

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 33

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 13, 2023

## New Garbage Company Starts Pickup Next Year

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Montague selectboard decided Monday night to change the town’s provider of trash and recycling services. At its regular meeting, the board unanimously voted to award a three-year contract, from July 2024 to June 2027, to Casella Waste Systems Incorporated, a company based in Rutland, Vermont which operates mainly in the Northeast.

In making the award to Casella, the board decided not to renew the contract of the town’s current pro-

vider, Republic Services, though it was the low bidder in a recent procurement process.

State law does not require that the town go with the lowest bidder for trash and recycling services, town administrator Steve Ellis told the board.

Republic Services has come in for much criticism in recent years for frequently missed trash and recycling pickups, and poor communication with residents. Company officials have frequently appeared before the selectboard armed with see **GARBAGE** page A8

## Community Health Center Returning to Montague City

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE CITY** – “Our Greenfield office is bursting at the seams,” Allison van der Velden, CEO of the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC), explained. “Each time we’ve moved, we’ve outgrown the space we’ve moved into faster than expected.... We’re very excited to come back, right up the road from where the Health Center used to be.”

On Tuesday, CHCFC closed on the purchase of 8 Burnham Street, the vacant Montague City building that originally housed Connecticut River Internists (CRI), a private family practice. According to van der Velden, the nonprofit plans to shift and then expand existing primary-care operations into the new site, and then “expand slowly” to meet patient needs.

CHCFC was founded in Turners Falls in 1997, but after a decade shifted the bulk of its services to Cherry Rum Plaza in Greenfield. For some time, its dental practice remained in the Farren complex, but in 2018 services moved from both sites to a new “wellness center” in downtown Greenfield shared with the Center for Human Development. Another office is located in Orange.

The roughly 9,000-square-foot building, meanwhile, was sold by CRI to Baystate in 2015 for \$1.28 million after the retirement of the last of CRI’s founding physicians. The hospital conglomerate operated it as a primary-care site for several years, but announced last summer that it, too, had decided to consolidate local operations in Greenfield.

A Baystate spokesperson was not see **CHCFC** page A5

## Region’s Rivers Surge to Highest Levels Since Irene



Muddy waters surged over the Turners Falls dam on Tuesday.

JERRI HIGGINS PHOTO

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – A significant rainstorm soaked the region this week, causing widespread flooding in Vermont and the Hudson Valley, and pushing the Connecticut River into a “moderate” flood stage by Tuesday evening. Water levels at Montague were among the highest on record, though not as high as initially forecast.

A number of farms in the region were devastated by flooding. State officials toured Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, and Northampton on Wednesday, assessing the damage and soliciting feedback from farmers about the impacts of the event.

“What we’re seeing are more frequent, more intense, storm events,” state representative Natalie Blais said while touring flooded fields at a Deerfield farm. “We as a Commonwealth certainly need to be doing more to address the climate issues for farms, and also to

provide direct assistance.”

A US Geological Survey gauge just downstream of the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut rivers, near the Montague Clean Water Facility, measured a maximum flood height of 32.4 feet – the 17th highest level ever recorded, and the highest ever in July.

“It only compares to very few in recorded history, including of course Tropical Storm Irene in 2011,” local weather analyst Dave Hayes told the Reporter. “This was very anomalous in that it was a winter-type storm setup aloft that combined with very warm and humid summer air at the surface to produce heavy and torrential rainfall.”

The Connecticut and Deerfield both flooded after Irene in late August 2011, and the water crested at 35.91 feet at Montague. The river has only surpassed the “major” flood stage of 40 feet twice since record-keeping began, in March 1936

see **SURGE** page A6

## Retail Beat: Record Store Setting Up in Paint Shop



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Music Connection owner John Benedict is already filling the shop with boxes of records.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Surprises continue in the downtown business world this summer, and the Reporter can confirm that the rumors are true: the new tenant at 187 Avenue A, the former Couture Bros. retail space, will be a record store specializing in secondhand vinyl.

A Uhaul truck nestled against the side of the building Wednesday afternoon as hired hands wheeled stack after stack of boxed merchandise into the store. In the rear, a woodworker busily crafted shelving and display units.

The long-shuttered storefront will be the second outpost of the see **SHOP** page A5

## Making Space to Make Community

By KAREN GUILLETTE

**WENDELL** – A strong spirit of friendship and community engagement was on full display last Sunday, July 9 during the first annual meeting of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse (FWM) on the town common in Wendell.

The 28 attendees, young and old, greeted each other warmly. “There’s no way I would miss this,” said Charlie O’Dowd, beloved retired Wendell postmaster, well known for driving medications to residents’ homes if the post office closed before they could pick up their prescriptions. O’Dowd had driven from Barre, Massachusetts to this event to see old friends and to help celebrate the newly renovated building.

Garrett and Ajika Sawyer, a father and daughter duo, provided fiddle tunes accompanied by guitar as people gathered. Wife, mother, and FWM board member Amelia Sawyer opened the annual meeting by welcoming the attendees and introducing Court Dorsey, the organization’s president.

Dorsey began by presenting the first-ever FWM Community Spirit Award – for outstanding service to the Meetinghouse, the town of Wendell, and the greater cultural community – to Dan Keller. “This award,” he said, “recognizes Dan Keller’s recent retirement from see **SPACE** page A4



GUILLETTE PHOTO

Dan Keller (left) was given an award Sunday night by Court Dorsey on behalf of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse.

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## More Changes Underway At the Health Department

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague health department, which spent nearly six months this year in a frustrating search for a new public health director, is now searching for a new health clerk to replace Anne Stuart, who retired at the end of June. This reality became apparent at Monday’s selectboard meeting, when the board voted to appoint Stuart as a part-time admin-

istrative assistant to the board of health on a “per diem” basis for an estimated two months.

The health clerk has been a full-time position with diverse responsibilities, including filing paperwork for inspections, providing support for the department’s oversight board, and responding to local residents’ inquiries, health director Ryan Paxton told the Reporter.

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

### ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Care Drive Housing Goal: Thirty to Sixty Apartments

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard authorized the town’s senior housing committee to publish its request for proposals (RFP) for developing 30 to 60 units of senior housing on 6.47 acres of town-owned land on Care Drive.

Senior housing committee member Jacquelyn Boyden said the committee was “going for a campus-like feel” with the nearby senior/community center and library.

The RFP requires that “35% of the units be deed-restricted to persons earning, at a maximum, 60% of Franklin County area median income, and must meet the require-

ments for inclusion on the town’s Subsidized Housing Inventory.”

The RFP will be published in July, after minor revisions to the text of the RFP and a senior housing committee meeting to approve the final draft.

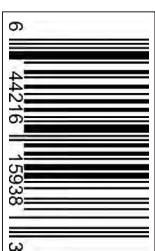
Town planner Mariah Kurtz told the board the committee hopes to choose a developer this fall.

The selectboard also approved the town’s hazard communication plan, which specifies how town departments will implement OSHA regulations regarding toxic and hazardous substances.

James Loynd attended his first meeting as a selectboard member. Jacob Smith was re-elected chair.

### The Modern Sounds of Modern Massachusetts

Local Briefs.....	A3	Teen Decides Universe Probably Real.....	B2
Faces & Places: Gold Leaf on Marble.....	A3	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
Gill Selectboard Highlights.....	A5	Past Lives Reviewed.....	B4
Forest Critters Swamp Culvert?.....	A6	M/M/M: Tales of Old Willimantic.....	B5
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....	A7	Science Page: UAP Disclosure Recap.....	B6
Wendell Selectboard Highlights.....	A8	Arts & Entertainment Listing.....	B7
Stack of Recs for Avid Readers.....	B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7
Heartfelt Café: Tender Shoots.....	B1	Out of the Park.....	B8





# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

## Editorial Staff

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

## Production Staff

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

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August 2002

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# That 'P' in the Park

By MAGGIE SADOWAY

When it comes to names and spelling, Montague is a treacherous place.

My fictional directions below contain seven possible mistakes. They include a multi-governmental quarrel and a giggle-inducing typo. One has immersed linguists in decades-long detective work. Two apostrophes are wrong; one of them should be correct. A third apostrophe reflects sloppy proofreading. Heeding a vandalized sign could get you a traffic ticket. All are part of a tale of accuracy, history, my own inexplicable blind spot – and perhaps forgiveness. Ready?

*You're almost there! Now turn on red off Route 2 onto the Gill-Montague bridge, towards downtown Turner's Falls, whose name is a reminder of the 1676 massacre in King Phillip's War. Cycle along the canal-side bike bath, buy local honey at the farmer's market or rest in Peskeomskut Park.*

As a longtime proofreader in the Berkshires, I finally learned to spell Naumkeag and Ashuwillticook. Moving to Turners Falls seven years ago gave me new headaches.

A 1938 plaque on the bridge leading into town labeled it the "Turners Falls-Gill Bridge." A 2014 plaque attached after a rehabilitation calls it the "Gill-Montague bridge." Citing concrete reasons and a seeming lack of evidence that the bridge was ever named by legislation, the state refuses to change the newer plaque, and the towns may be stuck with both names, to much local dismay.

For years a sign at the intersection of Canal and Fifth Street in Turners Falls pointed helpfully to the nearby bike bath. Thankfully that sign vanished during recent road renovations.

Last winter my granddaughter, a careful new reader, pointed out that a sign on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street had been vandalized with the addition of a scrawled W, instructing you to "Now turn on red." By the way, turning right on red from Route 2 might result in a police encounter.

The 1975 plaque on the Avenue A fountain reads "Peskeomskut Park." with one P. Clearly it was the spelling town officials chose after careful research, I figured.

As a new proofreader for the Reporter, I lobbied for one P whenever referring to the park, ultimately adding to the confusion. But Google Maps and Britannica say

"Peskeomskut;" my phone's map has one P. Selectboard minutes, the *Greenfield Recorder*, and even this paper randomly use both.

I was tasked with investigating.

A 2015 report prepared for the American Battlefield Protection Program consistently uses the two-P spelling, but sullies confidence in its orthography by wobbling between King Philip and King Phillip, and Turner's Falls and Turners Falls. (Since the town is named after William Turner, why *not* Turner's?) Few words in English except *ax* and *axe* have acceptable variant spellings, so I doubted both versions could be correct. I searched for an answer. No one seemed to know.

Except David Brule, polyglot linguist and president of the Nolumbeka Project board. Interrupting his dog-walking near Unity Park, I asked why there's only one P on the fountain plaque.

"It's a typo," he said, authoritatively. "The word *omp* means 'rock,' or 'split rock,' in various Northeast Native languages, so it makes no sense with one P."

His opinion was seconded in an email from Peter Thomas, also a Native American scholar: "I would recommend the second P."

My stomach churned. Obviously I had known immediately that the town's sign advertising a bike bath was wrong. What blind spot kept me from considering that another official sign could also have a typo? Maybe because the fountain's plaque is carved in stone, and has been in place for half a century?

The Battlefield Protection Program report says *Pesk* refers to fire and/or thunder bursting out, *ompsk* relates to rock or stone, and *ut* signifies a specific place, together giving us "the place where fire bursts from the rock." The history of this gathering place, with its plentiful fishing and ancient volcanic rock that once spewed lava, stretches back over more than 20,000 years.

North American Indigenous languages, like most languages worldwide, had no writing system, leaving scholars to do their best when transcribing Native words in English. Nor has society always valued consistency: Shakespeare signed his name six ways. Ben Franklin and Noah Webster set us on the road to standardized spelling only a couple centuries ago. What difference does it make anyway?

Mistakes and inconsistencies look sloppy, though, and can dis-



Nathan Sanden stands by his Port No. 3 Farm Fresh Pub Grub food truck at the Brewery at Four Star Farms in Northfield on a recent Sunday. This is Sanden's first year in the food truck business and the sole location he serves. He uses organic, locally sourced ingredients, including his own special "hop salt" for the fries – an appropriate choice for the location, which is ringed by fields of hops.

## Letters to the Editors

### Wrongly Reported Postponed

At the Northfield Special Town Meeting of 29 June, the motion to enact Article 5 of the warrant was tabled. The motion to enact Article 6 was approved, with an amendment removing the Select Board's ability to sell the properties in question without action by a Town Meeting.

Your story said that the motion for Article 6 had been tabled.

Yours,

Homer (Tony) Stavelly  
Northfield

*It did! Our apologies. Our columnist sent contradictory corrections in the wee hours just before deadline, and this error was the outcome. We will endeavor to do better, and are always grateful for the help of our sharp-eyed readers in correcting the record. – Eds.*

tract the reader from easy comprehension. If your name is Sonya, being referred to as "Sonja" or "Sonia" can be confusing, rude, and downright disrespectful. When using a word derived from another language, it makes sense to choose the most accurate and respectful form possible.

From now on, I'm going with "Peskeomskut." For past transgressions, *mea culpa*.

As for farmers market? Keep it crisp – no apostrophe.

Maggie Sadoway proofreads this newspaper. She lives in the Patch..

### Posers Ruining Prayer

"I'm praying for you."

Understand. Once we utter those four words, we have made a commitment as serious, as important, as vital as pledging:

I do!

Now, let's reflect on sending "Thoughts & Prayers." Thoughts and prayers offered to the devastated and suffering don't amount to anything if we later never consider these individuals again or sit in prayer for them.

When we extend prayer on another's behalf, it is as important as throwing a life preserver to a drowning man: The inflicted are trusting that we do all we can to save them from what they are enduring. The question is: Do the folks that use this jargon so readily actually think about what they have said, what they have agreed to do?

The problem with modern "man" is that few have the staying power that is expected or required when extending prayers on another's behalf.

"I'm praying for you..." has become as trite as "I love you." And as meaningless. Modernity! Go figure.

There was a time most people kept their promises. Or at least tried

like hell to. There was a time most people honored the commitment of praying for another because, way back then, people believed in the power of words and prayer. They held onto a promise as tho it were the holy grail. Not so much today. Long ago, people were empowered by the commitment to another, they were devoted to honoring the words exchanged.

So I ask you to consider... which is worse... ignoring the suffering of others or extending false promises?

When we offer prayers on behalf of another, we are expected to stay alert and awake. He expects to do what we have said or what we committed to do: Pray for another.

Would one offer a canteen to a man dying of thirst... only to pull it back?

Would one extend a hand to a woman dangling from a bridge, and not pull her up?

Beware of false words as keenly as watching out for false gods.

Your pledge matters... your words matter.

Evelyn Augusto  
Greenfield

### ATTENTION: WENDELL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

We are in need of newspaper carriers for one or more routes in Wendell. Would you enjoy delivering our newspaper? Or do you know of someone who might? We can provide a very small stipend to cover gas. It can be done Thursday late afternoon (preferable) or Friday. If you are interested in taking on only a favorite section of the town, we may be able to accommodate your wishes; every bit helps. Please contact the newspaper with expressions of interest at [circulation@montaguereporter.org](mailto:circulation@montaguereporter.org) or call (413) 863-8666.

### 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

There are several locations to get **free meals for youngsters** this summer in Turners Falls.

The Brick House is partnering with the Summer Eats program to offer youth ages 11 to 18 free lunches at 12:30 p.m. each day they are open, Mondays through Thursdays. Sign up by emailing [mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org](mailto:mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org).

On-site meals are also available for anyone under 18 under the tent at the Carnegie Library on weekdays. Breakfast is available there from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m., and lunch between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Leverett Village Coop's **music and pizza on the patio** this Friday, July 14 will feature the Same Old Blues band. Stephen Merriman provides the music on July 21, and there will be a special wine-tasting event that evening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a selection from Slovenia, France, Spain, and Austria. These events are free.

The **ukulele** has certainly become a popular instrument in recent times. If you've been wanting an opportunity to try one out with a little instruction, head over to the Carnegie Library this Saturday, July 15 at 11 a.m. for a fun group lesson with Julie Stepanek called "Find Your Voice."

Bring your own uke, or borrow one of hers. This event will be held under the tent on the front lawn.

"The **Flying Dogs**" are coming to the Leverett Library on Saturday, July 15 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mike Piazza and his dogs have performed

for the NFL, NBA, ESPN, Animal Planet, and more. The dogs will be performing frisbee and other entertaining tricks. These are said to be some of the most athletic border collies on the planet, trained to entertain audiences. Leave your own pups at home and bring a chair or blanket to watch the performance on the field by the library.

Enjoy **free concerts on the patio** at the Leverett Library on Tuesdays in July. The Juggler Meadow String Band will play at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday, July 18, and the Box Shop Band plays at the same hour on July 25. Bring chairs and blankets to sit on if it's good weather; the concert will be moved inside if it rains.

Got a youngster who loves **fire trucks**? The Leverett Fire Department will be at the Leverett Library next Wednesday, July 19 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. with their truck and equipment. Gillian Budine of the Community Network for Children will read fire-related stories aloud for the kids.

Author **Karen LaTuchie** will read from a novel-in-progress next Wednesday, July 19 at 6 p.m. at the Montague Center Library, following the opening reception from 5 to 6 p.m. for an exhibit of Barry De Jasu's photographs.

The **Just Fine, Thank You Band** will play on the lawn of the First Congregational Church in Montague Center at 6:30 p.m. the same day. This free concert features electric ukulele arrangements of songs ranging from country to punk. Bring your own chairs.

Artist Julie Kumble and toxicologist Emily Monosson, both Montague Center residents, are holding a book release party for Monosson's new book, **Blight: Fungi and the Coming Pandemic**, on Thursday, July 20 at 6 p.m. at Amherst Books in Amherst.

"We all know about wonderful fungi, but what about the flip side? Learn how deadly fungi impact our lives," reads a blurb about the book. Kumble created the illustrations for it, which can be viewed at [www.juliekumble.com](http://www.juliekumble.com).

An essay penned by Monosson about the threat posed by fungal spores appeared in *Time* this week (see [tinyurl.com/time-monosson](http://tinyurl.com/time-monosson)), and she was interviewed by NPR's Terry Gross for a Fresh Air segment that may air next Monday, or soon after.

Local artist Jack Nelson's **ceramic replica of the Northfield Chateau** is on view at Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield through next Thursday, July 20 along with the exhibit, *Northfield Then and Now*.

View the exhibits and sculpture from 4:30 to 7 p.m. while listening to the Fall Town Band and enjoying food and drinks by Cameron's Winery. Joel Fowler will give a tour of the historical exhibit at 5 p.m. A farmers market will be held outside the gallery from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., and a vintage fashion show will take place at the adjoining Community Bible Church space at 6 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to wear vintage fashions to the reception.

The next **Suds and Songs event**, at 5:30 p.m. next Thursday, July 20 at the Montague Village Store, features the Bitter Duo, with beer from Berkshire Brewing.

**House band Beetle 7** plays a coffeehouse-style concert the third Thursday of every month at the LAVA Center in Greenfield, during the art center's cafe hours. The public is invited to "drop in, hang out, draw, write, make art, make

friends, and come and go as you please." There is a suggested donation of \$3 to \$5.

Beetle 7, featuring Leo Hwang on theremin and guitar, Steve Koziol on alto sax and Baglama saz, Joel Paxton on guitar, and Kevin Smith on tuba, is described as an "ambient space music experience." On July 20 they will be joined by Soporific!, featuring Rik Rolski on guitar and effects and Deborah Rolski on percussion, voice, and synth.

To kick off the new Mattel movie *Barbie*, Greenfield Garden Cinemas are hosting a **Barbie cosplay contest**. Contestants can dress as Barbie, Ken, or any *Barbie* universe character. Judging will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 21 just before the 6:30 showing of the film.

First prize is a one-night stay at the Green River Bridge Inn in Guilford, Vermont; second prize is a free consultation and garment upgrade from the new Turners Falls fashion studio Pixxie & Co.; and third prize is a *Barbie* date night with two free tickets, popcorn, and soda at the theater.

Paul Richmond is hosting another **Word Festival** on Saturday, July 22. The festival has moved down the valley from its last locus of Turners Falls to Gateway City Arts in Holyoke, and will be compressed into just one day. There will be readings, a book fair, an open mic, exhibits, and food and drink from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Contact [paul@humanerrorpublishing.com](mailto:paul@humanerrorpublishing.com) for more information.

Enjoy a **free concert in Peskeompskut Park** on Sunday, July 23 between 3 and 5 p.m. when Little House Blues takes the stage. Bill Blatner wails on the harmonica, with Matt Haenlin on electric guitar, Ben Sears on drums, and on the bass, me. We do Chicago-style blues, both originals and covers, and there's lots of danceable jump, swing, and rock-infused blues tunes.

RiverCulture's summer concert series continues with another free show at the park from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 26. This one features the David Bulley Band, playing rock, folk, blues, and dance music, and the Jenny Burtis Band, described as music "from the tenderness of a revelation to the downbeat drive of rock'n'roll."

Bring chairs or blankets to sit on.

Historic Deerfield will screen the **silent film Ononko's Vow** on Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m., with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.

*Ononko's Vow* was released in 1910 by the Edison Company. Herbert S. Streeter of Greenfield wrote the script, based loosely on actual events in the early colonial history of Deerfield, and it was filmed in Deerfield and Whately. The 15-minute film tells the fanciful story of a fictional Native character, Ononko, and his relationship with a settler family, against the backdrop of two violent colonial encounters.

The movie will be followed by a panel discussion with silent film historian Dr. Carolyn Anderson and anthropologist Dr. Margaret Bruchac. Pre-registration is required, with a \$10 fee, waived for Historic Deerfield and Whately Historical Society members.

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

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

## WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone

**(413) 774-1285**

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street, Bucklandside  
Shelburne Falls  
413-625-9850  
[ndole@crocker.com](mailto:ndole@crocker.com)

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

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE

Locally Owned Since 1918

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)

## THE LADY KILLIGREW:

Awesome Beer  
Amazing Food

Awesome, Amazing Employees!

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

# FACES & PLACES



Wednesday afternoon found Turners Falls sign artist Jess Marsh painting crisp black letters straight onto Harvey's, soon to be the newest restaurant on Avenue A. A day earlier, Marsh had applied the drop shadow in gold leaf. Marsh worked slowly and methodically, as the marble lintel afforded no room for error. She told the Reporter that while she enjoys painting her signs directly onto buildings, she rarely gets a chance; at Harvey's, restaurateur Evelyn Wulfkuble co-owns the building and can make such bold decisions. Marsh's business, Hired Hand Signs, is headquartered on Third Street.

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

## HEADSTONE CLEANING & Gravesite Maintenance

Over 30 years experience in cemetery work.  
Serving Franklin County. (413) 489-3079

## 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.

## 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](mailto:frankd_74@yahoo.com)



**RECYCLE**

**PAPER**  
Week of July 17  
**BOTTLES & CANS**  
Week of July 24  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

**GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET**  
Every Saturday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*This Week's Vendors:*  
**Falls Farm**  
**Big Foot Food Forest**

**Peskeomskut Park**  
**Turners Falls**

**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

## AT LARGE

## 'Growing Coalition' of the Dissatisfied

By CHIPAINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – Town administrator Andrea Llamas said Northfield was “about to take off” when she was hired. The plane’s still on the runway, but her salary has soared from \$94,530 in 2018 to \$115,600 this year.

That’s good coin, considering that according to ZipRecruiter the average town administrator’s salary in Massachusetts is \$91,083, and that Northfield’s population is lower than all but 69 of the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns.

How’s she done? Well, here’s an example. Last year she spent \$170,000 to buy 23 acres of land north of the town library for the new emergency services facility. Only a fraction of the land was needed – six acres, according to maps – yet Llamas insisted on buying the whole kit and kaboodle for \$7,391 an acre, and when the ESF was voted down in April, taxpayers were stuck with the tick-infested wood lots, underbrush, swampland, a broken dam and a washed-out bridge.

Undaunted, Llamas found another site, which again was shot down by town meeting voters on June 28.

Before the vote was taken, one Llamas supporter couldn’t resist getting in a dig at his neighbor Brian Bordner. “I like to think I live on the sane side of the road,” he snickered.

Bordner has indeed been outspoken about overspending at the taxpayers’ expense, but his remarks have echoed the sentiments of many others in town. Upon hearing the snide remark, a friend elbowed him and said, “Let it go.”

“The [heck] I will,” he said, and rose to speak.

Bordner is president of Tri-State

Precision, which makes high-quality barrels for competition shooters and hunters. The day after he eviscerated his critic, he sat in his 1961 Army Jeep on Moody Street and joked, “I want a picture of me on a telephone pole on Main Street – ‘Northfield Influencer.’”

Bordner is part of a growing coalition of Northfield residents who have joined boards and committees and spoken out at town meetings. It includes Howard and Jinx Hastings, Joan Valva, Sam and Barb Richardson, Paul Gorzocski, Barry Bordner, sewer commissioner Karen Boudreau, and planning board members Joe Graveline and Michele Wood.

“Working-class people are out working and raising their kids, not scouring the town website for information that might impact their lives in important ways,” said Graveline. “The onus is always on them to search out this kind of information, but don’t fault them for putting other priorities ahead of the town’s agendas. That’s why trust and transparency in town government is so important.”

What concerned Graveline at the last town meeting was an article to sell 10 parcels of town-owned land – specifically, a small plot near the railroad tracks below the IGA that Graveline said could be used to plug into a large-scale solar array.

“It’s not an accident that it was put up for sale. They’d need a high-tension connecting point, and that location would give them a foothold to the Great Meadows,” said Graveline. “There’s a bullseye on Northfield for solar development.”

The article was amended to say the parcels cannot be sold without the voters’ approval.

## PVRS News

The Pioneer Valley Regional School’s gymnasium floor was recently re-sanded. That might not sound like a big deal, but it is, according to Panthers basketball coach Scott Thayer.

“Ideally a gym floor needs re-sanding every ten years, and this was the first time since 2001,” he said. “It gets a lot of use – gym classes, volleyball, basketball, graduations, dances. It’s back to looking like a gym floor is supposed to look like.”

Brian Campbell was named the school’s new athletic director last month. “We’re returning to having a faculty member in the role,” said PVRS superintendent Patricia Kinsella, “someone who’s on campus full-time and interacts as both an educator and athletic leader.”

## Notes About Town

There’s a groundswell of support for putting the new ESF where the existing fire station is on Main Street. In order to make room for the police station and EMS headquarters, though, the dilapidated apartment house known as the Beehive would need to be razed.

Would the landlord be willing to sell?

“No fucking way,” said Bob Obear, who bought the 12-unit building in October. “There’s a housing shortage in western Mass. It’s a terrible idea!”

The tenants would indeed need to be relocated, but another option for acquiring the four-story eyecore would be to take it by eminent domain.

The word around town is that Andrea Llamas will push the se-

lectboard to hire a full-time fire chief when Skip Dunnell retires in August, or a year from then. In fact, Llamas wants to dovetail the fire chief and EMS positions into one job, and the leading candidate is Northfield EMS chief Mark Fortier.

Llamas wasn’t available for comment, but Fortier said by phone that combining the two positions makes sense. Currently a full-time fire captain in Orange, Fortier said he’s heard nothing official, but would be open to discussions.

As for keeping Northfield an all-volunteer fire department, Fortier said, “That’s another possibility.”

Howard and Jinx Hastings report that the Kansas nonprofit doing business as The Moody Center paid \$43,700 this year in taxes on 11 parcels of property, totaling 50.5 acres, with an assessed value of \$4,933,200.

Northfield won’t have a viable historic district until the state builds a Route 63 bypass. The town’s ambience is destroyed by fast cars, big trucks, and loud motorcycles. During a recent walking tour of the town’s historic landmarks, no one could hear the speaker over the traffic noise.

The 350th anniversary committee asked the Monadnock Speedway for a pace car to lead the parade in September, but so far there’s been no response.... Kudos to Thomas Aquinas College for donating \$5,000 for the aforementioned anniversary festivities.

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

## SPACE from page A1

the Wendell selectboard, as well as his lifetime achievement as filmmaker and curator of Green Mountain Post Films and Records.

“Both taciturn and generous, Dan Keller is a man of few words,” Dorsey added, “but his words matter. Dan epitomizes the spirit of community, and we thank him for believing strongly in the three prongs of community service: home, town, and land. He has been devoted to his family, the farm, and the forest. After spending 20 years on the selectboard and 17 years on the finance committee, Dan recently stepped down only to step up again as a member of the assessors’ committee.”

As a filmmaker, Keller has 25 films to his credit including *Lovejoy’s Nuclear War*, which was instrumental in growing the anti-nuclear movement in the 1970s and ’80s. Although *Quasi at the Quackadero* is not one of Keller’s films, Dorsey wanted to show the zany award-winning cartoon because he felt it would add interest and a bit of crazy fun to the meeting.

It did not disappoint. This 16mm film, created in the 1970s by Keller’s colleague Sally Cruikshank while under the tutelage of the incomparable R. Crumb, was curated by Keller and Green Mountain Post Films. As Dorsey noted, the screening marked the Meetinghouse’s official initiation as a film venue.

## Sacred Aura, Sans Guano

The Meetinghouse has its own interesting history. Built in 1846, it served as both a church and meetinghouse until the 1970s, and again for a brief time in the ’90s. It then sat quietly on the commons until Molly Kaynor and Gerry Eide launched a campaign to preserve it.

The FWM was incorporated in 2001 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and the group officially acquired the building in 2002. Dorsey noted that “as a creative administrator, Dan Keller saw the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse through years of legal purgatory, ultimately obtaining not only access to the building but also water and sewage services.”

A second wave of passion for the building was initiated around five years ago, in large part by Dorsey and Chris Queen. They had major renovations in mind. To energize the effort, it became necessary to explain why people should do so when there was already a popular venue for events on the commons nearby, the Full Moon Coffee House. One major reason, Dorsey said, was that the town lacked a building suited to weddings and other memorials, one with stained glass windows and an “aura of the sacred.” The Meetinghouse fulfilled this need.

Dorsey took over the presidency about five years ago, Queen coordinated fundraising, and Debbie Lynangale assumed clerical and administrative tasks. Some stuff had already been done – the building had been stabilized, and all the bat guano had been removed from the bell tower – but by 2018, the process of renovation began in earnest.

When Dorsey asked at Sunday’s event for a show of hands from individuals who had contributed in one way or another to the renovation, nearly every hand went up. The many contributions of Wendellites to the center’s creation were acknowledged appreciatively.

For example, Dorsey noted, the building was taken down to the studs, its tin-covered dropped ceiling was removed, and a balcony was created in an amazingly short amount of time by Alistair MacMartin and others.



*Musicians Ajika and Garrett Sanyer warmed up for the event on the Meetinghouse steps.*

The pews were cleaned and polished by Sam Rogers with a “secret formula,” and the bottoms carpeted to ensure ease of movement. Cheri Martinez made cushions for the pews. Matt Samolis repaired windows, and a team of volunteers made acoustic panels that cover the center’s walls.

## Pledge Drive Launches

Don Stone, retired professor at the UMass School of Business and treasurer of FWM, provided an overview of the money raised and spent. According to Stone, the renovation and operating costs amounted to nearly \$180,000. This included about \$70,000 from individual donors, \$87,000 from grants, \$10,000 from local business contributions,

\$2,600 from events, and \$8,400 worth of in-kind donations.

Stone emphasized, though, that the in-kind amount was basically inestimable. “It was a rewarding experience,” he remarked, “to know how supportive the community has been of this project.”

Since the renovation, the Meetinghouse has hosted numerous events, including a wedding, Spirit Circles, a 175th birthday celebration for the building, performances, sound baths, and a concert with folksinger Pamela Means.

Near the end of the meeting, Amelia Sawyer led a brainstorming process in which people contributed ideas for other events, including presentations, spiritual and secular celebrations, jam sessions, writing groups, clinics, dances, and political discussions about climate change.

As at any annual meeting of a non-profit organization, the question of future funding was on the agenda. Dorsey said FWM needed to generate \$1,250 monthly to cover insurance and other basic expenses, and pointed out that it does not receive money from the town. There are also other plans for the center, including an addition with a kitchen and bathroom, and possibly a stage.

He announced a new campaign: the \$1,250 a month can be raised if 25 people give \$50 a month, or 50 people give \$25 a month, or 125 give \$10 a month.

With FWM members posted at each exit to collect pledges, Dorsey made a parting pitch: “This building was made to serve the Wendellian search for truth, beauty and connection. We need to sustain this building, because this building wants to sustain us!”


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

**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



**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





NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Towns Chip In for Erosion Pro

By JERRI HIGGINS

Finalizing an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), considering a one-day liquor license, and approving several appointments took up the majority of the Gill selectboard's brief (but not record-setting) meeting on Monday, July 3.

As selectboard member Greg Snedeker was settling into his chair, he shared that on his drive to the town hall, he had seen a woman walking a harnessed pig down Main Road. "It was a big pig, too," he remarked.

"And Charles didn't even react," joked Snedeker, glancing over at selectboard member Charles Garbiel, who appeared not to hear him. Garbiel was waiting for meeting videographer Janet Masucci to finish setting up the table microphones.

"Like it was nothing," Snedeker continued: "Of course I have seen the 200-pound pig that the woman was walking down the road..."

Garbiel looked on in seeming bemusement, as selectboard chair Randy Crochier finished the joke: "Well, it was only one pig."

**Crossing Those T's**

Town administrator Ray Pur-

ington was approved to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with FRCOG allowing the towns of Gill, Erving, Montague, and Northfield to hire a technical consultant on riverbank erosion.

The four towns are "stakeholders" in the FirstLight Power hydroelectric company's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing. They hope to hire a consultant to provide expert testimony on erosion potentially related to FirstLight Power's Northfield Mountain pumped-storage facility, and the dam, canal, and hydroelectric stations at Turners Falls.

"This is just the paperwork that goes with the \$2,500 that was approved two weeks ago," Purington told the board. "I'm just dotting the I's and crossing the T's."

Crochier, who works as a program manager with the FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Service, abstained from the vote.

**Other Business**

Denise Elwell came before the board to request a one-day liquor license on Saturday, September 2, from 3 to 10 p.m., for the wedding reception of one of her children at the clubhouse of the former Oak Ridge

Golf Course. Elwell is the owner of the property, which currently hosts an 18-hole disc golf course. Her request was approved unanimously.

Christopher Hample was unanimously appointed as a firefighter through June 2024, and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo was unanimously appointed as an historical commission member through June 2026.

The agriculture commission was unanimously approved to donate one Earth Machine composter at this year's Gill Fall Harvest Festival, to be held on Sunday, September 24.

The selectboard received an invitation from the parade committee for Northfield's 350th Anniversary celebration and parade on Saturday, September 30. Purington said he would email the police and fire departments, as well as the town boards and committees to gauge their interest in participating.

"If a group wants to do something, I think I would prefer that it comes through us," said Crochier, "because they are representing the town of Gill."

The selectboard will wait to hear back from the departments, or other boards and committees, before discussing the town's participation in the parade.

**CHCFC from page A1**

able to provide comment on Tuesday's sale as of press time. According to the Registry of Deeds, the sale price was \$825,000.

"We're really grateful," van der Velden told the *Reporter*. "We've had a long positive partnership with Baystate - we collaborate in other areas, and we share space at BFMC for our dental office. They've been great partners."

The next steps, she said, will be to seek approval for renovation plans and put the work out to bid. CHCFC is financing the project with a combination of capital funding given to community health centers under the American Rescue Plan Act, a capital improvement grant from the state, and a mortgage from Greenfield Savings Bank.

"We're hoping for an opening in early 2024," she concluded.

According to van der Velden, CHCFC is accepting new primary-care patients, and will likely move to hire additional providers, though "right now the workforce in healthcare is very challenging." Like most larger practices, the CEO said, the organization relies heavily on mid-level providers, and in par-

ticular nurse practitioners, but uses a "care team" model that matches patients with the same backup staff members on a regular basis in an effort to provide continuity of care.

"Generally speaking, if you're a Greenfield patient you'll be seen at the Greenfield office, and if you're a Turners Falls patient you'd be seen at that Turners Falls office," she added.

A dentist herself, van der Velden said the agency does not currently intend to restore dental services to Montague. "Dental's been hit really hard by the pandemic, and we're still recovering from that," she explained.

In addition to primary care and dentistry, CHCFC offers behavioral health services and various forms of support around transportation, translation, health insurance navigation, and other common obstacles to accessing care.

The community health center model, which dates to the War on Poverty era and the Civil Rights movement, is built around access to federal subsidies targeting population-level gaps in healthcare provision, but CHCFC's services are open to everyone, not just qualifying low-income patients.

**PSA**  
**Pets for Cheap**

**SPRINGFIELD** - Dakin Humane Society will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% through the month of July. Dakin typically shelters cats, dogs and a variety of other small animals including birds, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats.

"Summer always means lots of pets coming into our shelter," noted executive director Meg Talbert, "but this season has outpaced previous summers significantly."

The store will hold special Saturday Drop-In adoption hours in July. From 12:30 to 3 p.m. people will be able to visit the Springfield shelter in and see pets we have with no appointment necessary.

Dakin is a non-profit that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals.

For more information, visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

**SHOP from page A1**

Music Connection, a long-running establishment in Manchester, New Hampshire. Owner John Benedict told the *Reporter* an opening date has not yet been set - late summer, he estimated - but he agreed to catch us up on a few main points.

"My store in Manchester is only 2,000 square feet," he explained. "This is at least 4,200 - salesfloor, offices in the back."

Music Connection's stock is "vinyl, vinyl, vinyl," Benedict said, "and then CDs, and then movies."

Benedict, a New Hampshire native, lived in Greenfield from 1991 until 2002, and then downtown Turners Falls until 2010. For nearly that entire time he worked at About Music, a record store in downtown Greenfield which closed its doors in 2009.

After spending several years in Maryland, Benedict returned to his home state, and in 2015 he learned that a music store in Manchester, Music Connection, was going up for sale; the aged owner was seeking to retire. "They'd been there for 33 years," he said. "And I had nothing going on in my life..."

Benedict and a business partner purchased the establishment, and after only a few years, he found himself looking around for a second site. Living in Keene, he said, he has been commuting more than an hour north to the first store, and amassing a prodigious collection in storage units.

"But I don't want to be a hoarder," he added. "I want to sell it to people so they can enjoy it."

Benedict said his current thinking is to fill one of the offices in the rear with classical records and another with stereo equipment. As there is no change in use of the building - it was, and will continue to be, a retail establishment - he said he does not anticipate any difficulty with permitting.

As for the other record stores in the area - Breakdown Records, just down the Avenue; John Doe, Jr. in Greenfield; Turn It Up! at the Montague Bookmill - Benedict explained that in his business, the proximity represents more of a benefit more than a competitive pressure.

"Adding a [fourth] mix brings a lot of attention to this area for vinyl record collectors," he said.

## Tip of the week ...

Contractors! Review your insurance policies with your agent regularly to ensure you are classifying your business correctly and taking advantage of any savings opportunities. Reviewing the class codes on your policies every year can help you save money on your insurance while ensuring that your business is properly protected.



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

25 Millers Falls Road  
(413) 863-4331  
[www.pzinc.com](http://www.pzinc.com)

auto | home | business

### LEVERETT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

#### Laborer/Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

The Town of Leverett wishes to hire a permanent full-time, benefited laborer, truck driver and equipment operator. Must have valid Class B CDL license with air brake endorsement, a 2B hoisting license, and a clean driving record. Performs manual labor, plows snow, maintains all town vehicles, operates and maintains equipment for the maintenance and construction of town roads and properties. Pay range is \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. Applicant also must pass a town-provided physical and drug test prior to hiring and agree to random drug tests during employment. Close proximity to town needed.

Job description and Employment Application are available by calling Highway Superintendent, Matt Boucher at (413) 548-9400 or at [www.leverett.ma.us](http://www.leverett.ma.us). Applications are due to the Highway Superintendent, 95 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054, by July 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Leverett is an AA/EOE.

### KITCHEN ASSISTANT 15 HR/WEEK - GREENFIELD

LifePath's Nutrition program is seeking a part-time kitchen assistant to do various kitchen duties that support Meals on Wheels program operations. This a Monday to Friday position, 3 hours per day (9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.).

The ideal candidate will enjoy working as part of a team in a fast-paced, physical kitchen environment. A high school diploma or equivalent and current driver's license are required.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and complete a LifePath job application.

Completed applications can be sent or dropped off to:

**LifePath Human Resources**  
101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield, MA 01301

## THE BRICK HOUSE CRC PARENT/FAMILY PROGRAM

DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps

Join the DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps Program & serve at The Brick House Community Resource Center full time for 10 months!

Support families through parenting programs, events and resource sharing!

Gain Practical Experience  
Build Community Connections  
Grow Professional & Personal Skills

Members earn a \$17,800 living stipend & receive a \$6,895 Education Award!

Required: 18+, HS diploma/GED Equivalent and US Citizen

TO APPLY: SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT US AT [WWW.DIALSELF.ORG/AMERICORPS.HTML](http://WWW.DIALSELF.ORG/AMERICORPS.HTML)

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

## OrigamiUSA

*Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!*

Join us at: [OrigamiUSA.org](http://OrigamiUSA.org)  
Email: [admin@origamiusa.org](mailto: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](http://www.realpickles.com) | (413) 774-2600

## FEDERAL STREET BOOKS

8 Federal Street, Greenfield  
[federalstreetbooks.com](http://federalstreetbooks.com)



**SURGE** from page A1

and September 1938, prior to the construction of many dams used for flood control today.

**Fast and Furious**

To prepare for the deluge, FirstLight Power opened several of its dam gates at Turners Falls. By Tuesday morning over 100,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water were passing over the dam. FirstLight communications manager Claire Belanger later told the *Reporter* that the “peak flows” coming down the river amounted to 95,422 cfs. This caused the water to drop to an exceptionally low level in Barton Cove, leaving parts of the buoy barrier resting on the exposed river bed.

According to Belanger, this was intentional.

“The Turners Falls Project does not have flood control capabilities – what flows into the impoundment we have to pass downstream,” she told the *Reporter*. “[D]uring high flow events, FirstLight follows a strict set of procedures developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers entitled ‘Turners Falls Reservoir and River Flow Management Procedures,’ part of our FERC license.”

The company could not have held back any more water than it did, Belanger said, and it prepared for the high flow event by coordinating with other dam operators upstream and downstream.

“We are constantly monitoring the water level gauges and incoming weather conditions, so we had anticipated increased flows and water levels well ahead of time allowing ample time for preparation,” Belanger said.

An aide at Governor Maura Healey’s office said that dam operators in Massachusetts were anticipating emergency releases from some southern Vermont flood control dams, which did not occur. She speculated that this could have contributed to the low level seen in Barton Cove.

Firstlight suspended its boat rentals at the Cove, Belanger said, and the state shut down access to the public boat launch at Gill.

“High water and elevated flow rates are extremely dangerous, and the public should not be venturing into the river until high flows subside,” Belanger said. “We can’t be sure when the river conditions will return to safe levels, but they are expected to remain elevated for several days and potentially longer if forecasted precipitation this weekend is realized.”

**A Surge of Hazards**

Monday’s storm marked the first time members of the Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team executed water rescues. The consortium of about 70 firefighters from the state’s four western counties, funded primarily by the Department of Homeland Security, provides specialized training and equipment for high-risk situations. Members evacuated three households in Williamsburg where residents were trapped by the flooded Mill River.

“The speed at which some of these events occur is surprising, so pre-planning is super important,” said Williamsburg deputy fire chief Daryl Springman, director of the regional rescue team. “The most important thing is to have situational awareness and be aware, if you are in an area prone to flooding, how quickly it can happen.”

According to the *Greenfield Re-*

*corder*, firefighters from Monroe, Rowe, Charlemont, Conway, and Florida as well as the Northfield Dive Team and state Environmental Police responded Monday to a section of the upper Deerfield River below the Fife Brook dam, where a white-water kayaker had to be rescued. By Wednesday the Deerfield was still running at 6,200 cfs, 455% over the typical flow this time of year.

As this edition was nearing press time Wednesday evening a number of agencies including the Technical Rescue Team converged at Barton Cove, where they were able to rescue a man stranded in the river, clinging onto the buoy barrier above the dam.

“Storm water is fast, and currents are stronger than you think,” said UMass Amherst associate professor of hydrogeology Christine Hatch. “Floods especially carry a lot more than water. Debris, mud, sediment, large wood, and other objects present extreme hazards to boaters and swimmers.”

High rain also increases the likelihood of sewage spilling into rivers. On Monday, Greenfield’s water treatment facility experienced a “sanitary sewer overflow.” For over five hours, raw sewage was released into the Green River at a rate of 459 gallons per minute, according to the mayor’s office, totaling 142,290 gallons.

Montague also experienced combined sewer overflow (CSO) events Monday morning. According to the town’s public notice website, over 25,000 gallons of combined rainwater and sewage washed into the Connecticut River at the Patch. About the same amount would have dumped through the town’s second CSO outfall, but the Clean Water Facility was able to divert and partially treat 14,000 gallons of it before it entered the swollen river, according to superintendent Chelsey Little.

Little said the plant saw a 612% increase in flows on Monday.



Trees, tires, and barrels were all common sights this week on the Connecticut.

“With amazing teamwork and effort by staff, we were able to hold back from losing our microorganisms and solids to the hydraulic overloading,” she told the *Reporter*. “[O]ur facility and pump stations are built above the 500-year flood plain, and we have not experienced any major flooding, although the riverbank is the highest we’ve ever experienced it, which is a little scary!”

**Total-Loss Farms**

The worst impacts were experienced by farms.

Jay Savage, owner of Savage Farms, said flooding along the Connecticut caused over \$1 million in damages to his crops and property in Gill, Deerfield, and Hatfield. Workers were able to save most of the farm equipment from the flood, he said, but had to wade through waist-deep water to do so.

“I’ve had extensive damage on both sides of the river,” Savage

# State Beavers Implicated in Collapse

By AL MACINTYRE

**WENDELL** – Late Monday night, June 3, a localized microburst storm dropped as much as close to four inches of rain into neighborhood rain gauges in a couple of hours.

A hidden beaver dam within the Wendell State Forest met its demise with the overload of water, and its failure resulted in overwhelming a road culvert, creating a disastrous over-wash on upper Farley Road. The proliferation of beaver sticks everywhere left little doubt of the culprit.

The affected lane of the road was closed to traffic, but single passage was still safely possible, and has greatly assisted in access for repairs that began immediately last Wednesday morning by Burnett Construction.

The Wendell road crew remained occupied affecting extensive repairs to another wash-out on lower Depot Road, cutting the road to single-lane traffic there as well.

The road commissioners toured the site with state representative Aaron Saunders last Wednesday to discuss potential disaster relief, in consideration of the cause of the damage appearing decisively to emanate from state-managed property.



The microburst undermined two Wendell roads.

told the state officials touring his waterlogged Deerfield fields on Wednesday. “Our biggest problem is the damage you see right now, but also keeping our crops healthy moving forward. We’re all going to struggle with that.”

Savage said he thought dam operators upstream should better manage flows during severe weather events to reduce the impact on farms like his. “It doesn’t need to be this severe,” he argued. “If they don’t release a little bit early, anticipating rain like this, and they release when it’s overflowing, it’s too much water for this area.”

According to state Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle, crops submerged by flooding rivers are not suitable for sale due to the possibility of contamination. Even crops still standing after the water recedes are a total loss.

from the South River. Most of the crops at Mountain View Farm in Easthampton were also ruined.

“Both our fields on the Mill River and the Connecticut River are underwater and will be unsalvageable,” Mountain View reported on an online fundraising page set up after the flood. “This is catastrophic for the farm... While we have weathered storms and challenges before, this degree of loss is very difficult for us to absorb, and we are struggling to adjust.”

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is collecting farmers’ reports in order to quantify the financial impact of the flooding. State senator Jo Comerford said that if the total reaches \$11 million, the region could qualify for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Comerford said that she and Blais, who are “in deep” with the process of FirstLight’s federal license renewal, would raise the issue of dam releases and farm flooding at their next meeting with company representatives.

Deerfield selectboard chair Carolyn Ness argued that the hydropower company’s standard operating practices put farmers at risk. “It’s also the riverbank erosion that makes them more susceptible to the next event,” Ness said. “What happens with these releases – even a regular release – is like a 20-year storm, so they’re vulnerable already.”

A “20-year storm” is a term referencing the likelihood a weather event will occur once in a given time period. The flooding this week in Vermont and New York, according to Dave Hayes, was a 1,000-year event, meaning that in any given year there is a 0.10% chance such an event will happen.

**Ramping Up**

More rain forecast for the next week is ominous for farmers not only because of the threat of further flooding, but because mold and other diseases are more prevalent in excessively moist environments.

“There’s disease pressure on our soil now, and erosion, so the financial impact will be devastating,” said Hatfield potato farmer Bernie Smiarowski. “We don’t need low-interest loans from USDA – we need financial assistance.”

Western Massachusetts has already had a wet summer, according to Hayes, with up to nine inches of rain saturating soils in the last

two weeks. Monday’s storm added somewhere between a half inch and six inches.

“We have been seeing these winter storm patterns persist into the warm season, which is unusual,” Hayes said. “This produced a massive area of condensation, and hence precipitation, within a saturated air mass that was warm from the surface high up in the sky, which helps produce rain more efficiently which you get in tropical environments.”

Both unusually wet and unusually dry summers can be expected as climate change worsens, according to Hatch, the UMass hydrogeologist, who also serves on the state’s Water Resources Commission. Precipitation in July 2021, she noted, was 300% above average.

“This is a symptom of climate change we see in many hydrologic systems: where it’s drier it gets drier, where (and when) it’s wetter, it gets wetter,” Hatch wrote in an email. “For our region that means both more severe and extended droughts as well as more intense precipitation.”

Over time, Hatch added, climate change is expected to cause a “re-distribution of the hydrologic cycle” in New England.

“We expect to see a slight increase in the amount of precipitation over a long period of time,” she said. “Raising of the groundwater tables is going to cause more and more trouble in people’s basements, and flooding in lower areas.”

In Montague, Red Fire Farm weathered this week’s storm without losing many crops, according to owner Sarah Voiland, partially thanks to a recent state Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) grant that financed major stormwater management upgrades. However, the farm is still suffering from the loss of most of its peaches and apples to an early spring frost.

“Right now we’re looking at what’s coming down the pipe with climate change – more extreme weather events all the time – and we need to fund things that are going to make farmland more protected from water and drought,” Voiland said.

“We’re seeing the extreme weather events ramp up really fast,” she said, “faster than I thought it was going to happen. And I think our response, from the various sources of assistance, needs to get faster.”

Mike Jackson contributed additional writing.



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

BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY  
HMZGESCQVQFHJW.MMO  
FONTLVPEAXQAHDO.SHC  
LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR.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



**MONTAGUE** from page A1

The timing and reasons for Stuart's retirement were not revealed at the meeting, though town administrator Steve Ellis said he believed she had resigned in late May or early June. Paxton, who attended the meeting, did not speak on the agenda item to rehire Stuart on a temporary basis for approximately 17 hours a week.

A review of the agendas and minutes of the board of health, the department's oversight board, suggests that Stuart's retirement was not discussed in public session until its June 28 meeting.

Stuart told the *Reporter* that she retired from the department on June 30, and was "reappointed by both BOH and [selectboard] to help on a part-time basis as my schedule allows." Stuart said she holds a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Massachusetts, "along with other accreditations," and joined Montague's health department staff in 2011. She wrote that she brings to the job "over 25 years of experience in community development / special events / buying / grant writing / retail store openings & merchandizing."

As far as her future beyond the temporary position, Stuart told us she is a "health care proxy for a few friends, and I need to attend to their needs."

According to Paxton, the health clerk position is covered under the town's collective bargaining agreement with the National Association of Government Employees union. If no one applies for the position "internally" after five business days, the position may be posted for a public search process.

**If no one applies for the health clerk position "internally" after five business days, the town may post it for a public search process.**

At Monday's meeting Paxton announced that Brittany Tuttle has been hired to fill the vacancy left by the April resignation of town nurse Cheryl Volpe. Tuttle, hired at the end of June, will provide services for "around 10 hours per week," he said.

"I guess before COVID I wondered why the town needed a town nurse," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. "After this I wonder how the town could get along without one." The selectboard did not vote on Tuttle's appointment.

**New Used Car Lot**

The board approved a Class II license to Zak Nichita to park and sell a limited number of reconditioned used cars on a property he has purchased at 221 Millers Falls Road, across the street from the entrance to the airport industrial park. Mr. Nichita, who operates a similar business on Randall Road, has been clearing the Millers Falls Road property since he purchased it on June 7.

The board initially hesitated to approve the license because Nichita said he planned to eventually build a structure on the property and expand the number of spaces to be used for auto sales and other parking. According to assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, under the town's zoning bylaws Nichita will require a special per-

mit from the planning board if the number of parking spaces is 10 or more or the proposed building is more than 3,000 square feet.

Nichita pointed out that his current application concerned only five parking spaces and no large permanent structure. He estimated that it could take as much as a year to finance and complete his long-term plans for the property.

Another problem was that Nichita clearly stated – as did the name of his company, Zak's Auto Sales & Repair – that he intended to repair cars on the property, but the application, created by the state under the provisions of MGL Chapter 140, did not list the purpose of the license as allowing "repairs," but only to "buy, sell, exchange, or assemble second hand motor vehicles or parts thereof."

It was not clear that this might prohibit repairs, but members of the selectboard expressed concern that extensive car repairs under a temporary structure might violate health codes, or federal environmental regulations.

In the end, though, the board approved the permit as requested.

**Human Resources**

Assuming their role as the town personnel board, the selectboard approved a three-year employment contract it had negotiated in a previous executive session with town administrator Steve Ellis. Kuklewicz said the contract keeps Ellis at the same pay grade and step, which comes with a "base salary" of \$124,233 per year.

"I thank the selectboard for the opportunity to work for the town," Ellis said. "I love working here." He later assured the board that he had applied to renew his certification as a procurement officer in time to avoid time-consuming training sessions.

The board approved a job description for an administrative assistant in the town clerk's office, a role recently created by town meeting. Ellis said the description was created in consultation with the new clerk, Kathern "Beanie" Pierce, and the outgoing clerk, Deb Bourbeau. The board did not discuss a hiring process.

A memorandum of agreement with the United Electrical Workers union was approved by the board to raise the base wage associated with, but not limited to, the new position of "collection system lead operator," which focuses on the town's sewer system. For union employees promoted to a higher grade, the agreement ensures a minimum hourly increase of \$1.50. It was previously \$0.95.

After approving changes to the job description to include a lead operator's license and a "tanker endorsement," the board appointed Kyle Bessette, an internal candidate formerly at the public works department, to the position effective July 1 at \$26.40 per hour.

The board announced that assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey had been awarded a graduate certificate in local government and leadership from Suffolk University, and that town treasurer Eileen Seymour had received a degree in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University, with a concentration in public administration.

Jayson Scribner, a Franklin County Technical School student, was appointed to a grounds maintenance position of at the Turners Falls air-

port. Airport manager Brian Camden explained that Scribner will work fewer hours during the summer because he holds another nearly full-time summer job.

**Dept. of Projects**

The board approved a request by Ramsey to submit documents agreeing to new criteria for a combined federal loan and grant funding new screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility. Ramsey said the new arrangement may reduce interest the town will owe on the Department of Agriculture loan.

"There's going to be a whole other slate of documents I had you sign a few weeks ago that I'm going to have you re-sign, unfortunately," he said.

Ramsey asked the board to authorize a letter of agreement with the Judd Wire company and Kearsarge Energy for "occasional use, light storage and access" under Kearsarge's solar canopy on the town's former burn dump at the end of Sandy Lane. Ramsey explained that the "access" might include parking and picnic tables for Judd Wire employees, and that "all three parties are on the same page." The board approved the agreement.

At Ramsey's request, the board also agreed to send a letter of support for a state PARC grant, which would help fund playground upgrades as part of a planned Montague Center park renovation project.

Ramsey reviewed the status of federal permitting necessary to begin a flooding mitigation project on Montague City Road. The road has seen serious flooding in recent weeks. Ramsey said required permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers and state Department of Environmental Protection might be issued by the end of July.

The board approved paying \$356.40 to Berkshire Design for "landscape architectural, civil engineering and land surveying services" involved with the perennial Avenue A Streetscape project.

**Other Business**

Contract delays in a lease of airport land to a solar developer have led to a shortfall in airport revenue. The selectboard approved transferring \$47,000 left over on a health insurance line from the recently ended fiscal year into the airport enterprise fund to help cover the gap.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen explained that the transfer from last year's budget could only take place in the last two months of the fiscal year, May and June, or the first 15 days of the new one. The transfer also required the approval of the finance committee, which was scheduled to meet Wednesday.

Ellis, noting that Montague has reached its state-enforced quota of liquor licenses, reviewed various options with the board for requesting state legislation increasing the number of licenses not connected to specific businesses.

Ellis also said he was waiting to finalize the contract for a wage and classification study, already approved and funded by the board, because the UMass Collins Center employee who had been planning to direct the research had moved on to another job.

At the meeting's end the selectboard retired into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining or litigation strategy. The board's next meeting is scheduled for July 24.

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

*Here's the way it was on July 11, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

**Erving: Route 2 Makeover Planned**

The Erving selectboard discussed a letter from Green International Affiliates, Inc. detailing planned safety improvements to the Farley Flats section of Route 2, where the road will be widened and straightened. The scenic overlook/turnout on the westbound side of Route 2 will be rebuilt, the western and eastern intersections of Holmes Avenue with Route 2 will be closed, and Holmes Avenue will be extended east to intersect with Wheelock Street.

According to town administrator Thomas Sharp, the project is

still in the design phase, with construction proposed for 2016.

**New Faces at the Great Falls Farmers Market**

The Johnson Family Farm has been agriculturally active for more than a century and in the forefront of local produce for more than two decades. Bob Johnson, Senior, has retired and his sons, Bob Junior (Rob) and Eddie, now manage operations.

According to Eddie, farm work is very hard, but it's extremely rewarding to see things spring up from the soil from your efforts. The pay is not that great, he says, but you adapt to frugality and will find that you achieve a peace of mind and contentment worth more than a million bucks.

**20 YEARS AGO**

*Here's the way it was on July 10, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

**Identifying Invasive Giant Hogweed in Gill**

Cow Parsnip and Purple Angelica look similar to the noxious hogweed. Angelica has large spherical inflorescence, big snowball-shaped flower heads. Hogweed flower heads are umbrella-shaped and very big. Angelica has smooth and somewhat uniformly purple-green stems. Hogweed has very coarse bristly hairs, like fiberglass, and has blotchy inflamed-looking purple patches. Hogweed also has much larger, deeply incised, compound leaves – leaves with more than one jointed section.

On the roadside in Gill, by the elementary school, you can view Hogweed and Purple Angelica side by side. The sap from the

Hogweed plant can cause extremely painful blistering burns and can blind you if it gets in your eyes, so please take care! If you suspect Hogweed has taken root on your lawn, you can call the Hogweed Hotline at (617) 626-1779.

**Editorial: Water, Water Everywhere...**

Another summer is passing, and Montague still has no safe public swimming area. Even the Turners Falls High pool is closed for renovations.

As parks and rec director Jon Dobosz put it, "It has always been a frustrating problem. We are surrounded by water, but there is no accessible point to the river. At accessible points, it is dangerous."

Two teenage boys drowned while swimming in the Rock Dam area in 1998, in spite of their having been warned of the danger.

**150 YEARS AGO**

*Here's the way it was on July 9, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.*

**Local Matters**

Oh, these deliciously cool, moonlit evenings, may they continue!

The universal perfume – the fragrant clover and sweet new moon hay.

Jos. Griswold's brick-making machine steadily grinding out wealth in bricks.

Raspberries are getting ripe, and for the next few weeks this berry will be the leading star.

The walls of Richd. Clapp's brick block on Avenue A can now be seen from any part of the place without standing on your tip toes.

On the first page will be found an account of a balloon voyage from the pen of Luther L. Holden, Esq., a gentleman who has been "up in a balloon" twenty-one times.

A game of base ball was played on Saturday on the green by the Baptist Church, between clubs belonging to Greenfield and this place, the Turners Falls club beating their opponents badly.

If you want to write on a postal card with a sympathetic ink, use the juice of a lemon, or a weak solution of sulphuric acid, or new milk, with a clean steel pen, and the writing made with either of which can be brought out in a deep black by laying the card on a pretty hot stove for a few seconds. At least, when we were a youngster, that is how we used to do that kind of thing.

Petty thefts are in order, and as some people have a hankering for the nice little white clothes and "bried" shirts our lady friends leave out o' nights, we advise them not to "do so some more." Keep a strict watch, and half-kill the first one you catch pilfering. That's the way to stop it.



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  
240 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

**Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL**  
certified - bonded - insured  
863-2471  
28 Montague St  
Turners Falls, MA  
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



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Drug Money to Fund New Hoops

By JOSH HEINEMANN

To accommodate board members' summer schedules the Wendell selectboard moved their normal Wednesday evening meeting to Thursday, July 6 at 1 p.m. The meeting was short, scheduled mainly for two pole hearings. Abutters were notified, but none came, and no one objected. Board members approved two new poles to serve two new houses, one at 56 Mormon Hollow Road and one behind 244 Locke Village Road.

Jake Doody and Jim Woodward came to ask for two basketball backboards and hoops for the Swift River School playground. The equipment would make the Swift River playground available for summer basketball camp, when neither the Mahar high school nor the Fisher Hill School courts are available.

Doody said he preferred in-ground installation, but principal Kelly Sullivan had said the playground will be due for repaving soon and high water at the school

grounds calls for DEP approval, a delay that would eliminate this summer's basketball camp.

Doody and Woodward therefore decided on portable hoops, which can be weighted with water and sand, made stable and safe. Options varied from \$1,400 to \$2,500 per hoop assembly, and the opinion was that the more expensive ones were worth the cost. The hoops can be used for pickup games and school activities, and lowered to seven feet for young children.

Knowing that Wendell has no extra money, acting selectboard chair Gillian Budine said she had spoken ahead of time with police chief Scott Minckler and learned there was \$14,357.38 sitting in a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) account. Minckler thought the basketball hoops, promoting both physical activity and teamwork, would be an appropriate use for that money.

Board members approved the expenditure, and authorized school secretary Ariel Barilla to start the communication necessary to spend \$5,500 in D.A.R.E. money.

## GARBAGE from page A1

plans to improve the service. These efforts, which were included in Republic's renewal application, have led to service improvements, the board was told at the Monday meeting by several town and regional officials.

But over the weekend prior to Monday's meeting, numerous pickups were reportedly delayed or missed, including on the streets where two selectboard members reside.

Public works department office manager Brandy Patch, who said she has fielded numerous complaints about Republic, and Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District who assisted with the procurement process, participated in the discussion. So did Ariel Elan, a member of the capital improvements and energy committees, who confessed to attaching a \$3 weekly trash sticker to her barrel as opposed to a more expensive, required, barrel sticker.

Ellis opened the discussion with

a review of the financial metrics of the proposals of the two finalists willing to implement Montague's "dual-stream" recycling system, with paper and cardboard alternating weekly with plastic and glass, and trash pickup. His chart showed that Casella had lowered its estimate of trash and recycling pickup during negotiations with the town, but remained the higher bidder.

Casella's proposal, he said, would cost the town approximately \$670,000 a year on average during the three years of the contract, while Republic's would average about \$623,000 a year. To put these numbers in context, Ellis said the cost of collection and trash disposal in last year's public works budget was "roughly \$480,000." He told the Reporter that the annual cost will increase significantly no matter which company is awarded the contract.

Patch indicated that communication with Republic had improved in recent months under operations supervisor Mark Fine.

Ameen said that it seemed to her

that Republic had been "on a new road" prior to the "challenging situation" the previous weekend, but also reported that Casella's service to Gill and Erving had "no issues, 95% of the time." "How much more do you want to spend for a new vendor, if that's the way you want to go?" she asked the board.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked Ellis what portion of trash and recycling costs were covered by revenue from trash stickers. Ellis did not offer a clear estimate, but suggested that covering the cost increase under a new contract might require a \$0.60 increase in the price of the basic sticker, which is now \$3. "That would be a conversation for the board," he said.

"We have talked and talked and talked with Republic," said Kuklewicz, "and in our packet they gave us a very nice slide about the past, present, and future state of our service. But the problem is, the problems continue to persist... My trash was out for four days. It didn't get picked up today until the end of the day, almost four o'clock."

Wherever you venture...  
**WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**

SINCE 1888  
**A.H. Rist**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!

159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

**NOW HIRING** Scan the code or visit [www.careers.altiumpkg.com](http://www.careers.altiumpkg.com). **\$1K-3K SIGN-ON BONUS**

**Altium Packaging**

Formerly **HILLSIDE PLASTICS** Across from the Airport

**\$18.00 to start** **NO experience required.** **On-the-job training provided!**

**Take Control of Your Future!** Avoid costly commutes and work close to home with up to \$3,000 sign-up bonus opportunities.

**It's Not Just a Job...**

- Medical • Dental • Vision
- 401K • FSA/HSA • Vacation
- Short/Long-Term Disability
- Life Insurance and more.

**Join Our Team!**  
262 Millers Falls Rd.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**413-475-1140**

"Rich, you're lucky," fellow selectboard member Chris Boutwell told him. "They haven't touched our street yet."

The final member, Matt Lord, said that the last time the hauling contract was discussed he had felt that "the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know," but that he now believed that the projected annual cost difference of about \$50,000 would be "a reasonable price to try and get better service."

Kuklewicz said he agreed, and recommended offsetting some of the added cost by increasing the sticker price or "budget[ing] a little more out of taxation."

Boutwell then moved that "we go with Casella for the next three-year contract," a motion approved unanimously. Ellis said he hoped to have a "contractual proposal" for the board's consideration at its next meeting on July 24.

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

**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

**sunbug solar**

An energy partner that will make you feel right at home

413 884 1000  
[sunbugsolar.com](http://sunbugsolar.com)

Certified Corporation

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](http://www.couturebros.com) | HIC Lic. 100326

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

**Erik Doolittle**  
owner

**Erik Doolittle**  
landscape maintenance

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

**MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST**

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

178A N Pleasant  
413-253-4776

**Abby Graseck**  
**Zen Shiatsu**

Turners Falls & Gill

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

**BUY in JULY Mortgage Special!**

See Bank for Details.

(413) 775-8200  
[greenfieldsavings.com](http://greenfieldsavings.com)

**Greenfield Savings Bank**

Loan Origination Company Identifier #409187  
Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender

**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)

**Harriet Paine**  
REALTOR®

C (413) 475-4203  
O (413) 223-1367

harriet@cohnandcompany.com  
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

COHN & COMPANY



# Moose

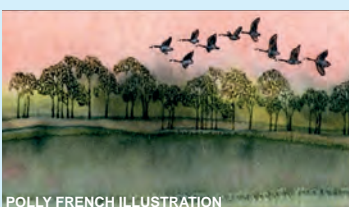
MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JULY 13, 2023



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## DANCING AT PESKEOMPSKUT

By DAVID BRULE

**PESKEOMPSKUT** – Two days, August 5 and 6, will bring music, dancing, and more healing to the thunder falls.

However, the day before, on the 4th, we will push the Wampanoag *mishoon* out onto the warming waters of the long blue river. Kayaks and canoes will accompany the dugout up through the Narrows, which is the upstream edge of the mystical and spiritual realm of the place called Peskeompskut. Behind us and downstream, the reach called Peskeompskut continues to the big rock.

The Narrows is the place where the prehistoric river broke through the red rock barrier. It is the ancient place of the third waterfall, where the water now flows through cleft rocks. Sites where two sister waterfalls also created plunge pools, the Lily Pond and the Bear's Den, were abandoned by the river as it rushed through the Narrows gap.

Far below us lies the plunge pool of the prehistoric third waterfall. That hole reaches a depth of 140 feet.

We will paddle for hours, singing old songs going back thousands of years, our voices echoing over the water. We awaken the riverbanks to joyful human voices once again, singing in the ancient tongues. The tall white pines of the ridge will remember the words of songs that are 10,000 years old. Then they, too, will remember their old names, their first names, and will be happy to be reminded, to be honored once again.

Good paddling, good song, respect for the troubled waters that we are seeking to heal, as we are seeking to heal our own spirits and the spirits of the ancestors. Those ancestors are still here above the water, and mingle in the sweeping arms of the pines.

Downriver from where we paddle, the realm of Peskeompskut

ends at the falls. These falls thundered for more than 10,000 years before the dam was built. That structure silenced the roaring waters, held back the mists that sent messages up to the skies – mists that drenched the basalt cliffs of Wissatinnewag, “the hill that shines.” The salmon were left trapped by the modern barrier, impossible to leap over, impossible to mount.

As we paddle home and as we sing, a vision comes to some of us:

*We see a Nipmuck woman who will one day put her shoulder to that dam. And topple it.*

*We see other Abenaki women who will topple the dams at Vernon and Bellows Falls and all the way up the river...*

That vision comes and goes, but it is caught by Eagle, who carries the message to the garden of Cautontowit the Creator in the southwest, where it will be kept until the time is right, until we are ready. Such are the visions that happen when you are in touch with the spirits and with the water.

August will dawn at the falls over the pooled and tamed waters of the Quonektakut / Kwinetekw. Many Native Nations will begin to gather: Nipmuck, Abenaki, Wampanoag, Narragansett, Mohawk, Métis, Pennacook, M'ikm'aw, Penobscot, Massachusetts, Nehantic, Pequot.

Some are survivors of 400 years of genocide, and are small in numbers; others survived through clever and cautious alliances with the early colonial forces. Still others were, and still are, too powerful for the colonials to suppress.

Some will arrive in street clothes, with a hint of Indigenous origins: wampum earrings, tattoos, braided hair, a feather. Others will arrive in traditional regalia, hairstyles letting it be known who they are, where they are from.

Respected Elder Tom Porter of see **WEST ALONG** page B5



GILLIS MACDOUGALL PHOTO

*Annawon Weeden, culture bearer of the Mashpee Wampanoag, will lead a social dance at this year's Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.*

*Above: A bumper crop of milkweed awaits the fall's monarchs.*

## Selections for Summer Reading



HOPLEY PHOTO

*Eight suggestions for any slow days that might stretch out ahead.*

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** – In summer the living should be easy, and the reading entertaining. But what entertains one person can bore the next one rigid. For some, a light romance with comic moments is ideal for summer days; others want to knock off a chestnut such as *War and Peace* or *Moby Dick*, or to read the latest novel by a critically-acclaimed contemporary.

Yet again, others don't like fic-

tion at all. They want to get their teeth into the latest informative volume on history or another favorite topic. Then there are those alluring books about travel, food, or gardens. So there's no ideal summer read – just different books seeking different readers.

Here are some recent publications, plus one older must-read book for local history buffs.

If a light romance for reading on the beach is what you long for, Ginny Baird's *Right Girl, Wrong Side*

(Sourcebooks Casablanca, 2023) fills the bill. Two women bid on a lovely Nantucket summer cottage. Both learn their bid was highest; both turn up with their families. Trouble is they are rival realtors who hate each other's guts. One has a big, outgoing Hispanic family; the other is waspily reserved. What happens when they have to divide the house leads to squabbles, funny incidents, and a comforting ending.

There's no comforting ending – though it's not unhappy – in Ian McEwen's *Lessons* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023), which traces the life of Roland Baines from boarding school to old age. Roland is talented, he's kind, he survives well enough in London, but he never has even the modest bourgeois success that had seemed likely. He has plenty of time to think about life, however, and that's what makes this book compellingly readable.

This is true also of *Tomás Nevinsón* by Javier Marías, translated by Margaret Jull Costa (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023). The eponymous central character is familiar from Marías's earlier novel *Berta Isla*, where he was recruited as a spy

see **READING** page B8

## NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON

**GREENFIELD** – This month's column is about garlic, because I received a bunch of immature green garlic in my first CSA farm share of the season. With large, slightly hard bulbs that are bigger than scallions and smaller than a mature head of garlic, these are milder, but still spicy, and can be used as a substitute.

Garlic is, of course, related to the onion, shallot, leek, and chive, all of the genus *Allium*. The word comes from the Old English *gar-léac*, meaning “spear- (gar-) shaped leek.” Speaking of leeks... have you ever seen those huge heads of garlic with purplish skins called “elephant garlic?” It's actually not a true garlic, but a wild leek.

(Are you sensing a theme lately in this column? Things that are not what they seem: peanuts and coconuts are not truly nuts, and now elephant garlic isn't really garlic...)

If you come across green garlic, try it in place of mature garlic cloves, or scallions. It definitely has its own appeal. It's similar to the garlic scape, which is the long, curly stem – a flower, really – that grows on hardneck garlic. Scapes



CATHY GOUCH PHOTO

*To reduce bitterness and improve flavor, try slicing open the center of a garlic clove and removing that tiny green stem.*

are plucked off mid-season in order to send the plant's energies towards growing the bulb. They have a fresh, mild flavor.

Garlic is native to South and Central Asia and northeastern Iran, and more than three-quarters of all garlic comes from China. The single-clove garlic we buy in our markets originated in the Yunnan prov-

ince, and hundreds of varieties of garlic are now grown, with at least 120 cultivars from Central Asia, the main center of the world's garlic biodiversity.

Garlic has been used for more than food. Ancient Egyptians used it as medicine, and the father of western medicine, Hippocrates, see **HEARTFELT** page B5



# Pet of the Week



## “DAPPER”

Dapper is quite the handsome boy! He was an outside kitty who was brought to Dakin as a stray. When Dapper arrived, we learned that he was more than good looks. One of the volunteers who spent a lot of time with him said he is calm, enjoys pets, and playing with his all-time favorite, the peacock feather. He is not a lap cat, though.

While at Dakin, he became best friends with another cat named Mattie, and was even protective

of Mattie when other cats tried to pick on him. What a stand-up kind of guy! Dapper is quite dignified, and has that certain something that makes you proud he's your cat.

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).

## EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Montague Parks and Recreation Young Artist Week*, work by children ages 5 to 12 focusing on local wildlife, July 12 to 26.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Crapo Tarot*, tarot cards by Trish Crapo. Through July 31.

**Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield:** *Joseph McCarthy*, paintings. Through July.

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

**170 Main Street, Greenfield:** *Peter Monroe*, fine art photography. Appointments at [estherwasmydog@yahoo.com](mailto:estherwasmydog@yahoo.com). Through July.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Thomas Ratté*, painting, pencil, watercolor, and photography, through July 31. *Black Families of Greenfield*, “(t)he faces, energy and achievements that helped to shape the town's identity and creative pulse,” through August 31.

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

**Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts:** *Jesse Connor and Lori Lynn Hoffer*, landscape and botanical paintings. Through July.

**Sawmill River Gallery, Montague:** *Jen Lambert*. Visiting artist showing vibrant monoprints. Through July.

**Montague Center Library:** *Mt. Toby Paintings*, by Kate Spencer. Through July 14. *Barry De Jasu*, photographs, starting July 17 and with a reception on July 19 from 5 to 6 p.m.

**Memorial Hall, Deerfield:** *The Allen Sisters*. Two deaf sisters developed the image that defined Deerfield for the past century through photography. The exhibit focuses on their view of the innocence of childhood. Through October 13.

**Art in the Hall, Art Bank Building, Shelburne:** *A Pastorale*, Christin Couture's surreal pastoral scenes. Through July 30.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Wonders of Nature*, group exhibit by member artists. Through July.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Two Conversations: Erika Radich and Sharon Myers*. Myers is a fabric, clay, and mixed-media artist, and Radich focuses primarily on printmaking. The show is a collaboration between the artists, who are re-

sponding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through August 27.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Northfield Then & Now Exhibit*, a contemporary response by area artists to historic photographs of Northfield. Through August 19. *Northfield Chateau*, ceramic replica of the famous Northfield Chateau by Jack Nelson, on view until July 20. Reception Thursday, July 20 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

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

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Inner Circles, Immersions*: abstract collages composed of painted papers by Paula Hite, on display with immersive landscapes in oil on wood by Evelyn Pye. Through July.

**Anchor House, Northampton:** *Greta Gnatek Redzko*, paintings; *Vincent Frano*, large pigmented banners; *Shawn Adams*, poetry and photography; *Excavations/Revelations*, photographs of Greenland by Rhea Banker, with works on paper of Italy by Elisa Lanzi. Through July. Reception for all shows Friday, July 14, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Club George, Northampton:** *Daily Drawings: An Everyday Chronicle*, by Lynn Peterfreund. Through July 22.

### FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

## Are We Living In A Simulation?

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**MONTAGUE** – Do you think we are living in a simulation?

I did – until I found some convincing, strong evidence that proves why not. I think it would

be cool if we were living in a simulation, but math and other things prove otherwise.

It all starts with a man in Manhattan named Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Have you heard of him? If so, you might be familiar with topics like star formation, exploding stars, and the Milky Way structure. He works at Princeton University and does podcasts, too. I recently saw a YouTube video explaining how he believes that there is solid information proving that we are not in a simulation.

I would like to establish what a simulation would be, and how people could make them. Have you ever heard of virtual reality, or VR? It basically is a big set of goggles that go over your head and give you a sense of being in a virtual world. You can play video games, watch shows, and even walk around in virtual reality.

I would like to move on to the hypothesis that we were in a simulation. The idea is that one world made a hyper-realistic simulation and basically put humans into it, and that this continued and repeated. Now, we are said to be one of the simulations on the line.

Imagine that there was a wall full of billions and billions of simulations, plus the one real world that started it all. Now randomly throw a dart at it. Which are you likely to land on – one of the billions of simulations along the chain, or the one real world? You would most likely land on one of the simulations.

This was the previous hypothesis, but it was recently undermined by somebody named J. Richard Gott, who also works at Princeton University. He was quoted in a book called *The Doomsday Calculation* by William Poundstone explaining why it is not likely we are in a simulation.

For the previous hypothesis to be accurate, Gott says, the simulation chain has to be able to make a simulation of itself, in order to continue on and on. Now, since we as a society do not have the power to make a simulation of ourselves and go into it, we are either the first world in the chain, or the last one, and still developing. This means the chances of us not being a simulation go from one in a gazillion (a made-up, undefined number) to 50/50.

While this does not give us any certain answers, it gives us room for progress, and room to work with.

There is also a chance that we are a side project. We could, in a way, be like a movie that a world created to remember the time before it could simulate. Now, think about something: how many movies have been made about the time when we can make movies, compared to the time when we could not? Fewer have been made about the time before we were able to make movies. If we replace movies with simulations, we suddenly lower the chances of us being a side project that a world made to remember.

So the most likely option, in the end, is that we are living in a real world, free of long chains of simulations.

This was kind of hard to explain, but at the same time very interesting. If you had trouble understanding the whole idea, search up “Neil DeGrasse Tyson Simulation StarTalk.” This video helped me and my friends understand it better.

In my next column I will write about the Mariana Trench, the deepest natural part of the world. It is located by the Mariana Islands off of Japan. I can't wait to learn about it. If any more counter-arguments come up about the whole simulation theory, I will try to write a little bit about them.

## Senior Center Activities JULY 17 THROUGH 28

### 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).

### ERVING

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

For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 7/17

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

### Tuesday 7/18

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

### Wednesday 7/19

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

### Thursday 7/20

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

### Friday 7/21

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### Monday 7/24

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

### Tuesday 7/25

9 a.m. Good For U

10 a.m. Line Dancing

### Wednesday 7/26

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

### Thursday 7/27

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

### Friday 7/28

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

### Monday 7/17

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

### Tuesday 7/18

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters  
10 a.m. Money Matters  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 7/19

9 a.m. Veterans' Hours  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

### Thursday 7/20

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo  
1:30 p.m. Western Mass Food Bank  
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Friday 7/21

9 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 7/21

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

### Monday 7/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

### Tuesday 7/25

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 7/26

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

### Thursday 7/27

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share  
(by subscription)

1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 7/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pizza Party  
2 p.m. By the Seat of Your Dance

### 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.

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

**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



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

# Charlemont Forum Will Focus on Climate Refugees

**CHARLEMONT** – In the wake of increasing temperatures, flooding from rising sea levels, and unprecedented West Coast fires over the past several years, climate migration will be the focus of the Charlemont Forum’s second summer program.

Using current research models, including his own, Columbia University professor Alex de Sherbinin will outline how the increasingly visible consequences of climate change will lead to dramatic population shifts around the world, including the United States.

“There is an amazing growth in new research” says de Sherbinin, “focusing not just on low-income countries, but also on how climate may realign population distributions in high-income countries like the US, as well as how people continue to move into areas that are at high risk of climate impacts in coastal and wildland-urban interface areas.”

“A current major research focus is on how coastal states such as Massachusetts are addressing the growing risks of sea level rise along with flood risks and other stressors,” he adds. “As a region with abundant water resources and relatively mod-

erate temperatures, western Massachusetts may see some in-migration from other parts of the US as people seek to escape extreme temperatures, wildfire smoke, or coastal hazards.”

Other experts corroborate de Sherbinin’s perspective, noting that as areas of the southern US experience temperature change, populations will shift to more urban areas, presumably in the north including New England. Mobility itself, they point out, is often a reflection of relative wealth, and as some move many others will be left behind. Those who stay risk becoming trapped as the land and society around them cease to provide support.

Entitling his talk “Climate Refugees: How Migration Will Change our Global Landscape,” de Sherbinin will speak at the Charlemont Federated Church next Thursday, July 20 at 7 p.m. The presentation will also be available on Zoom that evening. The event is free.

Support for the Charlemont Forum is provided by the Cultural Councils in 11 Franklin County hill towns, which are supported in turn by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

ARTIST PROFILE

# Chris Pedraza



This acrylic painting triptych features the Invisible Woman.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I like comic book movies and TV shows, so finding an artist who uses that in his art really piqued my interest.

For fun, and possibly to find artists to write about, I decided to check out a market event featuring artwork one Saturday at the club called 10 Forward in Greenfield. I found Chris Pedraza there with artwork that had comic book characters in it, including the Invisible Woman and the Human Torch.

According to Pedraza, these are characters from Marvel and Horrific comics. “My current style of art I have been doing for a couple of years,” he told me about his comic-influenced art.

Pedraza’s pieces were painted with acrylic and spray paints. Paintings done with spray paint are something I particularly like. I asked him why he paints comic book characters. “I love comic books, and I love drag ritual,” he told me.

Pedraza has been an artist for over a decade. His background includes graduating from Plymouth State University in 2009 with a de-

gree in Studio Art. I guess that helps a bit when it comes to being able to paint these pieces! He is back in school now – maybe that will give us some even more interesting pieces to see from this guy.

Pedraza said it was his first time at the market I saw him at, and his first time trying to sell his art in Greenfield. He said his art has been “very popular over here,” when it comes to how he has been doing so far in western Massachusetts. Besides his art being around Greenfield, it has also been up at the Majestic Saloon in Northampton for the past four months.

I would call some of Pedraza’s paintings of comic book characters very good – I believe he captured the images of the Human Torch and the Invisible Woman nicely.

“My friends are very supportive, and they love my artwork,” he said, in connection with other opinions of his art. I asked whether we will see more of his art in the area. “Absolutely,” he said, “if it continues to be successful.”

You can find Chris Pedraza, and some of his artwork, online at his Facebook and Instagram pages.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Noise Complaints; Water Break; Little Alone Dog; Hedge Trimmer; Liquor Store Threats; Park Fight

**Monday, 6/26**

6:49 a.m. Caller from Dell Street reports deceased animal, possibly a fox, in the roadway. DPW advised. Caller advises her neighbor took care of the animal. DPW advised.

10:59 a.m. Caller from H Street reports that her car was gone through sometime between Saturday and Sunday. Caller states she didn’t report it yesterday because nothing was missing, but decided it should be reported after speaking with other people in the area who also had vehicles gone through.

2:35 p.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School states that the vehicle she called about last week is back again, parked in the handicapped spot with a male slumped down in the driver’s seat and a female in the passenger seat. Referred to an officer.

6:04 p.m. Caller reports that someone is shooting a pellet gun off a deck near Dell Street and Letourneau Way, causing a disturbance. Advised homeowner of complaint.

8:33 p.m. 911 caller reporting two-car accident; one car was carrying an eight-month-old child. No injuries; no fluids. Control contacted for evaluation for child. Medical services declined.

9:40 p.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue states he let his two dogs outside into the backyard and they chased off two people wearing hoodies and jeans. Believes parties hopped the fence into the neighbor’s yard. Area search negative.

**Tuesday, 6/27**

1:12 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street requesting police to respond to have upstairs tenants quiet down the loud music and noise. Officer advises quiet upon arrival; tenant advised of complaint.

4:31 p.m. Caller reporting water main break in parking lot at Brick and Feather Brewery on Eleventh Street; water is rushing out of a crack in the road. Officer advises it is a main line break; water is coming up in approximately five different spots. Message left for TF Water on-call number. Contact person for business notified that water has been shut off.

**Wednesday, 6/28**

9:56 a.m. Caller from Avenue A requesting officers as two male parties outside are stumbling into the roadway and leaning over, appear to be under the influence of drugs. Officer advises party is hung over and on his way home.

10:05 a.m. Shelburne Control advises they took a call for a fire hydrant leaking on Montague City Road. Water department notified; they advise they are flushing today.

1:14 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states there is a white Sonata parked across the street that she’s never seen before; it has been there since last night, and she’s wondering if it’s abandoned. Following up with vehicle owner.

1:53 p.m. Caller states her daughter hit a deer somewhere in Montague on June 24; they did not call at the time of the accident and are trying to file an insurance claim. Caller unsure where accident took place. Call put on record; officer advised.

3:06 p.m. Caller advises that her daughter was involved in a vehicle accident approximately 15 minutes ago on Canal Road; requesting report. Advised caller they would need to fill out a statement form. Caller and daughter at station filling out statement.

3:15 p.m. Caller from K Street states that there is a little dog walking down the sidewalk all alone.

5:08 p.m. Caller states that the area around Montague City Road that usually floods is starting to flood due to the storm. Officer advises water is out to center line. DPW advised.

6:14 p.m. Caller states that there is a woman in her underwear screaming in the Third Street alleyway; she might be in distress and/or on something. Involved female has two active warrants. Officer went door to door in the building; no one claims to have seen her.

11:03 p.m. Caller from Park Villa Drive states she heard a loud bang around 15 or 20 minutes ago, possibly a transformer blowing, and now there is no power in the whole complex. Caller states many people there are on oxygen. Eversource advises the outage has been reported, and they have an estimated restoration time of 12:45 a.m. Eversource on scene.

11:47 p.m. Officer flagged down on Avenue A at Second Street and told a female is screaming in an apartment above. Officer requesting two ambulances: party with wrist/foot injury, minor scrapes; party who possibly overdosed and was previously given Narcan. Control contacted to dispatch EMS.

**Thursday, 6/29**

6:19 a.m. Officer flagged down by a citizen advising that trash has been dumped along both sides of Lake Pleasant Road near Mineral and Green Pond Roads. DPW contacted.

9:43 a.m. Officer advising there is a big black trash bag on the side of Lake Pleasant Road near the bend. DPW notified.

10:22 a.m. Caller reports a dog has been locked in a truck in the Food City parking lot for an extended period of time, and is

panting heavily. Officer advises the windows were down, and the owner states he was only in the store for five minutes.

12:31 p.m. Intact male pit bull dog on Meadow Road found not to be registered, despite interactions dating back to March 13.

1:17 p.m. Officer advises he is on a detail at Millers Falls Road and Norman Circle and has received numerous complaints about tall grass making it hard to see, traffic-wise. DPW contacted.

2:38 p.m. Public drinking observed at Peskeom(p)skut Park. Party dumped out open container. No other alcohol noticed.

4:54 p.m. Caller from Twelfth Street states she has called previously about her neighbor playing drums, and requests an officer respond to her house and listen to the noise. Caller states that a decibel meter app on her phone is registering 80 dB; officer confirms decibel reading at 80 dB. Parties spoken to at length; they hope to work it out between themselves.

4:57 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that someone at the housing office switched her electric account out of her name without her knowledge. Referred to an officer.

5:03 p.m. Caller reports a large group of kids at Unity Park are causing a disturbance and scaring younger kids. Caller states they are fishing in the open area through the grass. Responding officer advises no one is fishing in the area, there are no kids, and it is peaceful and calm.

11:45 p.m. 911 caller from Main Street reports alarm in hallway of building; no fire or smoke showing. Caller transferred to Shelburne Control. Control requesting TFFD to location for smoke in basement.

**Friday, 6/30**

1:29 a.m. Caller from Madison Avenue reports that two females keep going in and out of a truck parked on the street; believes they are doing inappropriate things inside it. Officer advises two young females and two young males were in the truck hanging out. Two of the involved live in the area. Parties advised to move along.

8:06 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports a tall thin male opened the back door and urinated on the ground. Unable to locate.

1:37 p.m. Anonymous caller reports an ongoing issue with aggressive dogs who live at a blue house near N and Rastallis streets. Wanted info on record.

2:41 p.m. FD reports accident at the intersection in front of the public safety complex. Rau’s contacted to tow both vehicles.

3:28 p.m. Caller from Tay-

lor Hill Road states that he has a woodchuck living in his yard. He already left a message with the animal control officer.

4:01 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting assistance with traffic control due to an accident in Gill. Officer advises that Route 2 is shut down at the lights.

9 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that his neighbor is making loud noises, sounds like a chainsaw. Officer spoke to both parties. Noise was a hedge trimmer, and it wasn’t causing a loud disturbance.

**Saturday, 7/1**

7:33 a.m. Caller inquiring who to contact regarding sidewalks on Crescent Street; there are several raised spots and she just fell while taking a walk. Caller declined medical attention but is concerned for others. Advised to contact DPW on Monday morning.

9 a.m. Caller reporting hole under road near water cap and hydrant at the corner of Griswold and Dunton streets; states it wasn’t there the other day. Water department contacted; they will take a look but believe it was just caused by hydrant flushing this week.

1 p.m. Caller requesting assistance opening electrical box at Peskeom(p)skut Park; asking for bolt cutters. Advised TFFD would be contacted.

1:29 p.m. Report of neighbor disturbance on Avenue A. Caller did not answer door to responding officer, who observed two shopping carts in the hallway. This is a property management/tenant issue; no police necessary.

5:51 p.m. Caller from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine states that a male party bought a 12-pack of beer this morning, returned, and was refused sale due to how soon he came back. States male made harassing and threatening comments; has mentioned bringing a gun back with him. Officer taking report; clerk will fill out a statement.

7:03 p.m. Caller requesting officers for a verbal fight at Peskeom(p)skut Park; wants officers to come in quietly and park behind the rock to not let anyone know they’re there. Officers advised. Caller requesting officers sooner; situation escalating. 911 caller reports fight is going on by pavilion due to boyfriend’s wallet being stolen. Courtesy transports provided. Peace restored.

9:09 p.m. Two calls reporting a black Honda Accord driving at high speeds, hitting a stop sign on Montague Street and almost hitting pedestrians on the sidewalk. Unable to locate.

9:26 p.m. Officer requesting backup for disturbance on Avenue A. Services rendered.

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  
FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION



## MOVIE REVIEW

# Past Lives (2023)

By REBECCA TIPPENS

**COLRAIN** – I add my voice to the 98% of reviewers who loved the film *Past Lives*. It premiered to impassioned applause at this year's Sundance Film Festival, and went on to win Hollywood Critics Association Midseason awards for acting, directing, best film, and screenplay.

One marvels that this is director Celine Song's first feature film, although she had worked in the writer's room for the TV show *The Wheel of Time* and as a playwright. The story is loosely based on her own life experiences including being an immigrant to Canada, marrying a writer and living in NYC, working as a playwright, and finding herself in the situation of sitting in a bar with her husband on one side and her childhood sweetheart, visiting from Korea, on the other.

The film opens with shots of the main characters while a voice-over teasingly asks the viewer to imagine what their connections might be, suggests some possibilities, then reveals that this film will portray their actual dynamic relationship.

The charm of the film is enhanced by the consummate acting of these three characters. Greta Lee plays the lead, Nora; Teo Yoo plays Hae Sung, her childhood sweetheart; and John Magaro plays Nora's husband, Arthur. One must also give kudos to the actors who play these characters' childhood selves.

Words are often unnecessary, as feelings are communicated through their eyes, and the camera expresses their connection through hands – not touching, but hinting at the fire radiating between them. When words do come, they deepen these connections with their wit, playfulness, and an absolute truthfulness that feels very real. The viewer loves each of these characters. Despite the complications, hurts, choices and regrets, each holds on to their higher self.

The movie's story begins in Seoul, showing Nora (then named Na Young) and Hae Sung as young pre-teen schoolmates who walk home together, compete academically, speak their minds and share their fears and dreams, and play together with giggling abandon. Na Young tells her mother that someday she is likely to marry Hae Sung, though the relationship is a natural friendship, and not sexualized.

This idyll comes to a close when Na Young's family decides to emigrate to Canada. The expression on the young Hae Sung's face registers the loss he feels when he learns that he is going to lose his best friend – but a friend he knows has her own ambitions and goals: "I am going to win a Nobel! No Korean has ever won a Nobel for literature!" Their connection is clearly deep.

Na Young struggles to find herself in her new country. Song shows us the angst of those ten years in one shot: she leans against the schoolyard wall, divorced from the play of the oth-

er children whose language she barely speaks. Rather than succumbing to this feeling of being an outsider, she determines to find a way to fit into her new culture. Among her family there is a fine scene revealing the first steps of that acculturation as she chooses a new name, Nora, that she can carry into the world without constantly feeling her foreignness.

Twelve years go by, and Nora has become a writer. One evening while playing on her computer, tracking down old friends, she decides to look up Hae Sung, though she struggles at first to remember his name. It turns out that he has been looking for her, unsuccessfully, on Facebook. She excitedly connects with him on Skype – it is now 2010 – and they renew their relationship online; it has the same zing that was theirs as children.

After some time she asks to close off their relationship for a while: there is no way they can actually meet for at least a year and a half, and the relationship is distracting her from her writing. "I sit down to write, and I find myself looking up plane tickets to Seoul," she tells him.

Plus, she has been accepted into a month-long writers' retreat and wants to focus on her work. Again, the kindly Hae Sung, now finishing his studies to become an engineer, regretfully accedes.

At the retreat, Nora meets the man who will become her husband. She shares with him the Korean concept of *in-yun*, the notion that fate or spirit ties people together throughout their various incarnations. She laughingly points out that it is most frequently used as a "come-on." A relationship buds and results in marriage, though we later learn it was also based on factors like her need to get a green card.

The relationship is comfortable. There is a perfect scene of the two of them talking together in bed – as couples do – but without the typical sexual intimacies, just the conversation. For example, when Arthur reveals to Nora that she talks in her sleep in Korean, he says, "It's like there's this whole place inside you where I can't go," and he wonders if his life can ever be big enough for her.

There is a third chapter when, some dozen years later, Hae Sung comes to New York for a week-long visit, though largely just to see his Na Young. Their connection is as true and deep as ever. If and how they act upon this, I will leave it to you to discover. Know only that the love expressed among all involved resonates in a melancholic and deeply touching way.

*Past Lives* may cause you to relook at your own relationships, to consider the forks not taken and the possible trajectories that might have been ... Just go see it! It is on my list of one of the best films ever. I hope that this is the beginning of a fruitful career for Celine Song – I am such a fangirl, and would love to see her tell story after story.

As of press time, *Past Lives* is scheduled to play at Amherst Cinema through at least July 20.



Interview by BYRON COLEY and J. BURKETT

**TURNERS FALLS** – So cool to be talking to Joe Malinowski this week! Joe is famous for being in the band Shrinners, running the great Tulpa label, and running the Willimantic Records store.

Also cool is that the well-known music writer, Byron Coley, was asking some of the questions! Please note, this interview was done more than ten years ago. As far as who the Shrinners are, here is the intro Byron wrote back in the day:

*SHRNNNNNN "... formed in Willimantic, CT at the dag end of 1986. Dawn Cook and Joe Malinowski & others created a politically-canted, theatrically-advanced, noise/folk combo inside a scene that wouldn't assume the New Weird America mantle for almost two more decades... Of course, the craziest thing is that the band is still actually together (as much as they ever were 'together') and they sound as full of mysteriously conceived moves and sounds as ever."*

A longer version of this interview will be available online.

**BC:** So, the *Bimbo Shrineheads* more or less mutated out of *Eclectic Bitch*?

**JM:** Yeah. Well, at that time *Eclectic Bitch* was a name that Dawn liked for herself. I just wanted to call the band the Dawn Cook Band or Dawn Cook, but she said if we were going to do that, her pseudonym would have to be *Eclectic Bitch*.

**BC:** Did you jam much at live shows?

**JM:** We mostly played songs. There was a lot of visual stuff. Dawn had put together a slide show. Dawn and I jammed when on our own, recording the type of stuff that appeared on the *Liminal Switch* LPs,

**BC:** What was Dawn's stage presence like then, and what was her most outrageous costuming?

**JM:** She brought some of her artwork with her, like a car windshield she had smashed up and painted. She was into rummaging through junked-out autos for raw art material.

In retrospect, I guess we were an "on-stage car wreck of a band." Dawn would wear a lot of makeup applied asymmetrically, the left side of her skull was shaved and painted in a checkerboard pattern, and she had skirts made of duct tape and used to add tin foil here and there.

She had a TV set with the picture tube removed. She sometimes wore that on her head on stage. I remember her wearing it at the El'n'Gee Club in New London, near the submarine base, while she played Tuli Kupferberg's "Go Fuck Yourself With Your Atom Bomb" on accordion.

During our first few years of playing out, Dawn also used to bring onstage life sized standup figures of Caspar Weinberger, Oliver North, and other Iran-Contra characters prettied up in frilly pink ballet tutus.

**BC:** When *Willimantic* was a hotspot still. Before *Ziesing* moved, it was a weirdly happening nexus. I was never there when the anarchist *Ziesing* brother was still around...

**JM:** Yeah, I helped Mark Ziesing move his bookstore, hauling boxes of books down flights of stairs to the 18-wheeler. A sad day for *Willimantic*. He used to have punk bands there on occasion during the early- to mid-1980s. He sold records along with 'zines and anarchist books.

**BC:** How did Dawn decide she wanted to go freak?

**JM:** We were listening to early Sonic Youth and The Ex. I remember Patty Waters made a big impact on her. She also liked Frank Lowe's *Black Beings* album.

We met at a college radio station in 1985, about a year before we first started playing music together. Dawn hosted a show that concentrated on articles she would share from underground newspapers and 'zines, along with interviews with fellow activists. She would mix in anti-authoritarian songs here and there. Whatever she could find, from Victor Jara to Gil Scott-Heron.

**BC:** You later got to play some shows with *The Ex*. How were they to deal with in those days?

**JM:** They were great. They stayed with us for a few days on their first US tour in 1989. We opened for them in Storrs. They'd bought a beat-up old station wagon for their tour. It kept breaking down. So they were stuck with us.

**BC:** Did you play out of town much?

**JM:** We played New York and DC for Riot Grrrl shows. We played Providence a lot, Albany once, Northampton, and another show in NYC at ABC No Rio.

And we did tour across the States a couple of times, we played Minneapolis and Buffalo. We opened

for the *Orthotonics* in Richmond, Virginia after a show in Chicago. We stayed with Michael Hurley for a couple of days once.

**BC:** Where did the *Bimbo Shrineheads* name come from?

**JM:** It was something our late friend Rob McDonald blurted out while we were watching the TV news. Around that time George H.W. Bush picked Dan Quayle as his running mate, and Rob said, "he's a bimbo shrinehead, just like *Vanna White*." I just really didn't like the name *Eclectic Bitch*, so we compromised, and settled on the *Bimbo Shrineheads*.

**BC:** How many releases did you end doing on *Tulpa*? Must have been about 15!

**JM:** Yeah. The Flaherty/Colbourne stuff was about the end of it. There was a *Footprints 4* compilation that never came out that had *Sun City Girls...* and a live *Shrin 7"* in 1997, with artwork stolen from an Alan Lomax Columbia World Music LP.

I used the moniker "Withdrawn" a few years later when I put out Randy Colbourne's *Clarinet Works* recording.

**JB:** The records you did with *Flaherty/Colbourne* put them on the map in a whole new way. For a lot of people that was some of the first free jazz they'd ever heard...

**JM:** Aside from the *Tulpa* comp, I booked Paul and Randy at the Populous Pudding whenever we could. The Pudding was an arts and music collective located in an old fur locker, basically a loud cement box with a large bank vault-type door. It was a dangerous violation of fire codes, and the perfect setting for Flaherty/Colbourne. They were stunning. Every gig transcendent. Unbelievable.

**BC:** What happened to the proposed *Twisted Village* LP?

**JM:** It was mostly live-to-cassette recordings from various basements. I was never sure if Wayne and Kate from *Twisted Village* were just being nice because we were friends, or what. After a while it just fell by the wayside.

**BC:** Some of that's what got recycled on *Liminal Switch*? Are you on any *Twisted Village* releases?

**JM:** Yeah, I'm on some of the *Vermonster* LPs. I don't think I'm on the *B.O.R.B.* CD, but the band did use my *Radio Shack Moog*. Josh and I did play with the *Crystallized Movements* at some of their last gigs, at CBGB and in Providence.

**BC:** That must have been when they were more together. Their early shows featured a lot of tuning.

**JM:** *Bimbo Shrineheads* did a lot of that, too. We got tired of it and started doing entire sets with no breaks at all. Saving up to buy Dawn guitars that would hold a tuning was the key.

**BC:** What was the horrible show in Worcester I've heard you refer to?

**JM:** That was with Eugene Chadbourne, at the Worcester Artists Group. Chadbourne was great. Dawn worked very hard on set design and stagecraft for that gig. She suffered technical problems throughout. It stifled the music.

After that show, we cut way back see **MUZIK** next page

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



**HEARTFELT** from page B1 promoted it to treat many ailments. Olympic athletes in ancient Greece ate garlic as a performance-enhancing agent, and in early India it was believed to be a stimulant and an aphrodisiac. Today we know garlic supports our cardiovascular system, and it has antiviral, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory properties.

Garlic has two subspecies, hardneck and softneck. The “neck” refers to the stalk. On hardneck garlic the stalk grows from the center of the bulb and turns hard or rigid at maturity, while softneck garlic

has soft, flexible leaves instead of a central stalk. The softneck variety has been bred for commercial production and has a longer shelf life, but hardneck garlic has larger cloves, better tolerance to cold, and better flavor.

When buying garlic in the store you can tell if it’s from China because the roots will have been scooped out, making the bottom concave. This lowers its weight and shipping costs, and removes contaminants. Locally grown garlic, for the most part, does not have the roots removed, and young

green garlic generally still has the stalks attached, so it’s easy to tell the difference.

In food, garlic is used for the most part as a flavoring agent, though there are those who consume raw or cooked garlic by itself. Some believe raw garlic has healthful properties and may add a clove or two to a fruit smoothie, take garlic capsules, or just chew or swallow the cloves. I’ve read about garlic being applied to the skin to combat acne, but it seems like the potential for rashes or other adverse reactions might not be worth the risk.

Garlic is used in salad dressings, marinades, sauces, stews, soups, and on meat, fish, and vegetables. It’s generally one of the first ingredients, along with onions, in any savory meal. Allowing chopped garlic to soften and mellow in hot oil adds a depth of flavor to food as it caramelizes and sweetens.

Garlic can also be pickled or fermented and added to dishes while cooking or as a garnish when served. It is available minced or chopped in jars, dried into flakes, slices, and in powder form. Whatever form you use, consider that fresh will always give you the best flavor, but in a pinch, dried will do.

Here’s a tip from wifey: as garlic ages, a small green shoot often forms in the middle of the clove. Before using fresh garlic, slice each clove in half lengthwise and pluck out the core, as this helps to decrease bitterness, and improves the flavor.

One of my favorite memories as a child was visiting my mom’s mom and taking a taxi with her to a nearby Sizzler to drink tea and eat their delicious garlic toast. There

## EASY GARLIC SCAPE PESTO

garlic scapes, about 1 dozen  
 1/3 cup pine nuts (substitute pumpkin seeds, walnuts, or sunflower seeds)  
 1/3 cup Parmesan and/or Asiago cheese  
 juice of 1/2 lemon  
 lemon zest, if desired  
 1/8 tsp. salt  
 a grind of black pepper  
 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

chop the scapes. Dice, grate, or shred the cheese.

In a blender or food processor add chopped garlic scapes, nuts, cheese, salt, pepper, and lemon juice. Whizz until broken down some, then drizzle in olive oil while it’s running. Adjust the salt for taste, and enjoy.

You can freeze pesto in freezer bags, containers, or ice cube trays. Try adding basil or parsley to the mix to tone down the spicy garlic taste.

Cut off and discard the woody ends of the garlic scapes, and



MANDESON PHOTOS

A beautifully fresh, green, spicy, garlic scape pesto.



The makings for garlic scape pesto, a quick, easy recipe for a rich, delicious spread or topping.

was something about riding in a taxi that made it all seem somewhat glamorous. In Los Angeles everyone has their own car, no one takes taxis, but my granny did, and spending time with her was definitely an adventure.

*Trouble lives in Greenfield with her wifey 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.*



**MUZIK** from previous page

on props and slide shows. That freed us to just go up and play, with room for improvisation when we felt like it. Dawn still did things like occasionally shave off chunks of her hair on stage, but we left the slide shows and most of the props at home.

**BC:** What happened to the scene in Willimantic? Everyone just move away?

**JM:** Pretty much, but not entirely. Today there are still dedicated people putting on art and music shows.

After the Populous Pudding closed, Charlie Krich started doing shows in his basement. Then kids opened the Willimantic Arts Collective.

They had better luck with the landlord and police in Studio 158. That was a great place for shows.

Charlie is an extremely generous and humble guy, and he had Green Day at the Norwich VFW. We played there with Spitboy. We opened an Econochrist show Charlie helped a kid put together in a condominium complex in Manchester.

At Studio 158 we played with Bikini Kill, Universal Order of Armageddon, Avail, Devoid of Faith, and a bunch of other touring bands, as well as local friends like Mi6.

**BC:** How did it go over when you played with punk bands?

**JM:** Usually confusion.

**JB:** But I’ve also heard over the years that there were people who really got changed by seeing you.

**JM:** I know. Dawn is always surprised when women tell her things, like how they were affect-

ed by seeing her chop up her hair, or when people speak about certain songs and shows from years ago.

**JB:** On one of the songs live she’d just scream for like ten minutes.

**JM:** It was her anti-child abuse song, “Mother Goose and Mr. Hyde.” Even severe hardcore bands were not that severe. We did it one time on WRIU radio, and it was psychodrama. I thought the live radio recording was one of the most accurate documents of what we were doing.

**BC:** And then you left Willimantic, rendering your best-known song <sup>1</sup> more or less untrue.

**JM:** We’ll see. <sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> “(I Will Die In) Willimantic,” 1988

<sup>2</sup> Joe recently moved back!

**WEST ALONG** from page B1

the Akwasne Mohawk community will be ready to speak and teach, for hours if the spirit is right. Evan Pritchard of the M’ikm’aw will tell stories of place and remembrance, shamanism and history, humor and music. Elder Ron Welburn will share wisdom and poetry, and the Black Hawk Drum of the Nulhegan Abenaki will send out the heartbeat of the Earth far into the streets of the village.

Annawon Weeden, culture bearer of the Mashpee Wampanoag, will lead the dance, and we’ll be dancing at Peskeompskut again.

However, the night before the festival begins, and after the paddle on the long river, the salmon – having waited until now in Long Island Sound – will remember the times of the Little Ice Age, when salmon were the kings of the river, and swam its whole length.

He and his community will be waiting for the first drop of free-flowing water to reach them from the headwaters. Then they will begin swimming up the estuary where Nehantics and Quinipiac dwell, past the Tunxis, past the homelands of the Agawam and Nonotuck, past the Pocumtuck homelands. By the August Full Sturgeon Moon, they will arrive at Rock Dam.

The salmon and kinfolk will arrow through the swarms of young sturgeon milling there. They will arrive at the now roaring falls, and leap above the torrent of waters at Peskeompskut.

This prophecy tells us that the salmon will find the shallow pools of the secret Heal-All Brook, leap

into the night air, and throw a lighting bolt at the brush near our feet where we wait. That bolt will start the fire that will lead all the lost Indians home to Peskeompskut. We will see again Canonchet, Mishalisk, Weetamoo, Matoonas, Mettawampe, Wecopeak, and all the others Whose Names Cannot Be Known.

That salmon will have three stories to tell before dawn. One story will teach us how to pray and forgive; another story will make us laugh for hours; the third story will give us reason to dance. And as we dance, *toe-heel*, our footsteps on Mother Earth will welcome all the ancestors into the circle, and they will be dancing with us.

Annawon will help us provide a place for them. They will come in the Eastern Door. They will join us along with the bear spirit, the wolf spirit, and Eagle.

*We are told by many that we must forgive Turner and Holyoke for 1676, and maybe we will, or maybe we won’t.*

It will take time to heal this place. But for now, we will dance with the Pocumtuck, Nipmuck, Narragansett, Abenaki, and Wampanoag when we are dancing at Peskeompskut this August.

*David Brule is chairman of the Nehantic Tribal Council, and president of the board of the Nolumbeka Project. Portions of this column were inspired by and adapted from The Powwow at the End of the World, a poem by Sherman Alexie, Salish Indian.*



**Montague Community Television News**

# Music Walk Video Now Up!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Take the Antenna Cloud Farm music walk with us, and tune in to MCTV’s coverage of last month’s Girls’ Division 5 Softball championship game.

And if you really want to know what’s going on in town, you can view our comprehensive collection of town meeting videos. New this week we have the Gill selectboard meeting from July 3, the Montague finance committee meeting from July 5, the Montague board of assessors and selectboard meetings from July 10, and the GMRSD school committee meeting from July 11.

There’s always something new to watch on MCTV, and we are always up to something. We’re

currently looking for businesses to participate in our *Local Business Spotlight*. If you are interested in having your business featured, please reach out to [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), and be sure to check our website and Vimeo page for all our newest videos.

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. Stop by the station, 34 Second Street in Turners Falls, sometime between Monday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., email us, or give us a call at (413) 863-9200.

If there is something going on you think others would like to see, get in touch – we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

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





## MEDICINE

# Heat-Related Illness

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

**TURNERS FALLS** – Basking in the summer sun on a beach, enjoying that warm glow as the memory of winter recedes ever further into the back of our minds – that’s a nice image, isn’t it?

But too much of anything can be a problem, and the heat of summer is no exception. Here are a few common medical conditions to be aware of, and to prevent, as we enjoy this summer weather.

**Sunburn:** We all know the feeling – red, painful skin that blisters for a few days after we are out in intense sunshine for too long. But sunburns can also happen on cloudy days, or from tanning bed exposure. Any opportunity for ultraviolet (UV) light to damage our skin can cause a sunburn.

Frequent, severe sunburns significantly increase risk for melanoma skin cancer. Not only that, but lots of sun exposure ages the skin dramatically, causing brown spots and wrinkles that my patients strongly dislike – particularly when I tell them the damage was done years ago and there’s little we can do about it now.

The best way to prevent a sunburn, or that sun-damaged skin in our later years, is to stay out of the sun in the middle of the day – from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., if possible. Sun exposure is more intense the closer you get to the equator as well, and people with fair skin and hair are more prone to sun-related skin damage.

If you do have to be outdoors during peak sun exposure, or still choose to be, then stay in a shady spot, wear protective clothing – sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt, long pants – and apply sunscreen, at least SPF 30, to all exposed body parts. Remember to reapply sunscreen every two to three hours, or after you sweat heavily or return from a swim.

If you do end up with a sunburn, then ibuprofen, cold compresses, sunburn lotion (usually calamine, lidocaine, or aloe-based), and avoiding further sun exposure will usually minimize the suffering while your skin heals.

**Heat exhaustion/heat stroke:** These two conditions are related, but not exactly the same.

Heat exhaustion can occur when your body loses too much water and salt from sweating with heavy physical exertion in a hot environment. Sweat is your body’s natural tool for cooling you down. If you exercise too much, or work strenuously in hot weather or a heated room, your body may struggle to produce enough sweat to keep you cool.

Usual symptoms of heat exhaustion include muscle cramps, headaches, dizziness, nausea,

thirst, and feeling tired.

Heat stroke is more severe, and occurs when your body becomes unable to control its internal temperature. Heat stroke can be the next phase if a person with heat exhaustion does not seek cool, rest, and hydration, but it can also happen to people who are not exercising at all.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can be fatal if not treated quickly, with mortality rates ranging from 20% to 60% for patients who present to the hospital with heat stroke. Older people, children under the age of 4, and people who have obesity or heart disease or take diuretic or beta-blocker medications are all at higher risk of heat stroke, and need to be extra careful in hot conditions.

Heat stroke symptoms can include very elevated body temperature (104°F or higher), rapid breathing and heartbeat, skin redness and warmth, lack of sweating even though you feel hot, vomiting, diarrhea, severe and painful muscle cramps, difficulty walking, severe headaches, confusion, hallucinations, passing out, or even seizures.

The key treatment, for heat exhaustion or heat stroke, is to cool your body down as soon as possible. Stop any exercise immediately, get out of the sun and into the shade – or, ideally, into an air-conditioned building or car – have a fan blowing on you, pour cold water on yourself, get into an ice bath, or use ice packs or a special cooling blanket.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency and requires ER evaluation, including lab testing and vital sign and symptom monitoring. But far better than needing emergency medical care in the heat of summer is to prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke to begin with. When it is hot out – and especially if it’s also humid – minimize physical activity, and take breaks if you do exercise. Avoid staying in a hot car, and never leave children or pets in one either.

Drink plenty of fluid throughout the day, particularly water or sports drinks. Your body needs more water than usual when working in a hot environment, because you’ll lose more fluid through sweating. Limit your intake of alcohol and caffeine if your situation puts you at risk of heat stroke. Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothes, and remove any extra layers of clothing you are wearing, as much as is feasible.

With treatment, recovery from heat exhaustion is usually rapid. Early intervention can also stop it from progressing to heat stroke, which requires emergency medical care. With a bit of prevention and planning, we can all safely enjoy the summer sun and hot weather!

## FRONTIERS

# Time to Look Up (Part II)

By SPENCER SHORKEY

**MILLERS FALLS** – Over a two-week period in late June and early July 1947, there were nearly a thousand documented flying saucer-type unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings across the US. On July 8, the Roswell Army Air Field issued a statement indicating the recovery of one such “flying disc,” a statement which was quickly retracted by the Army and replaced with an alternative explanation: it was really a balloon which was recovered.

Thereafter, the military has routinely dealt with UFO sightings by explaining them to be balloons, or the planet Venus, or by discrediting and intimidating witnesses. Donald Keyhoe’s 1950 book *The Flying Saucers Are Real* is a good place to start for an extensive discussion of those early post-World War II UFO events.

Though the US government has obfuscated its interest in UFOs in the many decades since, it has actually been intensively studying these objects in secretive, highly compartmentalized, “special-access programs” (SAPs). These programs became so secretive that even presidents and Congressional representatives and senators have been denied access, raising questions of conflict in terms of the rule of law.

Congress has been fighting to gain access to these SAPs for years, and from 2007 to 2017 funded an investigation called the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP). Luis Elizondo, appointed as director of AATIP in 2008, resigned in 2017 in protest of what he called “excessive secrecy and internal opposition.”

After resigning, Elizondo distributed several UFO videos taken by military personnel, one frame of which is shown below. Congress did not gain any new oversight of the alleged SAPs following these events, and Elizondo faced significant retaliation and attempts to discredit him.

During this period, UFOs were rebranded as UAP, or “unidentified aerial (or anomalous) phenomena.” AATIP also underwent a couple name changes, first to the UAP Task Force (UAPTF) in 2017, and then in 2020 to the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO).

This brings us to David Grusch, who went public as a whistleblower this June. Grusch worked with the UAPTF/AARO from 2019 to 2022, initially serving as the representative from the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and later from the National Geospatial-Intel-



A photograph of a “saucer-type” UFO, taken on July 31, 1952 in Passaic, New Jersey.



A frame from the so-called “Gimbal” video, filmed in 2015 near the Florida coast by fighter pilots of the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group.

ligence Agency (NGA), both agencies at the Department of Defense. In his roles at these agencies, Grusch gathered firsthand witness accounts from SAP insiders.

In April 2023, Grusch resigned from his role co-leading the NGA’s UAP portfolio. Frustrated with AARO’s inability to fulfill its Congressional mandate to gain direct access to SAPs, Grusch has come forward to Congress and the public with his accounts.

In a recent interview conducted by Ross Coulthart for *NewsNation*, Grusch had some interesting things to say. He alleges that SAPs have been “... retrieving non-human-origin technical vehicles – call it spacecraft, if you will – non-human, exotic origin vehicles that have either landed or crashed.”

“The data points quite empirically that we’re not alone,” Grusch went on to state. “Well, naturally, when you recover something that’s either landed or crashed... sometimes you encounter dead pilots, and believe it or not, as fantastical as that sounds, it’s true.”

Kirsten Gillibrand and Marco Rubio of the Senate Intelligence Committee have been leading the charge to hold public hearings with whistleblowers. Rubio also recently talked on *NewsNation* on the topic, confirming that multiple whistleblowers with high-level security clearances and firsthand knowledge have come forward and testified to Congress in closed-door meetings.

Asked how he perceived their credibility, Rubio stated that most of the whistleblowers held very high clearances in high positions within the US government. “What incentive would so many people with that kind of qualification – these are serious people – have, to come forward and make something up?” he asked rhetorically.

In the House, representatives Tim Burchett and Anna Paulina Luna have been tasked with leading hearings on the topic, expected later this month, on behalf of the House Oversight Committee.

“We’ve been dealing with this since at least 1947,” said Burchett on the *Event Horizon* podcast. “We couldn’t fight them off if we wanted to. That’s why I don’t think they’re a threat to us, or they would already have been.”

Burchett emphasized the non-partisan backing of the whistleblower investigation. “We’re going to have equal number of Democrats as we do Republicans,” he said. “I don’t really care. This is not a partisan issue, and I’m not going to allow it to be partisan if I am in fact heading it up.”

Though dates have not been set for whistleblower hearings in Congress, they are expected by the end of the month, with one aide indicating sometime between July 20 and 31. “... (S)ee you in DC at the end of the month,” Elizondo himself Tweeted last Friday.

For further information on what we might expect to see in the coming hearings, check out Episode 25 of the *Weaponized* podcast ([youtu.be/63PHhwglBdo](https://youtu.be/63PHhwglBdo)) featuring two UFO journalists, Jeremy Corbell and George Knapp, as well as Burchett.

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

**Gerijohnson Realty**  
Gill, MA • 413-863-9736  
Gerijohnson@GJAR.com

Gerijohnson & Associates  
REALTY

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

**TURN IT UP!**

**MUSIC & MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
SCSC “Rock solid service with level advice”

**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](http://www.shanahansupply.com)





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



looking forward...

The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Orlen, Gabriel & Avery, Joe Graveline & Nina Gross, The Klins*. Free. 6 p.m.

Steakback Outhouse, Brattleboro: *Lily Konisberg, Greta Keating, Ruth Garbus, beets-blog*. \$ 6 p.m.

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

**FRIDAY, JULY 14**

Steakback Outhouse, Brattleboro: *Lina Tullgren, The Lentils, Michael Jumpshot Touchdown Pass, Wyke, Tall Travis*. \$ 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Chuck & Biscuits*. Free. 7 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Maeve Gilchrist, Kyle Sanna*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Reid Genauer and Assembly of Dust*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Blues Dream Box, Bridge of Flowers, Owen Manure, Push Back*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Lupo Citta, Slant of Light, Bruise Bath, Thee Holy Oaken String Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 15**

Greenfield Public Library: *Big Destiny*. Free. 12 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Peaceful Means*. \$ 4 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Lina Tullgren, The Lentils, Stoner Will & the Narks, Magick Lantern*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pete Bernhard, Eli Elkus, The Green Sisters*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Wolfman Jack*. \$ 8 p.m.

Ashfield Lakehouse, Ashfield: *Home Body, karaoke*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 16**

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem, Louie Phipps*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Dead Gowns, Hoonah, Hedgewitch*. \$ 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, JULY 17**

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Eric Arn, Glenn Jones, Zoots Houston*. \$ 4:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Advance Base, Young Moon, Bob-*

*bie*. \$ 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 20**

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Eric Arn, J. Burkett, Tristan Alexander w/Everdeen*. Free. 5 p.m.

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *The Bitter Duo*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Beetle 7*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke & Larry LeBlanc, Jim Eagan, the frost heaves and haes*. Free. 6 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Swirlies, Frankie Rose*. \$ 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 21**

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *RJ McCarty*. Free. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bent, Somewhere to Call Home, Dishpit, Power Trousers, Grammerhorn Wren*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Greys, Mavrodaphne*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dustbowl Revival*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Joe Baiza/Matt Crane/Damon Smith Trio*. \$ 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 23**

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *PWRUP, Runaway Ricochet, Cheap City, Green Street Fiends*. \$ 2 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Sam Amidon*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Prune, Shady Bug, Goldsetter, Sleep Destroyer*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Slow Pony, Big Destiny, Natty & The Woes, Dusk On The Land*. \$ 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 25**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Lentz/Hebert Trio*. Free. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 27**

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Arkm Foam, Federico Balducci, Zach Rowden*. Free. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *133 Skeele, Jennie McAvoy, Brookside Project*. Free. 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 29**

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

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3**

Brewster Court, Northampton: *Sandy Bailey*. Free. 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Julia Jacklin, Kara Jackson*. \$ 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *I Anbassa Duo*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

Palladium, Worcester: *Godspeed You! Black Emperor*. \$ 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20**

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Kurt Vile, Joanna Sternberg*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Henry Rollins*. \$ 8 p.m.

**FRI-SUN, SEPT. 22-24**

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *FreshGrass feat. Dropkick Murphys (acoustic), Sierra Ferrell, Rhiannon Giddens, Bombino*, many more. \$ See [www.massmooca.org](http://www.massmooca.org) for info.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION

Jan Atamian

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

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**  
**PMOLTOMOMEE GOUS DAYTIME**  
**TO DAM NJYH. UTHM ZMUMYS.**  
**- JUNGLE ALBUMS**

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



**READING** from page B1

because of his formidable language aptitude. Now he is winkled out of retirement to discover which of three women, all living in the same Spanish town, is the terrorist responsible for a horrendous killing in a separatist cause. None seems a likely terrorist, but whoever it is must be stopped from striking again.

The quest to identify her is intriguing, but what really keeps the reader reading through 634 pages is the style. Mariás was recognized as Spain's greatest living novelist when he died from COVID in 2022. His sentences roam: inspecting possibilities, noting analogies, suggesting reservations, even making jokes. The assembled clauses build entrancing structures that draw the reader into Tomás's preoccupations. These only partly focus on sorting out the terrorist; more poignantly, they survey a life that swerved from where his heart perhaps truly lay. This novel is not a quick read, which is marvelous for those who love to be immersed in fiction.

If 600-plus pages of one book is more than what you can commit to, Katherine Heiny's *Games and Rituals* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023) is a sparkling collection of eleven stories that will keep you happily entertained. Her tales are about people – usually women – pursuing love, despite or because of their checkered pasts. There's lots to like and think about here, and plenty to provoke wry smiles – sometimes even belly laughs.

Another batch of short stories comes from Jai Chakrabarti: *A Small Sacrifice for an Enormous Happiness* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023). These enticingly titled stories center on families and children, especially those that have roots in two countries.

Problems lurk. One marriage "stands on arthritic knees." Another is exposed when the babysitter tells the husband that he "should worry about [this] woman that doesn't love you." In another, an entitled son realizes that his return to India is his chance to "transform himself into someone he could love." These insights always feel earned because they shine from the pictures of sharply detailed lives.

If fiction is not your thing, whether short or long, yet you'd like something engrossing for vacation days, then Michael Finkel's *The Art Thief* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023), a true story told by a talented teller, is for you.

Finkel follows Stéphane Breit-

hauser, a 26-year old from northern France who in 1997 began arriving as an ordinary visitor to museums where, armed with no more than a Swiss Army knife, he stole paintings, old weapons, silver, and antique musical instruments. Eventually he had over 200 items, worth many millions, crowded into his attic room.

What was his motive? Since he never sold his loot, how could he ever be caught? And if he is caught, will these precious objects be recovered intact? The author alternates chapters raising such questions with those describing Breithauser's thefts in a tale as absorbing as any detective novel, and more illuminating in its analysis of motive.

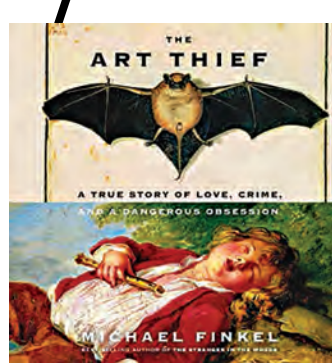
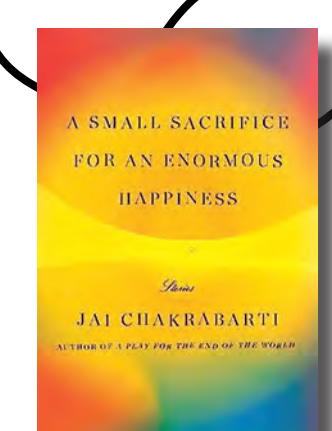
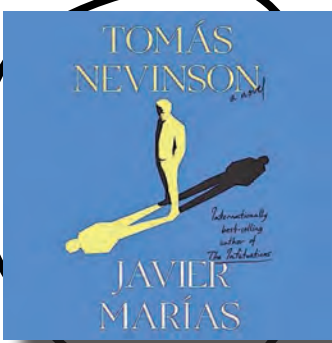
Equally fascinating is Alex Prud'homme's *Dinner with the President* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023). An epigraph from Anthony Bourdain asserts "Nothing is more political than food. Nothing."

Prud'homme's chapters explore the truth of this. As he writes, "A meal at the White House is never simply a meal: it is a forum for politics and entertainment on the highest level." It follows that this book is not simply a book about food; it is a history of how presidents have used dinner invitations to oil the wheels of politics, and thus to shape events.

Some presidents have been seriously interested in food – none more so than Thomas Jefferson, who is described orchestrating a dinner for George Washington in which his goal was to bring the rivals Alexander Hamilton and James Madison into an accord. Other presidents in this fascinating volume include Barack Obama, hailed as the first "foodie" president because he had the educated, eclectic tastes of someone raised in a multicultural settings; the Johnsons, who disliked the food of the French chef held over from the Kennedy era and quickly replaced him with Zephyr Wright, the cook from their Texas home; and the Reagans, "who hosted more official dinners than any other First Couple."

Perhaps the most publicized is the one thrown for the then-Prince Charles and his fiancée, Lady Diana Spencer. John Travolta was invited to partner Diana in after-dinner dancing. The pictures flew around the world, and the Reagans' *savoir faire* was established.

Prud'homme has chapters on 26 presidents, including Trump, who spurred formal dinners in favor of chaotic offerings of McDonald's and Wendy's fare – behavior here interpreted as mirroring his failure to fo-



**OUT OF THE PARK**  
**JULY 2023**

By JON DOBOSZ

**UNITY PARK** – Happy July, everyone! We should all be in total summer mode at this point, and we hope you had an enjoyable and safe Independence Day holiday. Summer Camp kicked off last week, and we are certainly in high gear.

We just had a showing of our first **Movies in The Park** last week, due to an earlier rain-out. Be sure to attend our next one, planned for July 21: the highly acclaimed animated film *Song of the Sea*. We will also be showing the classic movie *The Princess Bride* on Friday, August 18.

The movies are being held at Peskeompskut Park in downtown Turners Falls, and they start at about 7:30 p.m. This series is in partnership with RiverCulture and the Turners Falls High School Music Boosters. RiverCulture is working on some musical acts before the movies, so be sure to keep an ear out for further details, and don't forget to bring a blanket or lawn chairs!

Let's not forget about our **Night Skates** either. We already had one, during the Unity Fest, but mark your calendars for Saturday, July 29 during the Franklin County Boat Club's Christmas in July event. And then there's one scheduled for Friday, September 8.

We're also still taking registrations for our annual **Montague Soap Box Races** event, scheduled for Sunday, September 17. Now



is the time to start building your carts. We have youth, teen, and adult racing categories, so this event is for pretty much everyone! To register, log on to [www.montaguesoapboxraces.com](http://www.montaguesoapboxraces.com).

We also have registration coming up for our **Youth Soccer Program**, which will be held in the fall. Registration will begin August 1 for all levels, which include Start Smart Soccer for kindergarteners and first graders, Junior Travel Soccer for second and third graders, and Senior Travel for kids in grades 4 through 6. The program is held from September through late October or early November.

That is about it for now. Be sure to visit us online at [www.montagueparkrec.com](http://www.montagueparkrec.com), and check our Facebook page for updates. If you have immediate questions, feel free to call us at (413) 863-3216. Stay cool!

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

cus on the presidency and the country rather than his own whims. Each chapter can be read separately, so this book is perfect for picking up from time to time during the summer. The pictures are a bonus, among them George Washington's false teeth, the White House gingerbread house for 2001, and Rutherford B. Hayes's gorgeous oyster plate.

One final book, not newly published but fascinating reading for anyone living in Franklin County, is *Landscape and Material Life in Franklin County, 1770-1860* by J. Ritchie Garrison (The University of Tennessee Press, 2003).

Garrison's history draws on

multiple disciplines to characterize Franklin County towns, especially Deerfield, Sunderland, Greenfield, Montague, and Turners Falls. It details their founding, the products of their agriculture and industries, and explores the dynamics of both change and stability, especially focusing on how human activity created our landscape.

The book is available on Amazon and some booksellers' websites, where it's often expensive. The good news is that you can read it for free, because it's held in many local libraries, including the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.



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

**Reid's Window Washing**  
Brayden Reid (603) 254-1037  
braydenreid05@gmail.com

**DIEMAND FARM** WENDELL, MA  
**WE CATER** your special events  
GRADUATIONS BIRTHDAYS MEETINGS WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARIES FUNERALS  
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM (978) 544-3806

**THE VOO**  
1. come in  
2. put feet up  
3. have drink  
4. eat grub  
NEW FOOD!  
78 3rd St TFMA  
HOURS/SPECIALS ORDER ONLINE: [thevoo.net](http://thevoo.net)

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!

**Start the Future Today!**  
• Wealth Management  
• Trust Services  
• Estate Settlement  
**GSB Wealth Management & Trust Services**  
(413) 775-8335 • [greenfieldsavings.com](http://greenfieldsavings.com)

Dennis L. Booska Phone & Fax  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. 413-863-3690  
**Booska's Flooring**  
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
Member The Flooring Network.  
**Tile Lino Carpet**

**Reil CLEANING SERVICES LLC** Improve Air Quality & 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](http://www.REILCLEAN.com)