commit to the longterm viability of a full-service community hospital at BFMC which will meet the health care needs of the residents

of Franklin County.”

Little discussion ensued at the June 3 town meeting before Wendell unanimously passed the resolution, which cites the fact that Franklin County is the most rural county in the state, and that the lack of public transportation and the long distance between parts of Franklin County and the Springfield hospital present challenges for many residents.

Voters rejected Article 32, which would have declared Wendell “a medical marijuana friendly community.”

**Injury from Bowhunting**

Leverett: Shutesbury Road resident stabbed with an arrow while turkey hunting. Transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by the Amherst Fire Department. Under investigation.

**20 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on June 5, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

**Narragansetts Seek Site Info**

The Montague airport commission will hold its only public hearing about plans to upgrade the airport this coming Monday, June 9.

If the commission goes ahead with its master plan, it will pave or dig up a paleo-Indian archaeological site, according to Greenfield anthropologist Howard Clark, who believes the site is eligible for listing in the National Registry of Historic Places.

**Shelter To Remain Open**

A 15% cut in state funding, received midway into ServiceNet’s 2003 budget cycle, would have resulted in closing the county’s only year-round emergency shel-

ter from April through October.

The Interfaith Council stepped in with a call to conscience for the community to bridge the gap. “We made an impassioned plea, comparing it to Christ having no place to lay his head,” Father Stan Aksamit, who led the effort that culminated in a “Shelter Summit” at Greenfield High School in February, told the media on Monday.

**Skate Park Lockout**

Deteriorating ramp surfaces have led the Montague parks and recreation department to padlock the park’s gate and post a temporarily closed sign. Parks and rec director Jon Dobosz said he sent an email around two weeks ago to the skate park committee, an informal group of park users, to gauge opinion. “The response was nearly unanimous in favor of closing,” said Dobosz, at least for now.

**150 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on June 11, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.*

**Local Matters**

Full moon. There are no logs in the river at this point now.

Austin DeWolf’s new house on Second Street is all closed in and shingled. Protection boxes have been placed around the plants in front of the Farren House. A brick-yard is laid out and a brick-making machine is up on the Griswold’s mill site.

The ice-carts have commenced their regular trips, and the glittering crystals have a cooling influence on folks generally.

The work of bringing water from Coldbrook to the Keith Mill has proven a perfect success, and the Major is in high glee. The gates were raised at 9:40 Monday morn-

ing and at 10:45 a beautiful stream of pure water was pouring through the pipes under the mill, after travelling within 160 feet of two miles. It was a big undertaking, and its success reflects no little credit upon the ability and persistency of Mr. Keith, who has devoted himself to the work with untiring zeal, regardless of the obstacles he was forced to encounter, every one of which he has overcome without a departure from his original plan.

While blasting for the Farren House stable center, the workmen found some excellent bird tracks in the rock.

A cat with eight toes on each of her forefeet was brought to our office for inspection yesterday.

All hands in the office, from editor to devil, have been regaling themselves with ice cream. Friend Richardson, of Greenfield, has their thanks.



**FRTA Still Making Most of Pandemic Cash**

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – At Tuesday’s selectboard meeting, Montague being a small town, etc., our reporter Jeff Singleton spoke in his role as the town’s alternate representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) advisory board, reporting back from that body’s annual meeting on May 18.

Singleton said the board voted to extend for another year the policy of free fares on fixed-route buses, introduced during the COVID pandemic, for another year.

Of the \$4.815 million budget approved for FY’24, he said, \$550,000 of the revenue was sourced from federal pandemic aid, and this seemed to be enabling the free-fare experiment. “I’m a little concerned about the long-term sustainability,” he said.

“Have free fares made differences in ridership?” selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked him.

“That’s a great question,” Singleton replied. “The

trouble is, the ridership has been all over the place because of COVID...”

The transit authority’s demand-response program has expanded and is now called the “Access Program,” and is available to all riders. The advisory board also voted to extend a grant-funded program providing rides to second- and third-shift workers – “basically a taxi service,” Singleton told the board.

The effort to push FRTA to run regular buses on weekends has been less successful. “We’re the only regional transit authority in the state that doesn’t have any form of weekend fixed-route service,” Singleton complained.

“I just wanted a modified Saturday service, to start... it was supposed to start last September and it didn’t, and now it’s in limbo. They’re claiming that the problem is they can’t find the drivers to do it.”

A ribbon-cutting at FRTA’s new bus maintenance garage on Sandy Lane in Turners Falls was scheduled for Saturday morning.

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

**STONEDWORK**  
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —

R. SKELTON, WALLER  
(413) 367-2435 • skelton.rob@gmail.com

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS  
01376  
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

**B. RUBIN & SONS INC.**

**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS**

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236  
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Shared Nurse; Nature Trail; Solar Grid

By **GEORGE BRACE**

At their June 6 meeting, the Leverett selectboard received notice that the town will soon share a part-time nurse with Shutesbury through a state grant program. The board also heard updates on solar energy and park projects, among other business.

Board of health member John Hillman announced that a part-time nurse, funded through the state's Public Health Excellence for Shared Services program, had been hired and was ready to begin setting up an office next week. The 19-hour-per-week position is funded through the next 10 years, and will initially be shared between Sarah Fiske of Leverett and Megan Tudryn of Greenfield.

Hillman said Fiske is currently only available to work for five hours per week, and the balance of the time will be covered by Tudryn. Fiske will report to town hall next week and look over potential sites for her office.

The selectboard also filled one of two vacancies on the board of health by appointing Peter Sylvan, bringing the board's membership to four.

### Heritage Park

Sam Black and Cynthia Baldwin of the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, asked the board for a letter of support to the town's conservation commission backing the group's plans to create a heritage park and a nature trail on two adjacent properties, one owned by the group and the other by the town.

The Friends group plans to develop a nature trail on the town-owned property, which is subject to conservation restrictions overseen by the con com. The organization received \$82,000 in Community Preservation Act funding at town meeting in April, and is now addressing regulatory requirements needed to carry out its plans.

The selectboard expressed strong verbal support for the project, though all three members said they would need to review written information before taking action, and would like to see a timeline.



*We missed it, but reader (and Leverett selectboard member) Pat Duffy did not: the celebration in May of the Leverett Library's 20th anniversary. State rep Natalie Blais (center) delivered a certificate of the legislature's "sincerest congratulations." Other photographs reviewed by the Reporter indicate cake was shared.*

### Solar Visions

Richard Nathorst updated the board on the energy committee's work and shared "takeaways" from a "solar resource and infrastructure assessment" of Leverett recently conducted by the UMass Clean Energy Extension.

"The report is here, extensive, substantial, and shows where commercial power can be developed," said Nathorst, who added that the energy committee's work is directly related to the state's "decarbonization" efforts and is helping set the stage for future development.

One challenge the assessment highlighted, he said, was that only one-third of the town is connected by three-phase power lines.

Nathorst said the committee hopes to create a "microgrid" to share solar-generated electricity among the public safety complex, library, and elementary school, with the town installing its own three-phase lines.

He outlined some of the benefits of the proposal, as well as some challenges. A microgrid, he said, would provide the town with storage and emergency backup options not currently possible.

Nathorst said he did not have an estimate of the cost of such a project, and that the town should first apply for a planning grant. The committee's next steps, he said, include reviewing a recent "solar survey" and applying for the planning grant.

### Other Business

Following a recent discussion on revitalizing the town's recreation commission, four new members were appointed. An "I'll do it, if you'll do it" offer from selectboard member Melissa Colbert to town clerk Lisa Stratford filled two spots, and the other two were taken by Leverett Elementary physical education teacher Sadie Graham and resident Andrew Parker-Renga.

"It'll be so much fun," said Stratford.

The board favorably reviewed a request from police chief Scott Minckler for a credit card for department purchases. Board members said it was probably a good idea for other departments to have cards as well, but that further research would be needed.

The board awarded a fixed-price diesel contract to Keiras Oil at \$3.23 per gallon, and a variable-price gasoline contract to O'Connell Oil at \$0.53 per gallon over "rack" price.

The board unanimously voted to co-sponsor a number of activities associated with the town's 250th anniversary celebration next year. This will allow town insurance to cover the events.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson asked for a vote to approve town water hookups for two households on Teawaddle Hill Road despite their refusal to sign contracts waiving the town of liability. After years of supplying a number of homes with bottled water after their wells were discovered to be contaminated by a former town landfill, Leverett recently connected the neighborhood to Amherst's public water supply.

Hankinson said he didn't think it would set good precedent to allow them to avoid the releases, which had been recommended by town counsel and signed by others in the neighborhood, and wanted to register his objection.

During discussion, however, it was determined that the board had already approved the hookups in question, and a vote was unnecessary.

## LOOKY WRITE HERE

EIGHT-WEEK WRITING WORKSHOPS

The Strange Page:  
Experimental Writing Workshop  
Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m., July 11 to August 29



Advanced/Intermediate Fiction  
Wednesdays 6 to 8 p.m.  
July 12 to August 30

AT LOOKY HERE IN GREENFIELD  
(YES! WE NOW HAVE AIR CONDITIONING!)



## FREE Bicycle Repair Clinic

at the Great Falls Farmers Market

Saturday, June 17

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park - 7th Street off Avenue A

### Basic services offered:

- Patching tires
- Chain cleaning/oiling
- Brake and shifter adjustments

Sadie's Bikes will be on hand starting at 10 a.m. to show you tools and techniques for getting your bike clean and lubricated and to answer any bike-related questions.

Or do it yourself with our self-service stand, pump, and tools!

Stop by Sadie's right around the corner for parts, tools, or a free estimate.



For more information or to volunteer, contact [info@drawdownmontague.earth](mailto:info@drawdownmontague.earth)

Our discounts are in full bloom!



Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!  
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | [ahrist.com](http://ahrist.com)

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

**EARN MORE \$\$**

**CD SPECIALS!**

See Bank for details or visit [greenfieldsavings.com/rates](http://greenfieldsavings.com/rates)

888-324-3191  
[greenfieldsavings.com](http://greenfieldsavings.com)

**Greenfield Savings Bank**

Member FDIC/Member DIF

New Bakery Open!  
411 MAIN ROAD, GILL  
OPEN 7 DAYS, 8 AM - 7 PM  
413-863-4431  
[WWW.UPINNGIL.COM](http://WWW.UPINNGIL.COM)

**UPINNGIL**

Food You Need from the Land You Love

**Buckingham Rabbits Vintage**

NEW HOURS!  
TH/FR 12pm-5pm  
SAT 11am-6pm  
SUN 12-4pm

vintage & secondhand clothing for all!

find us online

102 Avenue A TFMA 01376

**MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST**

BUY / SELL / TRADE  
MUSIC / MOVIES / BOOKS  
WE BUY RECORDS

178A N Pleasant  
413-253-4776

**Turners Falls Pizza House**

Family Owned & Operated  
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years  
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

**PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**

[www.turnersfallspizza.com](http://www.turnersfallspizza.com)  
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

**Peter Waters Painting Services**

Interior/Exterior  
Custom Residential  
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534  
Cell: 413-461-5172  
Wendell, MA  
[peterjwaters88@gmail.com](mailto:peterjwaters88@gmail.com)

**Reid's Window Washing**

Brayden Reid (603) 254-1037  
[braydenreid05@gmail.com](mailto:braydenreid05@gmail.com)

**Abby Graseck Zen Shiatsu**

Turners Falls & Gill

413-834-5382  
[agraseck.shiatsu@gmail.com](mailto:agraseck.shiatsu@gmail.com)  
[www.abbygraseckshiatsu.net](http://www.abbygraseckshiatsu.net)

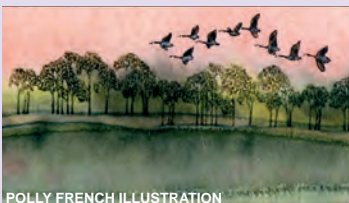




FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 8, 2023



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

FIFTY MISHOONASH FOR WILLIAM PYNCHON

By DAVID BRULE

**POCUMPETOOK / DEERFIELD** – In the late winter of 1638, William Pynchon (1590-1662) knew he was in a fix. In 1636 he had founded the settlement of Agawam, later renamed Springfield, and was trying to help other fledgling outposts farther down the Connecticut River.

Just two short years into the life of the new outpost, in that winter of 1638, his settlements were facing the danger of famine brought about largely by the Pequot War of 1636. Less than twenty years after the arrival of the first English settlers at Plymouth in 1620, and less than ten after the Puritan founding of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629, the English had launched a campaign to exterminate the Pequots, ending in the massacre of that tribe at Mistik.

Meanwhile, Pynchon was navigating an uneasy peace with the local Indigenous band of the Agawam, and his own community was risking starvation.

Pynchon later became a target of wrath when he was accused of heresy by the intolerant Puritans. A book he wrote critiquing Puritanism, *The Meritorious Price of our Redemption*, was banned and burned on Boston Common in 1650.

The Narragansetts, the Mohegans, and the Niantic tribes whose homelands were being threatened by the English-dominated Connecticut Colony under John Mason were not sorry to see the English make war upon the dreaded and warlike Pequot. The Pequot were aggressive and seeking to dominate all the tribes of the southern regions of what is now New England.

But the English tactics of total warfare, showing no quarter to any rebellious tribes – Irish,

Scottish, or Pequot – so stunned the Native adversaries of the Pequot that they refused to collaborate and participate in the battle at Mistik Fort. The English accomplished their war by incinerating the Pequot fort that day, including all Native supplies of corn, and burning nearly 400 Pequot victims who perished in the flames.

The Narragansetts, upon seeing this merciless slaughter, are said to have abandoned the scene of the massacre and were quoted as saying “This is not right, this is too much.”

The resources in manpower, foodstuffs, and munitions that the English consumed in trying to wipe out the Pequot left many of the English settlements devoid of men and supplies, and their fields fallow, with nothing planted in preparation for the coming harsh season.

The winter of 1637-38, then, became the winter of starvation. So much had gone into the war effort that settlements as far north as Windsor and Springfield had not planted any crops, and there had been no harvest.

William Pynchon, ironically, had to turn to the River Indians for help. Then, as now, the central Connecticut River valley was renowned for its superior topsoils, almost 20 feet deep, and its abundant production of maize. Pynchon put the word out through the Indigenous network that he needed at least 500 bushels of corn to be delivered to him by canoes and *mishoonash* (dug-out canoes) and was willing to trade generously for it.

The tribes nearest to Springfield and Windsor, including the Podunk, the Agawam, the Norwottock, the Nonotuck, the Woronoco, had no surplus to spare. Word reached the leadership of these tribes’ closest and most powerful allies, the

see **WEST ALONG** page B3

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NOLUMBEKA PROJECT



Deborah Spears Moorehead's new mural, 50 Mishoonash on the Connecticut River.

Above: On Migratory Way in Turners Falls, a neighbor holds still for a photo.

# Ainsworth at Large: Back to Florida!

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – The car was gassed up, the luggage was stashed in the trunk, and the cooler was loaded with enough food to get me to South Carolina.

A few weeks earlier, I’d taken my 2019 Subaru Legacy to the Hadley dealership for a 90,000-mile maintenance check that was a glorified \$500 oil change. The service tech said the wheel bearings were “screaming,” and the repair job would cost \$1,500. I told him I’d take my chances.

In Northfield, Dr. Mike put it on the lift, checked the wheel bearings, and charged me \$20. “They do this all the time,” he said. “People come in freaking out, because they’re *big jobs*.”

I hit the reset button on the odometer, turned on the ignition, and pulled out of the driveway. Next stop: Florence, SC.

My stomach didn’t tighten until a mile before the George Washington Bridge in New York City, where tractor trailers were jockeying around a car stopped in the right lane, but the view of the Hudson was outstanding and the \$12.75 toll fee was inbound only.



AINSWORTH PHOTO

“Keep walking,” said the security guard outside Mar-a-Lago.

What’s fun about a late March road trip to Florida is seeing the gradual transition from winter to spring, buds blooming from maple trees and yellow forsythia blossoming in backyards along the New Jersey Turnpike.

Somewhere before the Delaware Bridge the GPS directed me off of I-95 and onto Route 301, past the

US Naval Academy and over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge into Virginia, and past the Hanover Tavern, where Patrick Henry married Sarah Shelton and George Washington dined on lamb and mutton.

The Country Inn where I stayed didn’t offer roasted fowles, but the room was a reasonable \$75 plus see **AT LARGE** page B4

## NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON

**GREENFIELD** – Did you know that September 2 is World Coconut Day?

The coconut is a cultural icon of the tropics, a geographical term for the regions that lie roughly along the middle of the globe near the Equator – the Caribbean and parts of Central and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. In the Austronesian cultures of New Guinea and Polynesia the coconut is featured in songs and stories passed down through oral tradition. Coconut is used in ceremonies by pre-colonial animistic religions, and in some of the Hindu rituals of South Asia.

Domesticated during the Neolithic period around 10,000 BC, coconuts traveled via ocean migrations as a portable source of food and water. Their fiber, twisted into cordage called *sennit*, was used to lash outriggers to canoes as salty seawater did not weaken or deteriorate this durable rope.

Spreading along seacoasts to the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, the coconut population was – and still is – divided into Pacific coconuts and Indo-Atlantic coconuts. The former is rounder and thinner, with brightly colored fruit and sweeter water; the latter has an elongated, triangular shape with a thick husk whose buoyancy is ideal for dispersal via ocean waves.

In India, the word *coconut* comes from an old Portuguese word, *coco*, which means “head” or “skull.” Portuguese and Spanish explorers who traded among the Pacific Islands were reminded of ghosts or witches by the three indentations on the coconut which resemble a face. In the West, Arabs called it the “Indian nut.”

Coconut fruit, like the peanut, isn’t truly a nut, but a drupe, which has fleshy fruit surrounding a shell, some-



MANDESON PHOTO

The author conducts some important research with a young coconut. The coconut water was drunk with a straw and the tender young meat was used for a pudding.

times called a pit, similar to what we find in peaches, plums, and cherries. Other nuts that are actually drupes are walnuts, almonds, and pecans. Notice that, like the see **HEARTFELT** page B4

# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## “FENDI”

Fendi weighs in at just shy of 7 pounds, with legs for days and ears to match! This goofy-looking fellow has the goofy personality to match. He loves to run, pounce, and cuddle!

Typical to “Minpins,” Fendi can be protective of his person once he’s settled in, and will growl and bark at visitors. Once he warms up, he goes right back to playtime! He has not lived with men or children, so Fendi needs a female-only home.

Fendi has loved meeting other small dogs here at the shelter and would enjoy having a tiny, spirited companion to play with.

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).



By CASEY WAIT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hello and Happy Gay Pride, dear readers!

I came out as queer in 2011 and as nonbinary in 2015. By this time, Gay Pride parades had already been deeply co-opted by big business and law enforcement, all of its radicality erased, “pink-washed.” In the past decade or so, the month of June has become steadily more commercial, with corporations rolling out thousands of rainbow-bedecked products, hoping to make a buck off the backs of marginalized people. Every year I see new memes shared around my social media feeds and group chats, laughing darkly at the ridiculousness of the rainbow Raytheon logo, the rainbow cop car, the rainbow Republican elephant.

It’s important to remember our history. Gay Pride Month happens in June because June 28 marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion – an anti-cop uprising led by poor trans people of color that happened in New York City in 1969. This motley crew of queer misfits inspired a movement that lives on today.

The queer community has learned the hard way, especially this year, that seeking approval and acceptance from our oppressors will never save us. Increased visibility in the media, entry into the military, marriage equality, queer CEOs, celebrities, and politicians – all of these things are now a reality, and yet being visibly queer, especially visibly trans, feels more dangerous now than at any other time I can remember.

Just last week, Texas became the largest state to criminalize life-saving gender-affirming care for minors. Meanwhile, the Democratic Party refuses to take more than a weak-willed stand to defend us because they are concerned that focusing on “culture war” issues won’t

win them the 2024 election. Both Fox News and the *New York Times* churn out anti-trans screeds weekly.

The state and the media are both either explicitly against or indifferent to trans life – and indifference to genocide is tacit support for genocide. Scholar of trans history Jules Gill-Peterson puts it bluntly when she says “in ejecting [trans people] from public life as uncivil, the state deliberately attempts to reduce their life chances – and quality of life, if they survive the attack.”

Trans people, especially disabled trans people of color, already have reduced life expectancy and continue to suffer disproportionately from the state’s bungled COVID-19 response. Queer and trans people are more likely to experience severe infection from COVID-19 even if they don’t have underlying health conditions.

We are more likely to face employment and housing discrimination, lack health insurance, family support, and savings. We are more likely to avoid medical care for fear of discrimination, medical neglect, and having our symptoms written off as side effects of our gender-affirming hormones. Many of us suffer from depression and anxiety, and many of us are neurodivergent – all qualify as comorbidities that could lead to worse COVID-19 outcomes.

As a community we take pride in our history of caring for one another when no one else would. Many of the disability justice organizers I have learned the most from cut their teeth during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the ‘80s and ‘90s, developing innovative forms of resistance, mutual aid, and community care. If you are feeling hopeless and overwhelmed in the face of so much hate, I highly recommend reading up on how our peers and elders in ACT UP! showed up for each other when the state literally laughed at

mass queer death.

And, contrary to common belief, HIV/AIDS is also still a crisis, both domestically and globally. Check out the amazing ongoing work of the group What Would a HIV Doula Do? ([hivdoula.work](http://hivdoula.work)) to learn how folks are addressing the needs of our HIV/AIDS+ siblings.

Many of us need Pride this year more than ever. After several years of canceled events, and as our existence is loudly deplored, it’s understandable that we feel an equal and opposite need to loudly embrace one another. As much as I’ve rolled my eyes at corporate Prides past, even I feel drawn to attend a parade this year, just to be in community.

But – being immunocompromised – I fear the crowds. In our rush to gather, I need our community to remember their disabled siblings. Do not leave us behind: we need Pride, too! As you plan your parades and dance parties, please include, advertise, and observe COVID-19 precautions. Require masks, suggest testing before and after events, plan to keep your events outdoors, and use air filters if you have to be indoors. If you are part of an organization of any kind, you can request free N95s from [www.ProjectN95.com](http://www.ProjectN95.com).

There are also many handy guides to planning safer in-person gatherings. I have links to several on the “COVID-19 Resources” section of my website, [www.caseywait.com](http://www.caseywait.com).

I am a disabled, chronically ill, immunocompromised, queer, trans anarchist – kind of a fascist’s worst nightmare – and I’m proud of it, baby! I refuse to be erased by my enemies, but I also refuse to be erased by my own community. Sick and disabled queer people have always led our movements. Don’t forget us now.

With love and rage,

*Your Sick Friend*

## Senior Center Activities JUNE 12 THROUGH 16

### LEVERETT

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

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

### Monday 6/12

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pot Luck

### Tuesday 6/13

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning  
Knitters  
1 p.m. VILLAGE Info Session  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 6/14

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment  
Thursdays 6/15  
9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 6/16

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
2 p.m. By the Seat of Your Dance  
3:30 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation

### 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 6/12

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

### Tuesday 6/13

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

### Wednesday 6/14

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

### Thursday 6/15

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

### Friday 6/16

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### 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.

### EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

## Discussing Dark Matters

**WENDELL** – Court Dorsey will present “Some Like It Dark – And Some Don’t,” a reading of his original dark poems and dialogues with a discussion of the appropriateness of dark art, next Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wendell Meetinghouse.

“Let’s face it,” Dorsey writes, “when it comes to art, some like it dark. And some don’t. When I read ‘Timmy’s Work is Done,’ so far, no one has walked out. A bartender once stopped putting up chairs and stared at me in horror, and at another event, at least one audience member quipped, ‘I loved the songs, the poetry, and even the dark rhymies, though the Timmy one was pretty creepy. Not exactly a stellar example of nonviolence.’”

“My sweetheart asks, ‘Why do you write these things, let alone read them? You should ask some other people what they think.’ So that’s exactly what I’m going to do.”

There are several veins of dark “rhymie,” a term Dorsey has coined for some of these uncomfortable poems, written often in sing-song rhyme. The audience will hear “Mommy, May I Have a Pony?,” “Timmy’s Work Is Done,” “The White Troll and Pumpkin Peter” – with and without music – and “Ordinary Mor-

timer Scrod,” and then discuss, in a circle: Is there a point to doing dark art? Is it art at all? Are some of these OK, and others just gratuitous?

Court Dorsey is a singer, writer, actor, playwright, mediator, and president of Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse. He has created hundreds of pieces, including songs, poetry, short stories, and monologues. Many have been produced as theatrical works, guest sermons, solo and ensemble performances, and in concert settings across the US, Canada, and Europe.

Dorsey was a founding member of Bright Morning Star, a folk cabaret ensemble that toured the US and Canada, including tours with Pete Seeger and Odetta. His theatrical work includes performances with dozens of experimental companies in theaters, prisons, festivals, schools, and community centers around the Valley and across the US, as well as in Mexico, Poland, and Serbia.

This event is part of a series running every Thursday evening in May and June at the Wendell Meetinghouse on the town common. Admission is free, with donations strongly encouraged. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Meetinghouse and support the continued renovation of the historic structure. For more details, visit [www.wendellmeetinghouse.org](http://www.wendellmeetinghouse.org).

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

**MASSIVE BOOKSHOP**  
EST. 2020  
YOUR LOCAL RNTI-PRIME BOOK SERVICE  
VISIT US AT: [MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM](http://MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM)

**Rau's Auto**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR  
(413) 367-2475  
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague  
24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics

**Harriet Paine**  
REALTOR®  
C (413) 475-4203  
O (413) 223-1367  
[harriet@cohnandcompany.com](mailto:harriet@cohnandcompany.com)  
[cohnandcompany.com](http://cohnandcompany.com)  
117 Main Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**WEST ALONG** from page B1  
Pocumtuck, whose homelands stretched from modern-day Sunderland north to the Peskeompskut Falls, west to the foothills of the Berkshires, and east to the lands of their close cousins, the Nipmuck.

The Pocumtuck, controlling much of the rich fields of the central Connecticut River valley, had plenty of maize. However, according to Deerfield's tireless historian George Sheldon (1818-1916), the Connecticut General Court, concerned that profiteers would monopolize the supply of corn from the Indians upriver, passed an order on February 9, 1638 forbidding individual trading to take place between English and Indians. The order stated that "noe man in this River, nor Agawam shall goe upp River amonge the Indians, or at home at their houses, to trade for Corne..."

They then turned to Pynchon. Sheldon continues: "to prevent the corner in corn, March 9<sup>th</sup>, a contract was made with William Pynchon, the founder of Springfield, to deliver 500 bushels of corn at Windsor and Hartford... Payment was to be made in wampum, three pieces for a penny, or in merchantable beaver, at ten shillings a pound."

Again according to Sheldon, who wrote the following in 1895, "the Pocumtucks had plenty of food to sell and it must have been a busy and exciting day when Pynchon came among them to buy 500 bushels of corn, bringing twelve thousand strings of wampum to put in circulation there. Doubtless files of women, with baskets on their backs, were soon seen threading the narrow pathways of the river: for in short time a fleet of fifty canoes, freighting the Indian corn was on its way down the Connecticut River to relieve the impending famine in the settlements below."

Fast forward to 2020 when the Nolumbeka Project engaged Deborah Spears Moorehead, a Seaconke Pokanoket Wampanoag artist and a descendant of Massasoit, to depict the scene as part of our educational video *Indigenous Voices of the Connecticut River Valley*, now available for free on the Nolumbeka Project website.

The Nolumbeka Project, of

which I am chairman, extended a down-payment to Moorehead to research the event of 1638 and paint a 5-foot-by-4-foot mural. This mural, *50 Mishoonash on the Connecticut River*, is currently on display at the Greenfield Branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

We at Nolumbeka have decided to gift the mural to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Museum (PVMA) in Deerfield, from whence came the maize that relieved the impending famine in the English settlements downriver. When we have raised sufficient funds to provide fair payment to the artist, we will gift and deed the mural over to PVMA so that it will have a permanent home, and will be available for public viewing in the Native American Gallery in the Memorial Hall Museum.

It is fitting that the mural remain in Deerfield, where the event happened more than 385 years ago. But we need public help to do so. Please find the Nolumbeka Project website ([nolumbekaproject.org](http://nolumbekaproject.org)) or the Facebook page to make a donation so that we can fully compensate the Wampanoag artist for her evocative work.

The Pocumtuck generosity in saving the fledgling English settlements provides balance to the overly-embellished histories of the so-called "First Thanksgiving" at Plymouth, hosted by Ms. Moorehead's ancestor Massasoit.

This mural from our own Connecticut River valley brings forth the under-reported and mostly unknown example of Pocumtuck ability and willingness to save their white neighbors. This exchange was more than a commercial activity between the English and the Pocumtuck. It established important bonds, however ephemeral – and eventually, for the Pocumtuck and the river valley tribes, tragic.

Please consider making a donation to help us complete the purchase of the mural, which depicts such an important event here in the Pocumtuck homelands.

David Brule is the president of the Board of Directors of the Nolumbeka Project, Inc.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Moto-Trike; Unemployment Fraud; Animal Control; Drum Police; Rash Of Vehicle Break-Ins; Suspicions**

**Saturday, 5/27**

5:55 p.m. Caller from L Street states she heard glass break, then saw two teenage boys dressed in black running down the street. Officer checked area; did not observe any broken glass or juveniles.

7:35 p.m. Caller states that a motorized tricycle is burning out in the road on Griswold Street and making a lot of noise. Officer spoke to male party, who was using the vehicle in his driveway. Advised of complaint. He is putting it away for the evening.

11:20 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Street advises that 7 or 8 individuals are having a bonfire outside, causing a disturbance. Officer advises no loud noise heard upon arrival; however, he located the involved parties and advised them of the complaint.

**Monday, 5/29**

8:10 a.m. 911 caller from L Street states that a male party is in the hallway trying to break into her apartment. Officer advises parties are looking for their dog.

8:20 p.m. Caller states that approximately 25 minutes ago, a male wearing a red hat was peeing outside of Crestview Liquor.

**Tuesday, 5/30**

9:32 a.m. First of several reports this week of identities being used in unemployment fraud schemes.

11:06 a.m. Caller from Bangs Street advises that a brindle-colored pitbull with an orange collar has been loose all weekend. The dog has torn up his trash and appears in his backyard all the time. The dog has growled at him multiple times. Officer located dog on Franklin Street; animal control officer responding as well.

11:19 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street states that a white pitbull with brown spots came down her driveway and became aggressive toward her and her dog. The pitbull left, but has now come back. ACO notified and responding to neighborhood. Unable to locate; officer will keep checking area.

11:59 a.m. Dog located on East Main Street. ACO and PD attempting to catch it. Another dog had also gotten loose. Female party was able to get the dogs back into the house. Involved male advised to register dogs in his name ASAP.

12:54 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting two strange incidents of people parking outside of the residence and a separate incident of someone blowing a horn while driving slowly by. Advised of options.

7:12 p.m. Caller from town hall reporting his wallet and sunglasses were stolen

out of his vehicle. The wallet had an AirTag, but he can no longer track it.

**Wednesday, 5/31**

12:02 p.m. 911 caller states that the mulch on the corner of L and Third Streets is on fire. Fire dispatched.

3:05 p.m. Silent 911 call from fish hatchery. Upon callback, spoke to a male who stated he is working on a backhoe and the phone was in his pocket.

4:08 p.m. Caller from Bangs Street states that a pregnant stray cat moved into his garage; he is looking for the ACO to assist in removing it. Message left with ACO.

9:06 p.m. 911 caller stated that there was a guy at her residence who was arguing with her about a phone and money. Caller then said she didn't want the police to come anymore because her landlord will evict her. Caller called back and stated that she had left the residence and the male party had left as well. Officer advises that the neighbor told him that they saw the parties leave shortly before the officers showed up.

**Thursday, 6/1**

8:25 a.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states that a male and female were trying to enter the building with a pen knife, then the female went to another part of the building and climbed through a window. Caller later reported that subjects were not let into the apartment and exited at the time of the call. Caller requesting that patrols be on lookout. Investigated.

8:57 a.m. Caller from South Street states that he found a big red scratch on his truck, but he does not know where it came from. Report taken.

2:27 p.m. Walk-in states that there is an increased level of drug activity in an Avenue A building and is looking for assistance to help end the problem. Written statement was passed along to detective.

3:07 p.m. Caller states she received a phone call from a woman claiming to be at Unity Park who said she is going to beat the caller up if she doesn't return the money she took. Would like to discuss with an officer as she is concerned for her safety. Advised of options.

6:21 p.m. Two warrants received for a Lake Pleasant Road resident. Officer advises homeowner states subject no longer living/welcome at residence. He is riding around on a white electric bike. Believed to be homeless at this time.

10:37 p.m. 911 caller states that a suspicious man is walking around outside near Tenth and Power Streets talking and texting on his phone. No suspicious behavior, but caller feels something isn't right. Officers spoke to male party; no issues. Listening to music.

**Friday, 6/2**

12:05 a.m. Shelburne Control advises off-duty Bernardston officer was flagged down by a suspicious party outside the Carnegie Library. MPD officer advises involved party was using library wifi. Moved along.

2:01 a.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reports female party throwing items at the wall, yelling, and screaming. Officer advises female refused to go to door. Officer advised neighbors to contact Montague Housing Authority.

12:12 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments states that the woman in the apartment next door has been yelling and being loud for 40 minutes. Advised of complaint.

2:15 p.m. Aubuchon employee was asked to call police by a man who stated that he had been beaten up at Peskeomskut Park. Situation mediated; parties advised of options.

3:10 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that while he was sleeping, someone hit his car in the parking lot and drove away. Landlord is on scene and has parking lot cameras for video footage. After reviewing footage, landlord called and requested call back from officer. Report taken.

3:57 p.m. 911 caller from East Main Street states that there is a male in his backyard who was riding an electric bicycle, fell off, and is now sleeping with a backpack over his head. A 58-year-old male, address unknown, was arrested on two default warrants.

6:31 p.m. Caller from G Street states that her neighbor has been playing the drums in his barn for weeks, and it's disturbing the neighborhood. She contacted the board of health, who advised her to contact the PD. Attempted to make contact with male party, who was wearing headphones and unable to hear officers. Decibel level within acceptable range. Left note on door. Caller called back unhappy that nothing was being done as it was disturbing the whole neighborhood and affecting her well-being, which is why she went to the BOH, and she doesn't understand why she has no rights. Attempted to call male party; no answer. Male party called back and was advised of complaint. He is aware

that there have been complaints; son has been taking drum lessons. Male has padded his garage to assist with noise.

**Saturday, 6/3**

3:28 a.m. Chicopee PD requesting MPD check an Eleventh Street address for a vehicle. Female party borrowed it from its registered owner and was supposed to return it hours ago, but has not. Vehicle located at residence and female advised to return the car. Female party will be leaving shortly to return vehicle. Officer drove by later and found vehicle still there. Chicopee requesting to have vehicle towed and taken from address. Rau's requested. Vehicle located in NCIC.

3:33 a.m. Caller from N Street advises a male party wearing dark clothing was walking up and down the street and shining a light in a house next to hers. Unable to locate.

12:30 p.m. 911 caller states a party at Red Fire Farm is screaming at people and won't leave when asked. Gone on arrival. Caller and store owner were able to provide a name. Officer updated business owner; male party was located and is receiving help.

9:10 p.m. Caller reports the noise at Unity Park is too loud. Caller advised event will end at 10 p.m.

10:57 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that there is a female in dark clothing looking in vehicles with a flashlight. Unable to locate.

**Sunday, 6/4**

9:42 a.m. Caller from Third Street wants on record that her and her stepdad's vehicles were broken into last night. Nothing stolen.

11:07 a.m. Caller from L Street states that her car was broken into last night. Passport, boyfriend's passport, and \$200 cash missing. Advised of options.

2:01 p.m. Caller states he saw a female party with pink hair wearing a "drug rug" trying to break into cars. States that it's obvious she's under the influence. Officer located female party under a car trying to get her cell phone. No stolen items on her person.

5:31 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that they just got back from a weekend away to find that his brother's vehicle had been broken into.

5:42 p.m. Caller from Montague Avenue states that a male who lives on her road frequently drives too fast through the area and it is not safe for the kids. Inquiring whether a speed radar sign could be put up.

9:01 p.m. Caller stated that he drove by the airport about 15 minutes ago and a female was just standing on the side of the road. It felt strange to him.

**Montague Community Television News**

**Always Something New**



the hour of 11 has a tender significance. Wherever Elks may roam,

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – There's always something new to watch on MCTV! This week we have a meeting on the assessment on the Sawmill River, the Full Moon Snow Dance Gathering, and footage from this year's Memorial Day ceremony in Turners Falls (above). You can catch new videos on Channel 9 or on our Vimeo page.

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

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

**ROOT YOGA STUDIO**  
51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS  
**413.676.9076**  
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM  
**NEW STUDENT SPECIAL**  
**THREE CLASSES FOR \$30**

**Doug's Auto Body**  
Doug Smith - Owner  
**PRECISION REPAIRS**  
MA Reg. #RS2190  
Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road  
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354  
**FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS**  
**REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS**

Lic #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687  
**ELECTRICIAN**  
**CHRIS M. STRAKOSE**  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS  
EMERGENCY SERVICE  
9 SWAMP ROAD  
MONTAGUE, MA 01351  
EMAIL: [CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM)  
**FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION**

**AT LARGE** from page B1

10,000 loyalty points. At 6 a.m., I splashed myself awake with cold water and went for a walk down an unlit dead end street.

A man emerged from the darkness holding a large white towel to his face. He was a migrant, and he was carrying an infant or covering a wound, but something had happened. We nodded to each other and continued our separate ways.

The area was a partially developed trailer park that jutted left and right and ended at a wire fence. On the walk back I saw a sheriff's vehicle cruise slowly past the motels, turn, and shine its spotlight on a group of disheveled migrants near the blue tarp they'd used as a makeshift tent. After a few seconds the driver turned off the spotlight, circled around, and left.

Back in my room I showered, tossed my dirty clothes in the trunk, and drove to a Krispy Kreme across the street for three glazed donuts and a coffee to go. A sign on the door said "Bathrooms for Customers Only," and I asked if migrants came in to use it.

"No," the manager answered. "People go in there and use drugs."

**Podcasts & Billboards**

A podcast called *Threads from the National Tapestry: Stories from the Civil War* is narrated by Fred Kiger, and I had saved the episode about South Carolina for the 198-mile drive down I-95 through the Palmetto State.

Kiger recounted Sherman's 60-mile wide swath of destruction from Atlanta to the ocean, and how he had spared Savannah. "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah," the Union general wired Lincoln on Christmas Eve.

In South Carolina, where the war had begun at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, Sherman showed no mercy for the state he deemed to be the cradle of secession. Under his command, Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick ordered his troops to fill their saddlebags with matches and burn plantation

homes, barns, and fields. In Columbia, six bronze stars designate the location where cannonballs hit the State House.

A century and a half later, South Carolina still has a beat-up feel to it. The pavement on I-95 is old and cracked, the landscape plain and barren, and drivers see pine trees, swamps, fuel plazas, and billboards advertising \$89 DOT physicals, cheap fireworks, cut-rate golfing gear, discount cigarettes, Christian redemption – *Are You Preparing to Meet Jesus?* – and reminders from 2020: *81 Million Votes? Yeah, Right.*

Probably half of the highway advertising entices travelers to stop at a Hobo Joe's, Fat Jack's, or Xaxby's to sample 80 Flavors of Fudge or 44 Flavors of Fresh Shakes.

Imagine a reincarnated General Sherman fighting northward and seeing cartoon images of a happy Mexican in a sombrero. *You're Always a Weiner at Pedro's South of the Border*, he is saying.

**Swapping Cars in Gainesville**

East of the Florida State Prison in Raiford I stopped at a roadside citrus stand and bought a quarter bushel of an easy-to-peel, seedless citrus fruit called honeybell oranges.

"A little pricey," I said. "Goin' out of season," said the old-timer who reminded me of Amos McCoy, the grumpy grandfather from *The Real McCoys*.

"Grown in Florida?" I asked. "End of season," he repeated.

I stayed for a night in Gainesville at my friend Crosby Hunt's house. His wife Deborah was in Brooklyn tending to their grandson, and Hunt said he'd been whiling the time walking his German Shepherd named Grace, rooting against the Florida Gators baseball team ("The way you root against the Red Sox"), and teaching English at Santa Fe Community College.

The next morning I parked in the long-term lot at the Gainesville Airport and rented a car for the 225-mile drive to Tequesta. Unlike any



AINSWORTH PHOTO

Two armed guards stood on the lawn of the 126-room Mar-a-Lago Club the morning after the news of Trump's pending indictment in Manhattan was leaked. "We can't stop you," one of them answered when our correspondent asked if he could take a photo.

other airport I've experienced, Gainesville's is peaceful and quiet. The woman at the Budget counter said she loved coming to work.

The room at Tequesta Palms cost \$125 a night and was close to the beach and to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, but closer to strip malls and new development. After a plate of spaghetti and meatballs at Baldino's Italian Restaurant on Route 1, I took a walk through parking lots where parents were dropping off their white-robed Kwai Changs for martial arts lessons and anti-aging shops were offering discounts on micro-needling, chemical peels, and Xeomin wrinkle relaxers. Ten sessions at Cryo Slimming cost \$3,000, and the red-carpet facial at Frio Cryotherapy & Wellness was \$225.

Florida's Division of Recreation and Parks

touts its 175 parks as "The Real Florida." A hiker can get lost on the trails in Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, walk for a mile on the beach at MacArthur State Park on Singer Island, or kayak up the Loxahatchee River to visit Trapper Nelson's campground.

An annual pass to any and all cost \$65, or about as much as one ride at Disney World.

I bought the pass to get the gate code, enter at dawn, and drive down the four-mile access road to the Loxahatchee River and be there in solitude. The recent wet weather has likely turned much of the 10,500-acre park into a pond, but in early April the trails were dry and sandy. One morning I encountered two biology researchers from Florida Atlantic University using a mist net to catch sparrows

see **AT LARGE** next page

**HEARTFELT** from page B1

peanut, it is seemingly categorized as a convenience for chefs rather than based on its biology.

The flesh, oil, and water from inside the coconut can all be consumed, so it's pretty close to a perfect food. Not to mention that the husks and fibers can be used as cups and bowls, doormats, particleboards, mattresses, floor tiles, and the aforementioned rope. I also learned that burning coconut husks makes a great insect repellent, so give it a try at your next outdoor cookout, and let me know how it works.

Coconut oil is easily digestible and has the type of saturated fats

we need in our diet to help us absorb vitamins and minerals. It's rich in lauric acid, a fatty acid used to make monolaurin, an antimicrobial agent that fights bacteria and viruses. It's even been suggested that lauric acid could aid in weight loss and protect against Alzheimer's disease.

When deciding whether to consume coconut oil or butter, there are pros and cons to both. While coconut oil does have a special HDL-boosting effect that makes it less evil than its high-saturated fat content would suggest, it's not necessarily the best to consume, especially if heart disease is an issue.

Olive oil is still a better choice.

On the other hand, butter contains cholesterol, which virgin coconut oil does not. It's good to weigh the benefits versus the risks when deciding to switch. I can't seem to make up my own mind, and I alternate between using butter and coconut oil for my weekly biscotti bake. I don't notice a difference in taste or texture, so I'm fine using either. I also use the "refined" version of coconut oil, which removes the coconut flavor, while "unrefined" will give you that full coconut taste.

Then there is coconut water, which I've seen referred to as "nature's sports drink." It's refreshing and hydrating, and replaces the electrolytes we sweat out during high activity, so go for that coconut smoothie at the gym – and the coconut cocktail at the bar, to help reduce your chance of a hangover.

Many cultures use coconut oil in cooking. The Philippines lead as the world's biggest consumer. It's a vital ingredient in curries and delicious in salad dressings and sauces. It's great for high-heat searing and cooking because of high levels of saturated fat, which retains its compound structure when heated to high temps, unlike vegetable oils which may smoke out. (Safflower oil can even turn into toxic compounds when heated too high.) For those allergic to corn, soy, and peanut oil, coconut is a good alternative.

Then there are the health benefits. It's great as a moisturizer, with those suffering from psoriasis and eczema gaining some benefit from it. The ancient Ayurvedic remedy of "oil pulling" involves swishing coconut oil around in the mouth. The

**COCONUT MACAROONS**

CATHY GOUGH PHOTO

Missbapen but still delicious, these macaroons are a snap to make.

3 cups shredded coconut  
4 egg whites  
½ cup sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla or almond extract  
¼ tsp. salt

Toast the shredded coconut in the oven for 3 or 4 minutes at 350° F. Whip all the other ingredients together until the egg

whites form stiff peaks. Gently fold in the toasted coconut.

Drop by spoonfuls, or mold into shape, onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350° for approximately 12 minutes, or until lightly browned on top.

Once cooled, dip them in melted chocolate.

belief is that the antibacterial, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory properties of coconut oil kill bacteria, but some say it merely removes it, much like your toothbrush, so using this alone as a dental hygiene method may leave some gaps (pun intended) in your dentition. Do your own research if it appeals to you.

Try this simple and delicious coconut macaroon recipe. If you're

anything like me, they'll be gone in a day, especially if you dip them in chocolate.

*Trouble lives in Greenfield with her wife and their newly adopted cat Peeps. She volunteers for local nonprofits to cook and feed those in the community, and loves to write, copyedit, and create art.*



MANDESON PHOTO



This simple pudding was made by blending young coconut meat with some coconut water and a bit of honey and vanilla. With a good blender, which the author confesses not to own, it should be smooth and creamy.

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

BKONFONQEQWIYSS . IPY  
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW . MMO  
FONTLVPEAXQAHDO . SHC  
LJKEVOBFBNAPGR . RED  
SECRETBROADCAST . NET  
a weekly secret message podcast

413-256-6217  
fine instruments  
bought and sold  
repaired and restored  
Fretted Instrument Workshop  
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

relieving chronic pain  
Gretchen Wetherby, LMT  
413-824-7063  
bringing peace to tired muscles  
gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com



Top: A postcard view of the Atlantic Ocean from Palm Beach. Above: It takes one mighty big seed to grow a coconut tree.

**AT LARGE** from previous page

and attach tiny transmitters onto them.  
A woman taking notes said they were trying to learn more about their song patterns. “Most birds have only two or three songs,” she said. “Sparrows have over 20.”

**Hunger Strikes**

Dining is expensive in Florida: \$50 for swordfish at the Ke’e Grill in Juno Beach, and \$30 for a grouper or mahi-mahi lunch plate at Little Moir’s Food Shack in Jupiter. Leverett’s Jerry Daly told me he spent two weeks with his girlfriend in Lake Worth walking the beach, swimming in the ocean and eating peanut butter sandwiches for lunch and dinner.

In Port Salerno, Val Matlage and I had grouper sandwiches and salad with green basil vinaigrette dressing at a hole-in-the-wall called Crabby’s – formerly “Gettin’ Crabby” – and two nights later I met Jayne Johnson and Dave Beuttenmuller for pizza and salad at Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza in Palm Beach Gardens.

Mostly, though, I stayed in the park and adhered to Jerry Daly’s peanut-butter diet.

**A Trip to Mar-a-Lago**

The morning after Donald Trump was indicted, I drove over the Henry Flagler Drawbridge, parked on Royal Poinciana Way, and walked three miles to Mar-a-Lago.

I started on North County Road, near the Flagler Steakhouse and across from The Breakers, where rooms with a view cost \$1,000. I ventured into Bethesda-by-the-Sea, where Donald and Melania Trump were married in 2005, continued past stately homes hidden by manicured hedges, and turned left on Clarke Avenue up to the beach.

On South Ocean Boulevard a surfer in a “Hilton Head Prep” t-shirt lifted his board from the back of a pickup truck and followed his friends to the shore, where the white sand made the ocean water look light blue and translucent. Mar-a-Lago appeared around a sweeping bend in the road. It was built in Mediterranean-style design nearly a century ago by cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, who said she wanted “a little cottage by the sea.”

Some cottage – 17 acres, 58 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, tennis courts, a swim pool, and a golf course all surrounded by an eight-foot high stucco wall. Trump bought it in 1985 for \$10 million and today it’s worth \$185 million.

A polished black SUV blocked the entrance and a security guard, who looked like Reggie Jackson and was dressed in black from head to toe, walked toward me pointing his finger. “You gotta keep moving,” he said.

On the expansive lawn, two other guards holding automatic weapons were dressed in black and watching me. “Mind if I take your picture?”

“We can’t stop you!” they yelled.

Two white pickup trucks with Trump banners flying in the breeze came over the drawbridge from Southern Boulevard, but there were no bystanders. “Where is everybody?” I asked a plainclothes cop.

“They come and go,” he said. “A lot of ‘em stay on the other side.”

Convinced that Trump wouldn’t be inviting me in for tea, I re-traced my steps past the first security guard and said, “Have a nice day.”

“Thanks for coming,” he said.

Two linemen were working over a manhole and appeared to be fixing a cable.

“You with the FBI?” I asked.

One of them looked up and smiled. “Yeah, we’re undercover.”

I took a different route and ventured past the Colony Hotel onto Worth Avenue and spotted a woman wearing a Lilly Pulitzer summer dress. It was crowded and noisy, and motorcycles and street construction contributed to the bedlam. “Which street do I take to the Breakers?” I asked a man in his mid-40s, dressed in a sport coat and exuding a Palm Beach haughtiness.

“It’s miles!” he exclaimed.

“No it’s not. I just walked from there.”

“Well, it’s far,” he said walking away.

“You didn’t answer my question!” I yelled.

**The Journey North**

Carmine’s on PGA Boulevard makes outstanding chili. I filled two containers, froze it in the Mini Fridge, and took it to Gainesville to eat with Hunt after we watched a few innings of a Gators game. The next day I dropped off the Chevy Malibu, which I’d driven almost 1,000 miles, and paid \$75 to get my own car out of the lot.

At the last exit before Georgia I stopped at Florida Citrus Center and Souvenir World and bought pecan logs and peanut brittle for the ride home. Outside the door I paused and saw fresh strawberries and tomatoes, and bushels of grapefruit and oranges.

A woman who had her hair tucked inside her dusty baseball cap asked if she could help.

“These honeybells, are they from Florida?”

She shook her head. “California. We haven’t had honeybells since the end of January.”



**EXHIBITS**

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Visions of the Connecticut River Valley*, work by regional artists featuring the nature of the river. Through June 30.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Crapo Tarot*, tarot cards by Trish Crapo. Reception with three-card readings this Sunday, June 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts:** *Fiberistas: Fiber Connections*, work by eight fiber artists. (See article on Page B8 for details.) Through June.

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

**TELOS Gallery, Greenfield:** *Anja Schütz and Paul Teeling*, fine art photography. Through August.

**170 Main Street, Greenfield:** *Peter Monroe*, fine art photography. Make an appointment to view the exhibit by emailing [estherwasm-ydog@yahoo.com](mailto:estherwasm-ydog@yahoo.com). Through July.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *The Sky is Falling*, mixed media and assemblage by Tom Swetland. Through June.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Live Portraiture* by Julia Shirar. Sign up to be painted on Thursdays in June and July by emailing [juliashirar.com](mailto:juliashirar.com). Subjects can keep a reproduction of their portrait. Closing reception Friday, July 28.

**Deborah Yaffe Studio, South Deerfield:** *Open Studio Sale*, contemporary sculpture, paintings, collage. At 87 Hillside Road, this Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Leverett Library:** *Anne White*, paintings and more. Through June.

**Northfield Public Library:** *Botanical Dreams*, whimsical acrylics by Kaylee Pernice. Through

July 1. Reception Saturday, June 24 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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

**Montague Center Library:** *Mt. Toby Paintings*, by Kate Spencer. Through July 14.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Apricity*, photographs by Carin Teresa; *The Worlds Below Us*, paintings by Rosa Beryl. Through June 26.

**Art in the Hall, Art Bank Building, Shelburne:** *A Pastoral*, Christin Couture’s surreal pastoral scenes. Through July 7. Reception Sunday, June 11, from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Beyond the Rainbow*, art and craft by member artists. Through June.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Regional Photography Show* by New England photographers. Through July 2.

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

**Burnett Gallery, Amherst:** *Nancy Emond*, watercolors. Through June 30. Reception Sunday, June 18, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Emily Dickinson’s Ghosts*, accordion books and photographs by Laura Holland, with oil paintings and sculpture by Nancy Meagher; inspired by Dickinson. Through July 1.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Eden*, David Moriarty’s sculpture and paintings; *Leslie Dahlqvist*, new works; *Mama Data*, multimedia by Christina Balch; *Labor*, group show about labor in mothering and parenting. Through June. Reception this Friday, June 9, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Gallery in the Woods, Brattleboro:** *William H. Hays*, reduction woodcut and linocut prints. Through June.

**ARTIST PROFILE**

**Mary Walsh Martel**

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – The Artspace is a community center for art in Greenfield that also has to its name an artist named Mary Walsh Martel. I saw this woman’s art, very nice watercolor paintings, at an event of theirs.

Martel owned and operated a toy store, *Magical Child*, for 32 years, in Shelburne Falls and later in Greenfield. She told me she got started with her art when “some friends asked me to take a watercolor class. It was a medium I had always loved, so I agreed, and a new career was born.”

She got her education in watercolor through many classes with Walt Cudnohufsky of Ashfield, a man she says is an amazing teacher, and who she credits with being the one who inspired her to keep going on with painting.

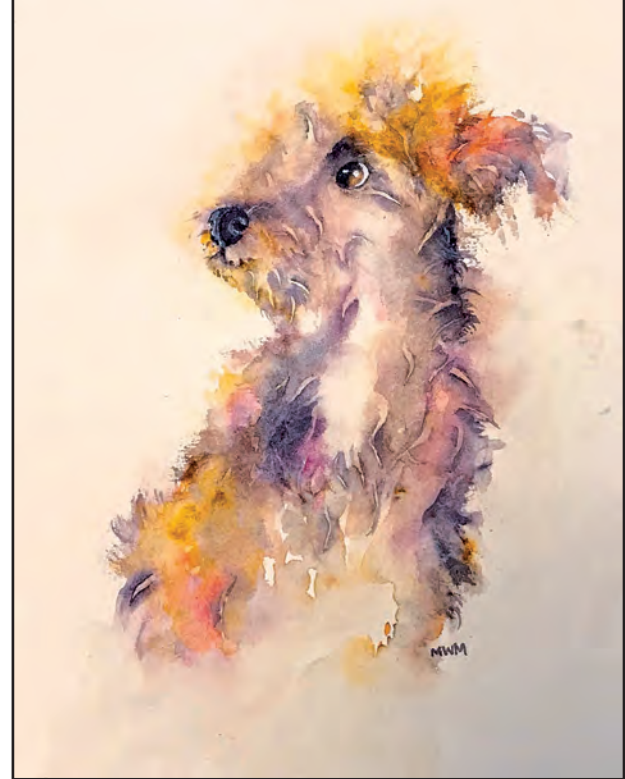
Martel told me she believes watercolor is a fascinating medium, “because it takes practice to control it, but its real beauty comes from allowing the pigments to interact and work their own magic.”

As for her experience at Artspace, Martel said she has shown her art there for many years, and has done well at it. “It boasts a very strong and loyal local audience,” she told me.

This artist isn’t just around locally. She also works with internationally-known artists online from Canada and England, and she has gone to Montreal for in-person workshops, too.

Martel makes a line of greeting cards and prints with her art. She sells them at Cedar Chest in Northampton and at the Mill District Local Art Gallery in North Amherst. Also in Northampton, she currently has an original painting for sale at 33 Hawley, the Northampton Center for the Arts.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Martel’s watercolor *Who, Me?* is available as a card.

Other places she has been with her art include ARTery and Gateway City Arts in Holyoke, CitySpace in Easthampton, and the Greenfield Gallery. She has also appeared at many juried art fairs in Massachusetts including in Lenox, Hancock Shaker Village, and Great Barrington.

I would describe some of her watercolors as being very realistic, and almost life-like, pictures. One of them that I have seen is a picture of a dog, and another I believe is of a blue jay.

With paintings like this, it seems that her learning has paid off nicely. A couple websites where you can find Martel’s art are [FromTheShireArt.etsy.com](http://FromTheShireArt.etsy.com) and the official one, [www.shirearts.com](http://www.shirearts.com).

**Have a question for the editor?**

Email it to [podcast@montaguereporter.org](mailto:podcast@montaguereporter.org) and listen for the “Ask the Editor” segment to hear the answer!



**The Montague Reporter Podcast**



... 70 episodes now available!

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

**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**

**COMPLETE SITE WORK**

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462  
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

INFO@RENBUILD.NET  
413-863-8316

**RENAISSANCE BUILDERS**

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

**RENAISSANCE PAINTING**

SINCE 1970  
LICENSED, INSURED  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES  
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT  
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351  
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM

# The Children's Page

YONEROD ILLUSTRATION

## Mermaids in Love ♥ a Lovelights Story ♥



BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

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

**DIEMAND FARM** WENDELL, MA

**WE CATER**  
Your special events

GRADUATIONS  
BIRTHDAYS  
MEETINGS  
WEDDINGS  
ANNIVERSARIES  
FUNERALS

THEDIEMANDFARM.COM (978) 544-3806

**Start the Future Today!**

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement

**GSB**  
Wealth Management & Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Co. INC.**  
"Rock solid service with level advice"

**SCSC** Complete Masonry Supply

Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Idéal**

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322  
and at our new location or 802-579-1800  
529 S. Main St, Brattleboro www.shanahansupply.com



# 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, JUNE 8**

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shemekia Copeland*. \$ 8 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Ralph White, Holy Oakes, Tomatoverse*. \$ 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9**

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Greenfield Players, Twelfth Night*. Free. 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Farley String Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Sun Ra Arkestra*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Start Making Sense, Talking Heads* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Jeanines, Luxor Rentals, OOF*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau, Anni Abigail, The Leafies You Gave Me, Aaron Noble & The Clones*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Liturg, HIRS Collective*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Eavesdrop, Cloudbelly*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10**

Greenfield Middle School to Energy Park, Greenfield: *Pride March*. 11:30 a.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Iris DeMent, Ana Egge*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer prom with Undertow Brass Band, The B-52.0s*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Mary Gauthier*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

Lunder Center, Willamstown: *Willie Lane, Wes Buckley*. Free. 5 p.m.

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 12**

Bombyx Center, Florence: *An Evening with Rickie Lee Jones*. \$ 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 13**

Tree House Brewing, S. Deerfield: *Joan Osborne*. \$ 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14**

Montague Center Library: *Little*

*House Blues*. Free, outdoors. 6 p.m.

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Yo La Tengo*. \$ 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Big Destiny*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *David Cross*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sarah Bernstein & Kid Millions, Gold Dust, Luxor Rentals*. 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

Mt. Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Joe Jenks*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Souls of Mischief*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bellow-er, Warm, Necralant*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

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

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

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Shirese, Mountain Movers, Gluebag, Red Herring*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

Next Stage Arts, Putney, VT: *Sia Tolno & Afro Dead*. \$ 6 p.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 19**

Tree House Brewing Company,

South Deerfield: *Jeff Tweedy, Le Ren*. \$ 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 23**

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Steve Miller Band, Bruce Hornsby*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Anthropophagous, Corrode, Yambag, Wormface*. \$ 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 23-25**

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Little Feat, Sierra Ferrell, The Wood Brothers, Rubblebucket, Felice Brothers, Sandy Bailey, Winterpills, St. Paul & the Broken Bones*, many more. \$ See [www.greenriverfestival.com](http://www.greenriverfestival.com) for info.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

Pioneer Valley Brewery: *Rock 201*. Free. 7 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Jungle Brothers, Edo-G, special guests*. \$ 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Vieux Farka Touré*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 1**

Downtown Turners Falls: Antenna Cloud Farm presents *Music Walk*, feat. *blood drum spirit, Aisha Burns, Lily-Rakia Chandler, Travis LaPlante*, more. Free. 2 p.m.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Elvis Costello & The Imposters, Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets*. \$ 7 p.m.

*looking forward...*

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *The Lentils, Lina Tullgren*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18**

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Big Thief, Nick Hakim*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Guerilla Toss, Roost.World, Carinae*. \$ 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 25**

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Aimee Mann*. \$ 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY AUGUST 3**

Tree House Brewing Company, South Deerfield: *The Tallest Man on Earth*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

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

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

Millside Park, Easthampton: *River Roads Festival* feat. *Dar Williams, Lisa Loeb, Shawn Colvin, Sweet Honey In the Rock*, more. \$ Noon.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Of Montreal, Locate S, 1, Thus Love*. \$ 8 p.m.



**OVER THE HILL** Carolyn Clark

<p>Ow! ouch! you men are to blame for my bunions, Harry.</p> <p>Uh oh. How so?</p> <p>First Aid Kit</p>	<p>For years men have made women feel less than feminine if they were not wearing pointy-toed high heels for work and partying.</p> <p>Not I, Cupcake.</p> <p>First Aid Kit</p>
<p>It was a form of torture that gradually deformed my feet. All the while you men wore your comfy shoes.</p> <p>We are such brutes.</p> <p>First Aid Kit</p>	<p>Now I have to decide: Buy shoes a size up? or a wider size? Or an operation?</p> <p>I'd have loved you in jack boots, Cupcake.</p> <p>First Aid Kit</p>



Submit your comics (and puzzles) to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org). Original & local creations only, please!



**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

INDIA LY ZBEU NYC VULVRO QBRR  
ILXU ZLE XBRUO DL OUU MLH  
THEY. - PLAY QUORUM

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: [INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG](mailto:INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG)

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

**SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES**

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA  
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:  
6 Main Road, in Gill  
(formerly Jan's Package Store)  
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456  
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030  
Gill: (413) 863-5730

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
DOORS & OPENERS

**Devine Overhead Doors**

Gerry Devine

106 West Street  
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161  
Franklin: 773-9497

Come on over to the **Co-op.**

GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank  
NORTHAMPTON Cooperative Bank

BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

EXHIBIT

# The Fiberistas Show Their Stuff at LCA

BY NINA ROSSI

**LEVERETT** – During its brief existence, the Fiber Arts Center in Amherst was the nexus for many artistic collaborations. It opened on South Pleasant Street in 2001 as a teaching space, gallery, resource center, and craft shop, and closed seven years later.

The Center spawned at least one group of local fiber artists, the Fiberistas, who continue to meet monthly. The nine-member group has an exhibit called Fiber Connections at the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center during the month of June. This is a definite must-see for lovers of fiber art – it overflows with creativity in a diverse range of materials and a

multitude of different techniques.

I've already been wowed this year by local shows of rug hooking and tapestry weaving, and now this cornucopia of vibrant textiles, yarns, and fibers – including paper!

Three of the Fiberistas were labeling the show last Friday when I stopped in to check it out: Sally Dillon and Flo Rosenstock of Amherst, who have been in the group for many years, and Barbara Kline, a recent member who lives right down the road in Leverett.

Catching my attention immediately were the enormous butterfly wings crocheted by Eileen Travis hung on the right wall of the Barnes Gallery. Sally Dillon quickly hopped over to demonstrate their utility as

a photo prop. Travis is also a more recent member, invited to join the group after its members saw a field of poppies she crocheted at Art in the Orchard, a biannual outdoor sculpture show in Easthampton.

Kline then showed me several large machine-stitched quilts she hung in the show, and explained that she hopes to do more slow hand-stitching projects now that she and her husband have retired from their life as bakery owners.

Dillon's artistic career began as a painter, mostly on silk, and now she has created a series of portraits of her ancestors and extended family, done from photographs. She has used markers and oil pastels to paint these large color portraits on vintage lace tablecloths. Dillon says she has enjoyed dwelling with these family members while doing their portraits, and now wonders why she didn't ask them more questions while they were alive.

"These are my parents, on their second anniversary. What are these branches and things tied to her lapel?" she mused. "It's Palm Sunday, by the date on it. Maybe they couldn't get palm leaves during the war." Dillon created a book that can be looked through at the gallery pairing her portraits with the source photographs.

Rebecca Fricke has made small embellished quilt squares and mixed-media pieces to capture her experience growing up on tiny North Hero Island in Lake Champlain. Nancy Young prints landscapes on silk and then stitches over them, and has made fanciful bird collages from various printed papers.

Martha Robinson has some sculptural paper and fabric lanterns in the exhibit, as well as a piece called *Cubic Cluster*. She apparently melted blue polyester fabric



Paper and fabric lanterns by Martha Robinson.

over a mound of small cubes, then mounted the material as an intriguing, unusual sculptural wall piece.

Margaret Stancer uses resist-dyed fabrics to make small hanging quilts, and creates three-dimensional felted forms. In one piece, she tie-dyed fabric to create specific shapes, something I assume must be very painstaking to do. Martha May uses tapestry weaving in one of her pieces, *Unfinished Calendar*, composed of small colorful squares that she wove as a daily practice for eight months.

Rosenstock's work has evolved over many years, from pottery to dyeing and marbling fabric, and then

on to felting and paper-making. These days she loves the variety of LED lights that are available, and likes to incorporate them into her sculptural felted artwork. She also is inspired by the many forms and colors of fungi, which she recreates by felting them in vibrant wool.

"I have enough projects for the rest of my life," she laughed.

*The Barnes Gallery at the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, 13 Montague Road in Leverett, is open Saturdays and Sundays in June from 1 to 5 p.m. Fiber Connections, this group show, continues through June.*



ROSSI PHOTOS

Sally Dillon poses in front of butterfly wings crocheted by Eileen Travis.

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

Dennis L. Booska  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. Phone & Fax  
413-863-3690

**Booska's Flooring**

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member  
The Flooring Network.

**Tile  
Lino  
Carpet**

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

**Fresh starts Here**

Local meat, produce, and from scratch bakery.  
Local never tasted so good!

**Green Fields Market**  
144 Main Street  
Greenfield, MA  
(413) 773-9567

**McCusker's Market**  
3 State Street  
Shelburne Falls, MA  
(413) 625-2548

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2023 • Our 123rd Year

**COUTURE BROS.**

Christian S. Couture, President

★ Commercial  
★ Residential  
★ Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740  
400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376  
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

**Erik Doolittle**  
owner

Cell (413) 834-1531  
462 Fox Hill Rd.  
Bernardston, MA 01337

**Erik Doolittle**  
landscape maintenance

**Reil** Improve Air Quality  
CLEANING SERVICES LLC & Heating/Cooling Efficiency

**DUCT CLEANING**

Free Video Inspections  
Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning  
Log on to see our Rotobrush video  
Call 413-223-5494 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Ed Terault, Owner

Local Solar PV Installers for over 16 years in western Massachusetts

**GREENFIELD SOLAR**

"When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."  
Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

**SolarGreenfield.com**  
2 Fiske Ave., Greenfield  
(413) 772.3122  
Call for free site assessment!

allEarth SOLAR PREMIER DEALER

**TURN IT UP!**

**MUSIC & MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

**Geri Johnson Realty**  
Gill, MA • 413-863-9736  
GeriJohnson@GJAR.com

Geri Johnson & Associates REALTY

WWW.GJAR.COM  
GERI JOHNSON, 45 Years of Experience

1. come in  
2. put feet up  
3. have drink  
4. eat grub

**THE VOO**

NEW FOOD!

78 3rd St TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS  
ORDER ONLINE:  
thevoo.net