

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 35

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 10, 2023

Portraits That Break Through the Silence



Nayana LaFond at the Great Falls Discovery Center, with paintings from her series depicting missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, their families, and activists working to raise awareness of the crisis.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Nayana LaFond says she “fell backwards” into creating *Portraits in Red*, her project of paintings of missing or murdered Indigenous women, now on display at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

A lifelong artist, LaFond is also an enrolled citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario and also has Anishinaabe, Mi’kmaq, and other Indigenous ancestry. During the COVID shutdown, she was participating in an online social distancing powwow on May 5, the Day of Remembrance for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW), and was inspired to paint the portrait of a woman from Saskatchewan who posted a selfie to the group.

Cases of disappearing Native women are rarely investigated, even though murder is the third-most common cause of death in that demographic group. Native people are 11 times more likely to experience violence than any other population group in the US.

Missing Native women and girls are often assumed to be negative stereotypes such as alcoholics, runaways, or prostitutes who are somehow to blame for their own fate, and law enforcement neglects to take these cases seriously. LaFond says she believes that the prosecution rate for these disap-

pearances is only about 2%.

LaFond decided the portrait would be her contribution to raising awareness about the issue. A red hand over the mouth – standing for blood, and for being silenced – has become the symbol of the MMIW awareness movement, and she painted this first portrait in shades of gray except for the mark of a red handprint over the mouth.

Something came together for her while reading the stories people were sharing about these traumatic disappearances. She thought about intergenerational trauma in her own family, and how it was interconnected with these stories.

It was “one of those moments that only happens when you’re alone in your apartment during COVID,” she recalls. “I thought I’d just do this one painting...”

LaFond was surprised by the overwhelming number of positive comments – over 2,000 – that her first portrait garnered when she posted it online. A second portrait received 3,000 likes.

Previously during her quarantine, she had been painting a series of portraits of people wearing face masks, but the huge response to her first red-hand portrait and the connection to her own experience of domestic violence motivated her to change course. She posted that she would like to paint more

see **BREAKS** page A7

Montague Dives Into Wastewater Challenges

By SARAH ROBERTSON

MONTAGUE – Nearly two million gallons of untreated sewage were released into Franklin County’s waterways last month. Public notification of these releases, now required by law, has brought increased attention to wastewater issues, and Montague officials are feeling pressure to address immediate and long-term issues with the town’s sewer system and Clean Water Facility (CWF).

“There’s a list of capital needs at the facility that are going to require us to take some deep dives and long looks,” selectboard chair Richard Kuklewicz said on Monday. “We really need to focus on the facility more.”

The CWF’s permit to discharge treated water into the Connecticut River is scheduled for renewal in September. Citing “increased regulatory pressure” surrounding wastewater treatment and data reporting, town officials and staff met last Wednesday afternoon in the town hall annex for a four-hour “sewer retreat.”

“We should have brought snacks,” town administrator Steve Ellis apologized as the session began.

Montague uses a combined sewer system, which mixes stormwater runoff with sewage. When overburdened by a heavy storm, the system is designed to bypass the CWF and release untreated water directly into the river, an event known as a “combined sewer overflow” (CSO).

Last year Massachusetts passed a law requiring wastewater operators to notify the public within two hours after an untreated sewage release is discovered.

“With aging infrastructure, discharges of untreated and partially treated sewage into the Commonwealth’s waterways continues to be a significant challenge for many of the state’s cities and towns,” then-lieutenant governor Karyn Polito wrote.

see **CHALLENGES** page A8

Second Grow Op Opens, But Pot Sector Softening



REPORTER STAFF PHOTO

Flower Power Growers is now hiring cannabis cultivation and processing workers in the airport industrial park. Some local enterprises are not on track.

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Seth Rutherford, co-owner of 253 Pharmacy, appeared before the Montague selectboard this week to request that the host community agreement, a document specifying the firm’s rights and responsibilities to the town as a requirement of its state license, be changed to include the sale of medical marijuana.

A customer purchasing medical marijuana must obtain a card from the state confirming that they have a condition that makes them

eligible for the purchase of pot at a dispensary on medical grounds. Medical marijuana, importantly, is not subject to sales tax by state or local governments.

253 Pharmacy, a “vertically integrated” company with licenses to cultivate, manufacture, and sell cannabis products, was the first legal pot company in Montague. The business, which opened its doors in 2019 at the airport industrial park, has contributed substantial sums to a town stabilization fund, and has

see **SECTOR** page A2

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett, Fearing More Work, Looks Gift Forest in Mouth

By GEORGE BRACE

At their August 1 meeting, Leverett’s selectboard continued discussing whether or not to accept a gift of land for the purpose of creating a “town forest.” Questions remain about costs to the town and the responsibility of maintaining the property. The board indicated further research was needed, and the final decision may best be made by residents at the annual town meeting next spring.

Former Leverett resident Bruce Spencer has offered to grant the town, as a gift, a 147-acre woodlot he has maintained as a working forest since the 1970s. The lot has provided timber and a space for hunting and recreation. He has said he

would like to pass the land along to Leverett residents out of gratitude for his time living in the town, and his belief in the town forest concept.

Spencer, who attended the meeting, said that he felt there is “no single right way” to maintain a forest, but that the establishment of a town forest “gives the town a voice.” “I really do trust the people of Leverett,” he said.

A town forest, he added, would provide valuable recreation and education functions, and serve as a bridge between older and younger generations in woodlands use and management.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson said he had spoken with several Massachusetts forestry experts

see **LEVERETT** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Flooding Reverberates Still

By JEFF SINGLETON

The heavy summer rains influenced a number of the topics on Monday’s Montague selectboard agenda not related to wastewater or cannabis (see *articles*, Page A1).

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey said the wet weather had caused “settling” at the bottom of an embankment along Millers Falls Road that was stabilized several years ago by the public works department. He said there is currently no major erosion and that the hydropower company FirstLight, which owns the land along the Con-

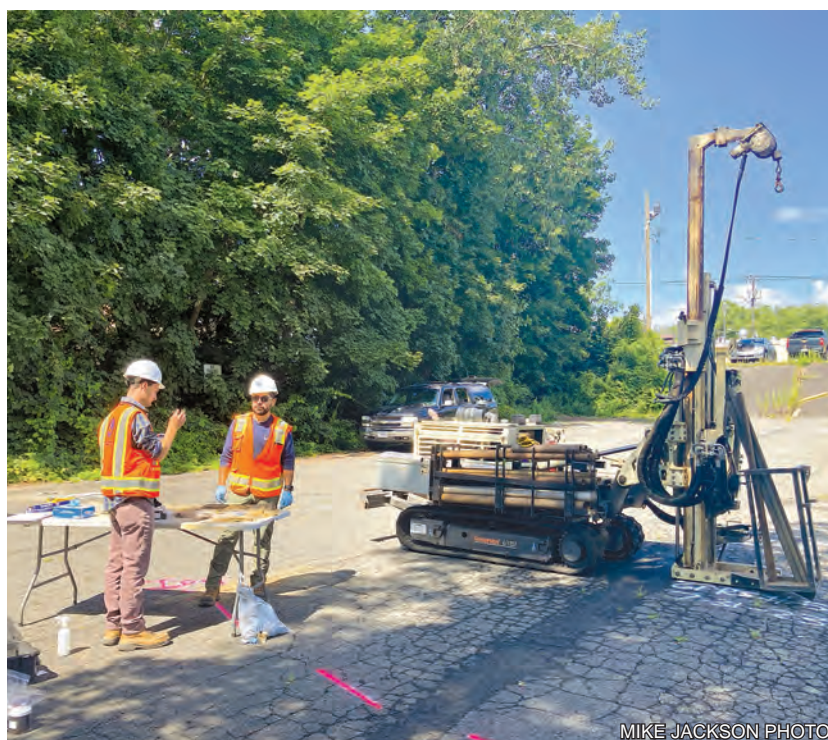
necticut River, is satisfied with the town monitoring the situation.

Ramsey later told the *Reporter* that Montague is seen as responsible for erosion on FirstLight’s land because the water that has been causing it comes down the embankment from town-owned land, and through a long pipe constructed several years ago by the town, which has broken off at the bottom.

Ramsey announced that the Army Corps of Engineers had approved a federal permit to allow the town to proceed with a project to mitigate flooding on Montague City

see **MONTAGUE** page A6

DRILLING FOR HABITAT



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Workers from the US Department of Transportation, contracting with the EPA, gathered samples last week for a Phase II environmental assessment of the First Street lot slated for new Habitat for Humanity housing. A separate drilling crew helped make six borings, each providing two sets of samples, as well as two groundwater monitoring wells. The samples will be sent to a lab for screening, and the crew planned to return in two weeks to check the wells. The workers, who asked not to be named, added that the earth under the lot was “fill, pretty much to the water table,” which they hit six or seven feet down. The Phase I study of the site, they said, had “warranted further investigation, but there was nothing alarming – if we’re going to build housing, we want to know what’s going on.”

SUMMER SCHEDULE
VOL. 21 #36: AUGUST 24
VOL. 21 #37: SEPTEMBER 7
NEWS CAN BE SLOW

Civilization Is 90% Drainage

Local Briefs.....	A3	Corn, Through The Ages.....	B1
Montague Reporter on Boats.....	A4	Max Explores The Western Frontier.....	B1
Op/Ed: Rock Dam Sucks Now Anyway.....	A4	Graphic Novel Collaborations.....	B2
Erving Selectboard Notes.....	A5	Promises of Crumpets Dashed.....	B3
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A5	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	Photo Essay: Care Center In Rubble.....	B6
‘Cause I Built My Life Around Route 2.....	A8	Arts & Entertainment Listing.....	B7
Shaggy Alley.....	B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7



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

A Spirit of Unity

Ninety-nine years ago, on May 24, 1924, the voters of Greenfield and Montague affirmed, by a vote of 1,619 to 343, that they wished to join and form a "transportation area" to socialize the local electric streetcar system, which the private sector was dumping. In Turners Falls, the vote was 546 to 59.

"All citizens who wish to keep the two towns in the ranks of the progressive communities and who desire to maintain real estate valuations at their present figures, will not fail to record themselves as in favor of the project," the *Greenfield Daily Recorder* wrote on the eve of the vote. Passing up the chance would "cut the bond which unites the two communities, thrusting them back to the ante-street car days and in Turners Falls' case will deprive that place of its only outlet for passenger transportation."

Some things have changed since

then, but we can think of other uses for a Greenfield Montague Transportation Area, and we do not follow the assumption that selling GMTA's last piece of property will poof it out of existence – or that four trustees appointed by the towns have any right to destroy it.

MGL Ch. 161 S. 143 holds that once voted into existence, "such a transportation area shall be a body corporate or politic, and may become vested with all the rights and powers and shall be subject to all the duties and obligations hereinafter conferred or imposed."

The state constitution defines a body politic as "a social compact, by which the whole people covenants with each citizen, and each citizen with the whole people, that all shall be governed by certain laws for the common good." It sounds to us like the GMTA will continue to exist until the voters chose to end it.

CORREX!

Our July 27 edition was riddled with errors! Here we are to set them ALL straight:

Intervention by editors added two mistakes to our Leverett selectboard notes which were not the fault of our reporter. Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson recused himself from a deliberation that affected the Friends of Leverett Pond, an organization of which he is these days a mere *member*, rather than a president, no matter what their website might have implied.

More problematically on our part: in same article, we reworded a sentence and inserted the pronoun "his" to refer to the Shutesbury police chief. We have been informed that said chief, Kristin Burgess, uses "she/her" pronouns.

Our apologies; we will look into that came from.

A review of local author Richie Davis's newest book erroneously advertised August 27 as the date he will deliver a reading from the text at the Wendell Free Library. That was wrong: the reading is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22.

A couple errors were tiny, but we would like to acknowledge them anyway. A photograph on Page A6 credited to our reporter Jeff Singleton was actually taken by our reporter Sarah Robertson. *Whoops!*

And the Montague Cryptojam – *gnashes teeth, rends garments* – was defective. Two letters in the cipher were transposed. It was de-

codable enough anyway, thankfully, and we were taken to task by a loyal puzzler.

We make each one of those by hand, by the way: one every week, usually quite late at night. They're artisanal. Just like anything they are subject occasionally to the forces of chaos and disorder. Maybe that one will one day be a collector's edition.

And, finally, one we feel really badly about.

On Page A3 we ran a photograph, submitted to us by a trusted volunteer, of lilies in bloom. The caption somewhat snarkily said that these were "lilies reportedly affiliated with Bob Walker of Montague Center."

This was the bad result of crossed wires and missed messages behind the scenes at the *Reporter*. Our caption compositor had no information other than that to work with, and was a jerk about it.

As it turns out, Walker is a retired microbiologist, and many of the lilies in his garden are hybridizations he himself has created. This crucial contextual information was actually sent to us, but did not reach the right person until the edition was cooling on newsstands. We regret the sass. Hybridizing flowers is cool and should be upheld. Apologies to all involved, and Mr. Walker in particular.

Fortunately, the issue you are currently holding contains zero (0) errors! We hope you enjoy it.



Jackie Snow gets ready to trim the tresses of a client at Kharma Salon, on Avenue A in Turners Falls. She and co-owner Jen Létourneau met 39 years ago at hairdressing school and started Kharma, their joint venture, 13 years ago. Jackie says their philosophy is "putting happiness, calmness, and beauty out into the world every day."

SECTOR from page A1

funded and helped organize local events. As another form of community involvement, Rutherford sits on the airport commission.

The company was soon followed by three other firms that negotiated host agreements with the town – Greenhouse Cannabis Group, which planned to coordinate a pot delivery service from an office in Millers Falls; Flower Power Growers, a second cultivation and manufacturing facility in the airport industrial park; and finally Hydroflower, which hoped to renovate the former Southworth paper mill downtown into another cultivation operation.

In the November 12, 2020 edition of this newspaper we wondered whether Montague, a town whose population was estimated at under 8,400, was becoming "a mecca for the emerging legal pot industry."

Those were different times.

Earlier this week, town administrator Steve Ellis shared the news that Greenhouse, which never launched its delivery business, was abandoning its location on Main Street in Millers Falls. In a letter to the selectboard, CEO and president Joseph Price said the decision to call off the Millers operation was made "with a heavy heart," because he "personally fell in love with the charm, character and community of Montague."

Price requested the town return a "pre-payment" of \$4,315 in fees it had collected from his firm. The board agreed to do so.

Following this news, the *Reporter* reached out to Tom Cusano, the owner of the former Southworth paper mill, and Flower Power Growers co-owner John Stobierski. The Southworth building has appeared very quiet during the two years since Hydroflower inked its host agreement, and although Stobierski's fellow owner Josh Goldman originally suggested the fall of 2021 for the start of "Phase 1" of the Flower Power's operations, the company is not yet listed on the state Cannabis Control Commission website as an actively

operating cannabis firm.

Cusano responded quickly by email. Hydroflower, he explained, was no longer setting up shop in the Southworth building because it had failed to find a reliable financial partner.

"Hydroflower's business plan revolved around a partnership with a hands-on investor group that turned out to be unreliable," he wrote. "After spending much time and effort with this group, that did not turn out well, they decided to stay focused with their existing company in Maine where they are doing a very nice business and have built a great reputation."

Flower Power gave a very different response.

"The cannabis is growing as we speak," Stobierski said, predicting that the first crop will be harvested in September. He clarified that the state did, in fact, authorize the company's license to open in May.

Stobierski was somewhat vague, pointing to "construction issues" rather than permitting delays by local and state boards, when asked about the reasons for the delayed startup. He was extremely positive about the company's interactions with local officials.

He said the company has not had problems hiring staff, although he hopes to hire more local residents; in its initial presentations, the company estimated it would create 60 jobs. Processing Technician and Cultivation Technician positions, both starting at \$18 per hour, are currently posted online.

So now the cannabis mecca of Montague has two cannabis firms, with one planning to pluck its first buds this fall.

These developments coincide with widespread reports of instability in the industry. Over the past few months the press has been filled with doom-and-gloom stories of an oversaturated pot market driving declines in prices and revenues.

"Massachusetts legal marijuana industry faces a reckoning," Northeast Public Radio station WAMC

declared in June, stressing that increased competition and lower prices are "squeez(ing) profits." According to *Fortune* magazine, "Legal marijuana sales are on a bad trip" as far away as Colorado and California, and local television station WWLP is asking: "Has the cannabis industry in Massachusetts seen the end of the Green Rush?"

Montague's cannabis firms appear to be attempting to adapt to these changing conditions. Rutherford justified the move into medical marijuana as an effort to expand the company's market base. Cusano told us that he thought Hydroflower's pivot to focus on its Maine operations was "a wise decision on their part, particularly now that we have seen a dramatic shrinkage of the cannabis market in Mass."

"I have been in talks with other parties, but they are moving slowly to allow time for the market to stabilize," he wrote. "Most potential tenants are talking a smaller scale of operations until they can see profitability.... Everyone is being careful right now."

Flower Power's Stobierski, meanwhile, suggested that the company has tweaked its business plan to appeal to smaller boutique vendors, and access more niche markets. He touted the use of natural light in the new grow facility, and a decision to cultivate strains suitable for "solventless extraction" – processes that produce concentrates for medicinal and recreational consumption without the use of harsh chemicals.

In his letter to the town, Joseph Price did not give a reason for Greenhouse's decision to leave, but suggested his company is hoping to "shift to a business model purely focused on community, entertainment, and ecommerce... an exciting and bold direction for the company and industry as a whole."

And even Steve Ellis got in the discourse, warning on Monday that the town needs to prepare for a more modest flow of revenue into its once-booming "cannabis stabilization fund."

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
features@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
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
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

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): _____



LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

We remind folks again that there will be **no paper next Thursday, August 17.** Our next edition will come out August 24.

Greenfield Savings Bank invites the general public to come into the lobby at their Turners Falls branch to view colorful **linocut and woodcut prints by William H. Hays** during the month of August. Hays – who is, full disclosure, also my partner – moved to Turners Falls in 2021, and several of the prints are inspired by his encounters with the local landscape and architecture.

“They are well worth being checked out,” writes GSB assistant vice president Linda Ackerman. “And enjoy a beverage while in our customer service area!”

The LAVA Center in Greenfield presents the first screening in its **Local Filmmaker Series** today, Thursday August 10, at 6 p.m. Samarah Hasan-Kepes and her family will screen and discuss “The Saga of the Golden Potty” (2023), described as “a scintillating stop-motion *tour de force* from three generations of filmmakers, led by visionary 10-year-old Director, Samarah Hasan-Kepes.”

Artist Tracy Vernon is hosting an **Art and Garden Tour** at her 25 South Ferry Road home in Montague this Saturday, August 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be new art by Vernon, a raffle for charity, a treasure hunt, and refreshments, free to all.

RiverCulture announces that local “fever-pop” duo **Home Body** will present a free show this Saturday, August 12 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls. Joining them will be Lou and Adelle Barlow, with a live recording of their *Raw Impressions*

podcast, and father-daughter punk duo Rocking Puppies.

This outdoor event is free, suitable for all ages, and ADA-accessible. The rain date is Sunday, August 13.

The town of Montague, in partnership with Mass Housing Partnership (MHP) and design consultant firm VHB, is exploring **future development on the Farren Care Center site** in Montague City.

Planning staff and VHB consultants will hold a tabling session from 6 to 8 p.m. this Saturday at Peskeompskut Park – during the Home Body & friends show – to solicit public input about “re-envisioning the Farren property and how it may fit in with the surrounding neighborhood and its connections, be it by car, foot, bicycle, wheelchair, or FRTA bus.” Questions or comments can be emailed to town planner Maureen Pollock at planner@montague-ma.gov.

This Sunday, August 13 at 2 p.m., join Turners Falls **artist Belinda Lyons Zucker** for a “Spirit Doll” workshop at Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls.

Zucker will bring doll bodies for participants to embellish with meaningful personal items – orphaned earrings, words, fabric scraps – as well as beads, embroidery, textiles, and other decorative elements she provides. Tools will be provided. Contact (413) 625-9833 for more information and to register. There is a fee.

Author Chuck Collins and Frida Berrigan will hold a conversation about **the ethics and evolution of environmental activism** through the lens of Collins’ new novel, *Altar to an Erupting Sun*, on Monday, August 14 at 7 p.m. at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro. “From Guilford and Greenfield to

the Book Mill in Montague, from the ‘60s through the present, local readers will find many recognizable elements that resonate,” writes library director Starr LaTronica.

Collins, a Guilford resident, is a campaigner, storyteller, and author. His earlier books include *Born on Third Base*, *The Wealth Hoarders*, *Wealth and Our Commonwealth*, and *Economic Apartheid in America*.

Berrigan is an activist, urban farmer, and columnist who lives in New London, Connecticut, and the author of *It Runs In The Family: On Being Raised By Radicals And Growing Into Rebellious Motherhood*. She is the daughter of Philip Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister and the niece of Father Daniel Berrigan, prominent activists against the war in Vietnam.

Books will be available for sale and signing. For more information, see www.brookslibraryvt.org.

Leverett Library’s free **Music on the Patio** series continues next Tuesday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. with local musicians Orlen, Gabriel, and Avery. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on. If it rains, the concert will be held in the library’s Community Room.

A three-day celebration and gathering will honor **Juanita Nelson’s 100th birthday** at the Woolman Hill Conference Center in Deerfield from August 17 to 20.

This community-building event is described as “a deep dive into everyday nonviolence and the nonviolence of everything,” and will include workshops, trainings, music, food, fun, and theatrical performances of pieces written by Nelson, who died in 2015.

Workshop topics will include economics and justice, the history of nonviolence in the US, simple living, subsistence organic farming, and confronting racism. Register at nelsonhomestead.org.

Have you wanted to learn about the **Renaissance Community**, a commune active in our area from 1968 to 1988? *Free Spirits*, a documentary film about the group by Bruce Geisler, will be screened at 6 p.m. next Friday, August 18 at the Community Bible Church in Northfield.

The commune was founded in Leyden by Michael “Rapunzel” Metelica and existed for a time at 88 Main Street in Northfield, as well as locations in Warwick and Turners Falls.

On Saturday, August 19, at 10 a.m. Northfield Mount Hermon archivist, Peter Weis, presents a coffee-hour talk on the **Northfield Hotel and Chateau**. This grand hotel and an adjacent castle, built by a wealthy New Yorker as his summer home, was a fashionable resort featuring a ski slope, tennis courts, a pool, a skating rink, and golf course. In the early 20th century, it attracted the rich and famous to Northfield. The talk will be held at the Dickinson Memorial Library at 115 Main Street in Northfield.

Also that day, from 1 to 5 p.m., the **Renaissance Community Commune Band** will perform music and stories by “Spirit in the Flesh” band members who still live, work, and play in the Valley.

Musicians including John Sullivan, Joe “Pod,” and Northfield resident Joe Graveline will perform original material from “back in the day” as well as contemporary compositions. Enjoy the music at the Four Star Brewery on Pine Meadow Road in Northfield.

These events are all part of **Northfield’s 350 Anniversary** celebration.

In conjunction with the 42nd Annual Montague Mug Race on Saturday, August 19, there will be a sale of **books, puzzles, and gently-worn clothing** at the Montague Congregational Church on the Montague Center Common from 8 to 11:30 a.m. A winner will be drawn in the ongoing raffle for four Red Sox tickets, and local musicians will play in honor of Dave Kaynor.

The **Annual Harvest Supper** celebration will take place on the Greenfield Common on Saturday, August 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Supper is open to everyone in the community, based on the Stone Soup Café’s pay-what-you-can model.

Stone Soup promises delicious food, music, art, tie-dye, and a “Really Really Free Store.” People are encouraged to bring their own plates, cups, and utensils to cut down on waste. The rain date will be Sunday, August 27 at the same time and location. Volunteers are needed; register at thestonesoupcafe.org.

Make a big difference in someone’s day by delivering a hot noon-time meal and a wellness check in your own community! **Meals on Wheels drivers** are urgently needed in many communities in Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

A stipend and mileage reimbursement are available. Call (413) 773-5555 x. 2216 or visit lifepathma.org/volunteer to apply.

Have you **cared for an older family member** with multi-morbidity during their last year of life? A researcher at UMass is seeking interviewees for a study of quality of life in end-of-life care. Two interviews are involved, online or in person, and a small payment is offered for participating in each one. Contact Ph.D. candidate Sangdwan Ginggeaw at sginggeaw@umass.edu or (413) 406-8189.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

FREE PUPPIES

Male and female Yorkie puppies (AKC-registered)

FREE to a good home!

If interested, contact martibailey101@aol.com

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

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

August 12 Stout Pigeon Coffee Big Foot Food Forest

August 19 Stout Pigeon Coffee Big Foot Food Forest Jamaican Jewelz

Peskeompskut Park Turners Falls

NANDY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA



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

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

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



(413) 774-1285



THE LADY KILLIGREW:

Awesome Beer Amazing Food



Awesome, Amazing Employees!

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Montague’s 42nd Annual Mug Race

MONTAGUE CENTER – The 42nd annual Montague Mug Race will be held Saturday, August 19, “rain or shine.” The 5.5-mile course features a few challenging hills with a run along the Connecticut River, and is well-marked with plenty of water stops and timed splits. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Montague Center village common, and the race “blasts off” at 8:30 a.m.

Pewter mugs will be awarded to top male and female finishers, and coffee mugs to the top finishers of each division. T-shirts will be given to the first 60 runners.

The Mini-Mug Race, now in its 17th year, will kick off at 8:35 a.m. This course is two miles long, a great scenic route around the Old South Cemetery. Both races finish at the ball field. All runners are entered into drawing for prizes.

Awards will be presented to honor two well-known runners from Montague Center. Tracy Tum and Dave Kaynor both embraced the race, and Tracy’s brother Scott Fallon will present the prizes.

The Mug Race course follows the daily running route of Dr. Al Ross, who “needled” the Old Home Day Committee to add a race to its lineup. Dr. Ross helped form the Connecticut River Internists, and became “Doc” to hundreds of families in the area. Al was a huge believer in exercise to bring a community together. He passed

away on October 13, 2020.

One of his other passions – certainly not the only – was the preservation of land. Dr. Ross served on the board of directors of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, of which his daughter Emma is currently the director. The proceeds of the Sawmill River Run, which takes place each January 1, always go to the Land Trust.

At the Mug Race starting area this year, Mount Grace Land Trust folks will have an information booth, and will announce the date of the dedication of a canoe launch for the Connecticut River on Meadow Road, built on a parcel of land owned by Ross and entrusted to the endeavor.

The area also lost a well known musician and lover of the Mug Race: Dave Kaynor passed away in June 2021 after a long battle with ALS. Dave shared his love and talent of fiddling all over this valley, and would run the race whenever his summer schedule allowed. He finished many times in the top 10%.

Following the race at 10 a.m., some of Dave’s Montague Monday-night fiddlers will honor him with a concert for everyone to enjoy, rain or shine, at the Congregational Church.

Register online at runreg.com. For more information, contact Ann Fisk at (413) 367-2812.

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
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

RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of August 14
BOTTLES & CANS
Week of August 21
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

DRIVERS

Volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers are urgently needed in many communities in Franklin County and the North Quabbin!

Make a big difference in someone's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and a wellness check in your own community. Stipend and mileage reimbursement available.

Call (413) 773-5555 or (978) 544-2259, x. 2216 or visit lifepathma.org/volunteer to apply.

MONTAGUE REPORTER



Left: Cathy Collins of Montague Center took the May 18 edition on a river boat cruise from Vienna to Amsterdam. This picture was taken in Cologne, Germany.



Above: Turners Falls reader Galen Huckins wielded our June 8 edition like a talisman against the sunset on the Staten Island Ferry.

ON THE... ROAD?

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send your photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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

Call for Artists!



for our third **Wrapping Paper**



Design a 20" by 22" page and submit a proposal and three samples of your work (or a finished design) by September 1 to features@montaguereporter.org.

Selected artists receive a \$200 stipend. Artists will have six weeks to complete their designs for printing in November.



Questions? call Nina, 413.834.8800

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

OP ED A Short List of Community Takeaways

By **KARL MEYER**

TURNERS FALLS – Since Canadian transnational giant Public Sector Pension Investments arrived here in 2016 to purchase the FirstLight Power-labeled Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station and Turners Falls hydro projects, I'm sure Montague and surrounding communities have become familiar with the company's generosity at the negotiating table.

I didn't sign their company-required gag orders entitling me to lavish gifts derived from their day-to-day extractive operations on the Connecticut River – subject to their Washington DC legal firm's rules. However, as a frequent Connecticut River visitor I thought I'd comment on some of the more recent developments in their community justice and environmental "stewardship" along that critical central artery and backbone of the entire western New England ecosystem.

Since they've already done it in press releases, I won't go into their supplying local police departments with a handful of gift electric bicycles, or giving cash for a much-needed, shiny-steel, great blue heron sculpture in an out-of-the-way park in Erving, or their good-neighbor donations to food banks – or the narrated gift cruises Nolumbeka President David Brule will soon present from the deck of FirstLight's riverboat.

The above things go far in PR terms, but they amount to mere pittance compared to the \$100s of millions from their extractive fossil fuel and river diversion operations here – where the fat annual profits get realized, but then are exported and re-invested far from New England.

What's more telling to me these days are the things the company – still operating under a 1968-issued FERC license that expired five years back – formerly provided to our communities of modest means, but has just plain stopped doing.

Barton Cove Campground used to be open weekends through Columbus Day – not Labor Day. They used to provide weekend canoe shuttle service upriver from Friday through Sunday. Today, none. Riv-

erboat cruises used to operate five days a week. No longer. The fish ladder site was open until the week after Father's Day; this year it shut its doors before the holiday.

The hiking trails at Northfield were formerly open weeks longer on either side of the calendar. They are today on a tightly pinched schedule for that vast amount of open space – one that sees most of its people-counting use during a few big, hyped weekend events. Our climate, partly via Northfield Mountain's vast consumption of fossil-fueled grid juice for pumping, has warmed to the point where it is lucky for their cross-country ski trails to open for even three weeks in winter. You really can't tally that as a reliable, tangible community benefit.

But don't get me going.

Let me just round out this good-neighbor update by focusing on a single place and venue in the current and endless relicensing quagmire: the Rock Dam and Cabot Woods in Turners Falls. Of late, since they took away the canoe shuttle service at Barton Cove, they make a big deal out of parking a rack full of empty canoes, and some sort of environmental-looking trailer, next to the canal in showy fashion.

The little PR signs along the canal proclaim FirstLight "stewards" are now helping the river by plucking invasive aquatic plants from their canal. What is left untold is the story of why that vegetation grows so robustly in their canal, where one might think it wouldn't.

Here's a slam dunk clue: the last time that canal got a full-on scouring and bulldozing was 2010, when hundreds upon hundreds of square yards of the three-foot deep silt and muck could be seen clogging the fat part of that reservoir area. It hasn't been bulldozed out again since. They just scrape the narrow downstream end, heading straight toward their turbines.

It's really a slowed, silted-in-muck bed, and carp habitat – many feet deep. It's perfect habitat for invasive water chestnuts and any other new exotic diverted into the canal. A muskrat now enjoys that vegetated march. Ultimately it is a breed-

ing trap for exotics to root, and later have the seeds released downstream. Rather than a showy weed pull, better to clean out the canal.

As far as relicensing goes, I doubt Cabot Station has anywhere near the nameplate storage capacity stated on its pending federal application. It's a muckhole trap that should be verified by FERC before any new license issue.

On a recent Sunday I bicycled over the Turners Falls power canal, turning onto G Street, then downstream along what becomes "Migratory Way." I was heading to the Rock Dam, that natural low escarpment in the river that is an ancient and current fishing place. Also of critical importance is that it is beleaguered critical spawning and nursery habitat for the federally-endangered shortnose sturgeon.

For decades now this has been a hugely neglected spot, its wood and concrete steps dissolved and long abandoned by the company responsible for keeping fishing and woods-access open.

About four years back FirstLight walked away from emptying trash barrels there, which had helped keep the place relatively orderly. The riverbanks and trail down to the river are barely hanging on, sloughing and weeping a goop of manganese sludge that clearly stems from canal water pressure and sub-surface connections. Twenty-foot hemlock trees are literally dropping into six-foot sink holes in places where the company has done little else but cut and splinter dying trees and dump masses of riprap down the riverbank landslides that their canal and river diversion are impacting.

But here are a few other kickers at the Rock Dam.

If foreign-owned FirstLight cared a whit about endangered sturgeon and critical nursery habitat, they wouldn't have robbed the site of needed flows after the spring of 2016 when they took it over. Further, they wouldn't have ignored the absolute cultural significance of the Rock Dam and the adjacent island – so historically and culturally important back into the mists of time. It is known to have been a critical

factor in the weeks before and after the massacre at Turners Falls. Under proposed new license provisions, it will become a joyriding stopover for kayakers, canoeists, and the recreation outfits.

Lastly, that Sunday, now two weeks back, I found the roadway gate to Cabot Woods and Rock Dam unceremoniously locked; access denied – lest you had the stamina and the physical mobility to walk six tenths of a mile both ways, to reach those failing trails down to the river. And, now, after years of the Connecticut River Conservancy refusing to do water quality testing at the Rock Dam site, there is suddenly a "Combined Sewer Overflow" warning sign at Rock Dam in Cabot Woods. Can the place get any more welcoming?

The power company has long refused to build or allow any swimming access to the river above Turners Falls dam. There are few places for families to go for a free place to cool down – just the very modest water park at the rec center.


When I got back from the recently flooded and muck-encrusted banks of Rock Dam late that Sunday morning, I found five cars of confused families and children waiting at that locked gate. Most of them were Spanish speaking. I explained that the company had unilaterally changed the deal – the site will now be locked at all times weekends, and only open during business hours during the week.

I was able to make them feel a bit better, stating that the river and the site were both still filled with mucky flow and silt, and there would be no place to even throw a blanket. But the whole thing stinks. Business hours? So much for the working public, so much for anglers, so much for community and environmental justice.

Karl Meyer lives in Greenfield. He has been a stakeholder and Fish and Aquatics Study Team member in the FERC relicensing of Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage and Turners Falls Hydro projects since 2012. He is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

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 & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



LEVERETT from page A1

about the idea, and that upon the mention of Spencer's name he received the same response from each of them: "Just take it." Spencer, he reported, is known throughout New England as a "premier forester" who "does forestry the right way."

The question of the potential cost to the town centers on a bridge on the land which grants access to a single dwelling on an adjacent property. The town may be required to maintain the bridge if the gift is accepted, but no maintenance cost estimates are currently available, nor any solid information on the feasibility of a variety of possible workarounds.

Also in question is the responsibility for overseeing the property. Stephen Weiss, one of the trustees of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT), commented that time and expertise would be needed, and that the conservation commission was too busy with its work on wetlands to take it on. "If the town takes it, there needs to be a commission tasked with oversight," said Weiss.

Eva Gibavic, also an RGT trustee, agreed that the con com has its hands full, but said that designating the land as a town forest would require setting up just such a management group, separate from con com, anyway.

Spencer said he had spoken with a nearby forester who was interested in filling that role, and believed there were "lots of people available" to serve on a commission providing oversight. Hankinson added that anyone interested in such service could contact town hall presently.

The discussion concluded with Hankinson saying he thought the selectboard had the authority to accept the gift, but believed it should be a town decision, and would like to see a detailed proposal go to town meeting for voter approval.

Board member Patricia Duffy agreed, adding that putting the decision before town meeting will "in itself gen-

erate interest in finding people" to serve on an oversight commission, and should generate a "robust discussion" on the entire idea. She described the offer as a "unique opportunity," and echoed Spencer's idea that it could provide a means of connecting the past and the future.

Member Melissa Colbert said she felt more data was needed, but liked the direction being taken.

Other Business

The finance committee had unanimously recommended, and the selectboard unanimously approved, a group of FY'23 year-end budget transfers to cover deficits totalling \$102,829.33 in departmental budgets.

Hankinson said the amount "was not especially alarming" in a \$7 million budget, and that he felt "very comfortable things were going to settle down" regarding such deficits in the future due to recent changes in Leverett's accounting staff and procedures, including the formation of a financial management team to provide greater oversight of departments.

Several questions from fin com members went unanswered due to town administrator Marjorie McGinnis being on vacation, but Hankinson said the vote was needed that night to meet a state filing deadline.

"We have to pay our debts," said fin com member Philip Carter, recommending approval despite the lack of background information on several items.

For the second time, a Jackson Hill Road resident failed to appear before the board to provide an update on the measures he has taken to restrain his dog. Both the restraint of the dog and the update to the board had been ordered at a recent dog hearing.

The board decided to have the police department deliver a letter informing the resident of his obligation to provide an update.

The selectboard's next meeting is scheduled for August 15.

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD****Property Lines Shift; Mill RFP Reissued**

By KEITH WATERS

Much of the Erving selectboard's meeting on Monday was a joint meeting with the finance and capital planning committees to review FY'24 budgets. The meeting ended with a private executive session to strategize negotiations with the water and wastewater employees' union and the police union.

There was talk of a job description for a building and grounds maintenance position, but highway superintendent Glenn McCrory told the board the perfect candidate is already on payroll. The candidate will be promoted, and the job he is leaving will now need to be advertised.

McCrory also mentioned that the new truck the town is buying for the highway department is coming in a little above what had been expected. Some add-ons were missed in the procurement process which seem worth the expense, including a more durable plow blade. These added expenses would still be below what the town has approved to spend on the truck, just above the last stated number.

Lots and Plots

The board went over some results from a survey for the layout of Maple Street, which will require some further attention. It turns out the town owns some land that private homeowners thought they owned. While not very much land is in question, the discovery pushes a number of lots below the acceptable frontage for building lots. The town intends to approach the homeowners and work out a solution beneficial to all parties.

Only one bid was received in response to the town's request for cemetery feasibility studies, but that response seems good. The engineering firm in question has apparently looked at the three sites Erving had

been considering for possible additional cemeteries and has likely ruled out two, but would be happy to work on a study of the third, and to generate a list of necessary attributes of a potential plot in case this third lot is also not feasible.

Give and Take

In reviewing FY'24 budgets, the selectboard had asked town departments to look at what worked, what could be cut, and what they would like back from recent cuts.

School committee member Mackensie Bailey was on hand to say that they had noted some line items they think could be cut, but would ascertain that at an upcoming school board meeting.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka said that there were some things the fire department could cut, but that they would really like a fourth firefighter so that the department can feasibly fight a fire inside a building, which it cannot do now under an OSHA requirement of "two in, two out." The town's three firefighters may fight fires, but not send anyone into a building unless at least one supplemental firefighter is present.

Talk of a new fire truck was acknowledged, but the actuality was said to likely be some ways down the road. Wonkka said the department's trucks are all in serviceable condition.

Library director Abigail Baines said the library had cut its events funding from \$4,500 per year to \$3,000 as requested, and would like that \$1,500 back, if possible.

The solar electric panels on the new library was also discussed a little, with all present expressing uncertainty as to their worth. Baines reminded the board that library staff still do not have full control of the building's electrical and climate-control systems.

Erving's water and wastewater expenses have gone up, in num-

bers a little larger than those at the library. The costs of sludge removal and fuel have both gone up, and testing is now a thing the department must spend about \$15,000 on per year, a change from the past when it was an occasional expense.

Principal assessor Jacquelyn Boyden was present to say the \$25,000 the assessors gave up at the board's request could be useful in ongoing litigation with FirstLight Power.

Boyden also asked that the town consider hiring a part-time assessor next year. She reminded the board that her retirement is around the corner, and that while they have discussed her training her replacement, it may make sense to find someone to work with her for longer to absorb some of the institutional knowledge that only she currently has. She suggests a 10 to 15 hour per week employee.

IP Mill Interest?

Town planner Mariah Kurtz mentioned that there may be some new interest by developers in the town-owned International Paper Mill complex, and asked the board if it would reissue the request for proposals (RFP) again.

The board all agreed that most any option is better than the town paying for demolition out of the taxpayers' pockets.

It was agreed to reissue the previous RFP, changing only the dates, such that there is a short window ending a week before the anticipated special town meeting (STM) projected for early October.

While this would not give potential interested parties enough time to formulate full proposals, it would allow them to express interest, and ask for an extension, in time for the selectboard to tell voters at the STM.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 21.

Tip of the week ...

Valuable collections, such as art, coins, jewelry, and firearms, require specific coverage under your homeowners insurance policy. Make sure to speak with your insurance agent to ensure that your collection is properly protected.



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

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

auto | home | business

**MONTAGUE CITY VILLAGE CENTER STUDY
PUBLIC EVENT #1**

6 to 8 p.m. • Saturday, August 12 • Peskeompskut Park

The Town of Montague, in partnership with Mass Housing Partnership (MHP) and VHB, is investigating future development on the Farren Care Center site. At this tabling session (the first of two public events), residents can learn about the Town's goals for the parcel and provide feedback to guide the study.

The tabling session starts at 6 p.m. Stick around for some family fun and music provided by Home Body and friends. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. See "Home Body & Friends in the Park" Facebook event page (<https://fb.me/e/1kwCxxwr01>) for general event updates.

For questions or comments, please email Montague Town Planner Maureen Pollock at planner@montague-ma.gov.

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – PART TIME**

The **Selectboard's Office** seeks a qualified candidate for the position of **Administrative Assistant**. The position provides administrative support to the Selectboard and Administrator's Office. Duties include filing and maintenance of documents and records, answering phone calls and emails, preparing correspondence, conducting research, updating website and emergency notification system, performing data entry, providing customer service, and assisting in the daily operation of the office.

Excellent interpersonal and computer skills, taking meeting notes, and attention to detail a must.

This is a part-time (20 hour/week) union position (NAGE), Grade B wage scale, Monday-Thursday schedule. Excellent benefits including health insurance, vacation and sick time. Starting salary is \$19.28/hr.

Please submit resume and cover letter to Wendy Bogusz, Town of Montague, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or wendyB@montague-ma.gov. Applications will be accepted until August 29, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. or until the position is filled. Full job description available at www.montague-ma.gov/pp/308/Employment-Opportunities.

The Town of Montague is an EEO Employer.

**TOWN OF ERVING
Elected Official Vacancies**

The Town of Erving would like to announce one (1) vacancy on the School Committee, one (1) vacancy on the Planning Board, and one (1) vacancy in the Tree Warden position. These vacancies are for elected positions. In accordance with MGL Chapter 41, Section 11, the Select Board is seeking interested residents to serve in these positions until the Annual Town Election in 2024. To be considered, an interested person must be a registered voter of the Town of Erving.

The **Planning Board** is a five (5) member elected Board that guides the development of Erving by serving as the Special Permit and site plan review authority under the Zoning Bylaw. The Board also administers the provisions of the Subdivision Control regulations. The Planning Board plays an important role in reviewing the Zoning Bylaw, proposing edits, and holding public hearings for voters before any revisions are presented at Town Meeting.

The **School Committee** is a five (5) member elected Board that establishes educational goals and policies for Erving Elementary School consistent with the requirements of the law. Each member is expected to attend all meetings and participate in subcommittees. Members are also encouraged to attend the Union 28 District quarterly meetings.

The **Tree Warden** is responsible for the care of the Town's public shade trees and works with the Highway Department, Select Board, and residents to address concerns.

If you are interested, please send a written letter of interest that identifies the position that you are interested in serving in and that includes your name, address, and contact information. It may be helpful to include an explanation of your education, training, experience, and other interests that would lend itself to the position sought.

Letters of interest are due by **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**.

Letters can be sent by mail to: Erving Select Board, 12 East Main Street, Erving, Massachusetts 01344, or by email to volunteer@erving-ma.gov.

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



Origami is for anyone,
anywhere, anytime!

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

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

413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic

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

MONTAGUE from page A1

Road, which has also been exacerbated by the recent weather.

He said the contractor chosen for the work, C.C. Davenport Trucking Inc., was reviewing the federal and state permits, and that the project could start in September if the rainy weather does not continue, but that the grant deadline of next March may need to be extended for another year. He also warned there was potential financial risk to the town in a federal requirement that 2.4 acres of adjacent wetlands be restored.

Ramsey updated the board on meetings with state Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP) officials to address a collapsing berm in the retention pond for water runoff from the capped burn dump on Sandy Lane. He said the state will issue an "order to correct" the problem, which was partially caused by the recent rains.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said that additional funding for the remediation may be requested at the special town meeting in the fall.

Ellis reported on efforts by First-Light to repair leaking hydraulic pistons at the Turners Falls dam, which the company owns. He said the work had been delayed by high water coming down the river, but no new leaks have been reported recently.

Ellis said that engineers will evaluate the dam to determine whether the pistons, which activate the bascule gates on the Turners Falls side of the river, should be replaced, or whether "a whole new technology" should be considered.

Personnel

In news not obviously related to the weather, the board approved an agreement between the town and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), the union which represents town hall and other staff, that would raise the level of compensation for employees moving to new positions at higher grade levels. The provision is similar to one in the contract with the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), which represents the town's wastewater and public works employees.

Ellis said the change would apply to two employees who have recently been upgraded, and would lead to a wage increase of \$20 per week for each.

The board also endorsed a "longevity benefit" for non-union staff and placed it on the fall town meeting warrant. The benefit, which is already in the union contracts, would allow wage increases for total years employed for those at the top of the payscale but not represented by a union.

Ellis noted that some department heads and staff are in the unions, and some are not. "It can feel a little arbitrary," he said.

The finance committee planned to review stipends at its Wednesday meeting this week. Stipends are small annual payments which some boards, such as the selectboard, receive and others, such as the finance committee, do not. Once a hot and time-consuming topic during the annual budget season, stipends are

now reviewed every five years, according to fin com policy.

The selectboard approved an agreement with the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston to review of the town's employee wages and job descriptions. A \$35,000 state grant will cover the study.

The agreement was originally delayed because the lead investigator moved on to another position, but Ellis said he was "very impressed" by the "team" now in charge of the project. He said the review would ensure that the town is "competitive" in the regional job market.

Planning & Development

Town planner Maureen Pollock came before the board to present a number of requests, including that the board initiate a zoning change for a parcel of land owned by the town on Turnpike Road behind the public safety complex and DPW garage. Pollock said there was a need in the town for both more manufacturing and more multi-family housing, and that changing the zoning designation from "neighborhood business" to "general business" would allow for these uses.

A potential buyer, she said, has shown interest in the property.

The board approved the spot zoning change to be returned to the planning board for a public hearing, then potentially to town meeting for final approval. Ramsey said that an accompanying town meeting article would be needed to allow the selectboard to sell the property.

The board also executed an agreement with VHB Consultants to conduct a market study of potential uses of the former Farren hospital property, which is being donated to the town. The cost of the work, which is not to exceed \$35,000, is funded by a community planning grant.

The board also approved up to \$18,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to match state grants to the town cultural council, which sponsors local cultural activities, during the next two fiscal years.

A request to use \$7,350 in ARPA funds to hire a consultant to create a "strategic plan" for the River-Culture program, with the aim of allowing it to receive private donations, was put on hold. Pollock said two "models" that the town wishes to evaluate are incorporating a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit or creating a public art commission.

In response to concerns raised by member Matt Lord about the need for a consultant, the board decided to discuss the topic in more depth at a future meeting.

The board appointed Robert Obear to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). Obear, a local developer, is a member of the planning board and recently served as an alternate ZBA member.

Other Business


The selectboard landed on Wednesday, October 11 as the date for the fall special town meeting, which needs to be confirmed with the school district, since the meeting will take place in the Turners

Falls High School auditorium. An agenda item to discuss articles for the meeting, particularly capital expenses, was tabled.

The board executed documents for a grant of "up to \$43,000" from the US Department of Agriculture to help defray the cost of a pickup truck, with a sander, for the public works department.

Ellis updated the board on a number of issues, including a decline in cannabis sales tax revenue, which flows into the capital stabilization fund, and ongoing discussions with the town's two water districts about entering a national class-action suit against the companies that manufactured PFAS chemicals.

The board approved an agreement on how the proceeds from the sale of a building on Deerfield Street in Greenfield, currently owned by the Greenfield Montague Transportation Area (GMTA), will be shared by Greenfield and Montague. The GMTA, a relic of the electric trolley era, has owned the storage and maintenance facility of the regional bus system, which is moving this year to Sandy Lane in Montague.

Montague will receive 30.7% of the revenues, while Greenfield will be allocated 69.3%. Ellis characterized this division, which he called the "historical distribution" of the transportation area's assets, as "fair," and said that it "has never varied, [according] to anyone who has any working knowledge of that percentage of ownership... but the GMTA's records are remarkably sparse." 

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Utility Offers to Cut Many More of Wendell's Trees

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their July 19 meeting, days after heavy rain washed out two Wendell roads, the selectboard heard a progress report from project coordinator and highway commission chair Phil Delorey on repairs, and the hope for some state reimbursement.

Delorey said a beaver dam in the woods, hidden from the road, broke and washed out the gutter along Wendell Depot Road. The same storm washed out 400 feet of Farley Road, making it a one-way road until repairs were completed, and the repaired Mormon Hollow Road culvert was compromised again.

The culvert itself was undamaged, but the storm washed away some support. Conversations with the original engineer, the contractor, and Wendell resident and engineer Bob Leet concluded that a concrete apron is the best approach. Storms are becoming more severe and more frequent, and maintaining roads may take priority over the environmental impact of a concrete apron.

Delorey spoke with state representative Aaron Saunders and senator Jo Comerford about reimbursement for the expensive riprap for Wendell Depot Road. The application for state assistance will be sent to emergency management director Lonny Ricketts, and the road commission may add stormwater damage to the "ice and snow" line on the highway budget.

Garage Upgrades

The highway garage roof repair and electrical work were complete, Delorey reported, and the building was ready for solar panels. The board authorized chair Laurie DiDonato to sign a contract with PV Squared for installing them, and voted to accept a \$35,000 gift for the project. Member Gillian Budine explained that Bill Ashley, who is giving the money, did not single out Wendell, but is donating money for solar in other towns.

The annual town meeting authorized \$20,000 for a generator to serve the garage and fire station. Fire chief Joe Cuneo said New Salem recently got a \$60,000 estimate

for a 38-kW generator and expects to use ARPA money to pay for it. Generator grants, he said, are remarkably hard to find. A calculation of the building's total electrical load, including its use as an emergency center, will determine Wendell's need.

The garage also still needs painting.

Rural Buzzcut

National Grid vegetation manager Lance Wade spoke about his company's plan for "enhanced vegetation management" along power lines running from Wendell Depot towards Lake Wyola and Shutesbury. That work, coordinated with reinforcing the wires along the same stretch, would make delivery of electricity more dependable, he said, with fewer interruptions from falling limbs.

Wade said 400 trees were cut last fall, and that enhanced management would remove close to 1,000 more, including healthy ones within eight feet of the wires. He said he did not expect this plan to get blanket approval from Wendell citizens, and admitted it would change the feel of traveling along the roads.

Answering a question from selectboard member Paul Doud, he said reinforcing the wires along Wendell Depot and Locke Village roads will continue with or without "enhanced management."

Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch said cutting healthy trees in a time of declining forest health was unlikely to earn great public acceptance. Speaking as a private citizen, open space committee chair Dan Leahy said he was starting to see the situation as a "death by a thousand cuts."

Budine said Wendell would pass on the opportunity.

Water Supply

Ray DiDonato, as a member of the LLC that co-owns with the town the dam that contains McAvoy's Pond, said the LLC wants to reinforce the banks around the apron with non-limestone riprap and remove some trees in anticipation of a dam inspection.

Budine suggested he contact Delorey, and

that maybe the LLC and town could share the cost of the riprap. DiDonato said the dam would need only a few yards.

DiDonato also discussed an easement to allow the town to install a dry hydrant at McAvoy Pond to replace the one at Bowens Pond, which will become useless when the dam there is removed. The LLC was waiting for an attorney's feedback.

Cuneo asked whether the lawyer needed to see a plan. The pipe must reach 25 to 30 feet beyond the pond's edge to reach a place where its intake would be two feet under the mean low-water level. Cuneo said the actual work would be relatively simple compared with the legal work, and added that the owner of Bowens Pond was willing to kick in some money.

Forty Gate

Treasurer Carolyn Manley said, about transferring the property at 40 Gate Lane, that in her understanding if a town intends to sell a property by any method other than auction, a town meeting vote must move authority from the treasurer to the selectboard; if the town sells a property for less than appraised value, it must first advertise its reasons in local newspapers.

Speaking as open space committee chair, Leahy said that Mass Audubon would pay for removing the condemned house on the property while the town still owns it, but that the town meeting vote is the first step.

Manley said the article could link the transfer to conservation purposes. Mass Audubon could then proceed with demolition and transfer the property to DCR or another conservation-oriented organization. Leahy said he and Manley would work out the necessary details.

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad thanked them for initiating progress on a project that has been languishing.

Sharing the Land

Citizen Jean Forward came to continue a town meeting discussion about acknowledging that the land of Wendell was held and inhabited by people before Europeans arrived. The June annual meeting passed over an ar-

ticle that would have created a committee of Wendell citizens and representatives from the Abenaki and Nipmuc tribes to discuss sharing the Wendell common.

Forward mentioned her life's work of studying and involving herself with indigenous Americans, and said she has worked alongside members of local tribes and that the best resources for the issue are on tribal websites. She recommended the discussion continue in preparation for the next annual town meeting.

Other Business

The selectboard approved 160 hours of vacation time for Cuneo, and agreements with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for a WRATS inspection and for a household hazardous waste collection September 23.

Appointments to town positions were voted separately, because Ray DiDonato was listed as a board member of the internet municipal light plant (MLP); he is the MLP manager.

DeLorey said no one came to the recent road commission meeting for a discussion of bottle and can deposits. The issue was on the agenda for their next meeting on August 1.

The landfill capping project, he said, was going well, and monitoring wells would be drilled in August, which should make the Department of Environmental Protection happy. He suggested the site for more solar panels.


Delorey said the estimate for tree cutting at the library is down from \$6,000 to \$4,000. Contractor Tom Chaisson might be able to cut the wooden play structures' supports and remove them for the tree work, then put them back in place using pins.

Johnson-Mussad said he is having difficulty keeping up with every detail that comes at him. He asked for clerical help, but said he does not have time to conduct a search. That discussion will continue.

To accommodate everyone's schedules, the selectboard decided to only host a pole hearing for their next meeting, which was scheduled for August 2. The board's next regular meeting is August 16.

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

BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW.MMO
FONTLVPEAXQAHD0.SHG
LJKEVOBFBFBNAPGR.RED
SECRETBROADCAST.NET
a weekly secret message podcast

 **FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**
8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

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

BREAKS from page A1

portraits, and on the first day she received 25 requests. She vowed that she wouldn't pick and choose among these requests, but try to do them all.

To date, she has completed 110 portraits, with many more in the queue.

"The majority are of people who are missing or murdered, or family members of people who were," LaFond explains. "But then I want to pepper in activists. When they all hang up, it's *tragedy, tragedy, tragedy*... I needed to break it up with, 'and this person is trying to change this.'"

Taking so many tragic stories into her life has been a burden in some ways but, she says, it is "also cathartic. There's this understanding, when we have a conversation and we share – I will reassure them that I understand, that we come from a similar place, and painting them is cathartic. It's like I am exorcising my own trauma, my own family's trauma, and it's an act of love, and also trying to honor that person."

LaFond has never charged for any of these portraits, and offers each individual or family free prints of the piece, as well as a digital file that they can use as they wish. The originals are not for sale as of yet, and if they are to be sold in the future, each family has right of first refusal and the money will go to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

For now, LaFond says, "I'm not ready. I don't feel like they have been exhibited enough."

The realistic grayscale portraits, each one with a red hand over the mouth, pack a strong visual punch, but LaFond says that is not her only aim in using a limited palette. "Most Indigenous cultures believe that red is the only color spirits can see," she explains. "I am painting them like this so that the people who are murdered can see them. If I receive a photo with red in it, like in a sweater, I leave the red in."

When asked what she hopes the project will accomplish, LaFond admits that she had been thinking about that quite a bit as it has grown and evolved.

"I feel like making art has a purpose," she says, "and raising awareness has a purpose. But it needs to go farther than that. The art itself, when people view it – I want them to feel connected and realize they're real people, to feel a sense of responsibility to talk about it, to read, to help raise the awareness of it. And, I hope, to bring some sort of peace and solace to families – where they know their loved one isn't forgotten, that their story isn't being buried, that people are talking about them."

There are 40 of these portraits on display at the Discovery Center during the month of August, along with information about each person depicted. In some cases, there is only a name and date, while other pieces are accompanied by detailed explanations. It all depends on what the families feel comfortable sharing.

"Quite a few people I have painted have been missing since the '70s, '80s, '90s, and their cases have not been solved," says LaFond. "I try to make sure I am not being disrespectful. I'm honoring the person, and adhering to the family's desires."

Another Project

Portraits in Red brought LaFond to the attention of Be The Change, an arts and activism initiative in Boston that was looking to display six sculptures throughout the city last year on different subjects related to



Nayana LaFond, with her red-hand portrait of *Woman of the White Buffalo*.

social justice. LaFond decided to explore a more universal theme of domestic abuse.

"I decided to make a *wetu*, a traditional Northern Woodlands home," she says – a rounded, dome-like structure that would serve as a safe space which viewers could enter. She titled it *Zoongide'e*, which means "to have a brave heart" in Ojibwe.

Since the sculpture would be placed outdoors, LaFond also decided it should be made of metal, so she worked on it with the help of sculptor Kamil Peters. In his studio she learned how to weld and bend and cut the metal rebar to make the frame. She and Peters built two concrete benches for seating inside of it, and LaFond created aluminum and plexiglass panels to enclose the space.

In deciding what to put on those panels, LaFond thought deeply about what she needed when she was in a bad situation. "I needed to know I wasn't alone," she says. "I needed to know that people believed me. I really needed real help."

Her sculpture expresses these needs. There are two exits or entrances, to prevent anyone from feeling trapped, with seating on two sides so that people can feel safe while having a conversation. The outside of the panels are covered in QR codes that can be scanned, leading to websites for organizations offering help to those in domestic-abuse situations.

Feeling that the interior was too bare, LaFond had the idea to post on social media asking survivors what they felt they needed to hear. With the help of an assistant, she covered the inside with their answers, writing with Sharpie phrases like, "your children deserve to see you happy" and, over and over again, the simple and validating "I believe you."

After *Zoongide'e* went up in the Fenway triangle on Boylston Street last fall, she got calls from people who reported being moved to tears by it, or who had brought others to see it who sat inside the *wetu* and cried.

The piece is currently at the Wood Memorial Museum in South Windsor, Connecticut, and it is scheduled to be at the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester, Vermont this winter along with a selection of the red-hand portraits.

LaFond says her art is not making money for her, but brings her other things. She reflects philosophically about it. "The way I'm looking at it is if I keep my integrity, if I am honest and I do things the right way and I stick to my guns on that, then other things will come," she says. "And it's happening."

Through the end of August, Portraits in Red: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Painting Project is on view at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. The center is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. LaFond will attend a reception this Sunday, August 13, from 1 to 3 p.m.

LaFond also leads an artists' critique and social gathering at the Mill District Local Gallery in North Amherst on the second Thursday of each month, from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants bring one or two pieces of work to share. For more details, see generalstorelocalgallery.com/events.



LaFond installed *Zoongide'e* (Ojibwe for "To Have a Brave Heart") last fall on Boylston Street in Boston as part of the public art initiative Be The Change.

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

Here's the way it was on August 8, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

A No-Go for the Strathmore

Flight Patterns LLC, the group that won approval for a feasibility study of the Strathmore mill, informed Montague town planner Walter Ramsey that they are unable to enter into an agreement or pursue further research.

They cited accessibility challenges, the cost of mothballing the northern structures, and legal issues as reasons for pulling out of their proposal to analyze the sprawling complex over a one-year period.

Ramsey said he was "extremely disappointed – it's back to square one."

Skate Park Supporters

"We may be a little over capaci-

ty," said a voice from the direction of the Montague selectboard as over 50 people packed the town hall in strong support of a state-of-the-art skateboard park, amidst uncertainty as to whether it will ever be built.

According to town meeting member David Detmold, teenagers have been waiting very patiently for about 15 years, consistently indicating their preferred form of recreation was and is skateboarding.

A motion expressing the board's support passed unanimously, to great applause.

Reporter Moves to the Ave

The *Montague Reporter* has signed a lease on a new office. In 2007, we moved into the basement of a beautiful Victorian house on Fourth Street. By the end of this month, we expect to be all moved into our spacious storefront office on Avenue A. Look for our sign!

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on August 7, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Where To From Here?

The Montague finance committee met on August 6, in the aftermath of the defeat of the \$326,000 school override request. The mood was serious. The topic was "where do we go from here?," or "where's the money going to come from?"

Less Noise in Erving

At its July 28 meeting, the Erving selectboard met with Peter Coleman, general manager of Eresco, which manages the day-to-day operations of the Erving Center wastewater treatment plant.

Septic haulers bring sewage on a daily basis for disposal and treatment. Nearby residents have filed numerous complaints with the selectboard regarding noise from the trucks, specifically in the very early morning hours, beginning as early as 4 a.m.

Coleman said he asked the Eresco plant engineer to investigate the problem.

Bilingual Music at the Carnegie

Free English-Spanish sing-alongs will be held on August 12 and 19. Musician Tom Carroll and bilingual educator Laurie Davidson will perform "Canto for Kids." The music includes traditional songs as well as songs composed specifically to teach Spanish.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on August 6, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Cool mornings, hot noons and pleasant evenings, is the order of the day.

Richard Clapp's new brick block makes quite a show on the avenue. The walls are now complete.

They are making fine headway in the grading of Third street. The blasting makes it lively for horses, though.

Our new school house will be dedicated Aug. 23th. Will give further particulars in time for all to attend.

The list of persons paying a tax of over \$20 in the Town of Montague will be printed by us next week.

The "royal road to fortune" (for the few landholders in Factory Hollow) – the proposed road from the suspension bridge to the Hollow.

The tobacco plants are look-

ing very fine all over the county, and it is gratifying to know that if the farmers cannot raise all they choose, each raises individually far more than he chews.

Wm. P. Crocker, Esq., has evidently earned the good will of the mill owners by his happy forethought in constructing a road leading from the suspension bridge under the Keith mill arch to the Russell Works, and a passage may be had through their yards to the Pulp Mill and Montague Mill. It is made of the stones and dirt from the new canal, and besides being very convenient must be very substantial.

Things are getting lively. Goss's store and Stoughton & Co's store have been broken into, and an attempt made to rob W.W. Hosmer's drug store, all within a month.

The moon "is full" and shows it in its bright, peaceful face, but when the folks over which she has control get full it is quite another matter.

Even the frogs play croquet.



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
Suze's THIRD ST. LAUNDRY
241 01376

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

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

CHALLENGES from page A1

"They are looking to enforce standards that have existed to a higher level than they have in the past," Ellis said Monday night during a recap of the retreat. "At this point there is no other option but to respond and do our very best."

Regulating Overflow

In May, the town received a notice of non-compliance after failing to submit required information about its CSO releases and management practices to the US Environmental Protection Agency. According to Ellis, Montague has often been understating the volume of these releases, though in some cases greatly overstating the volume.

"Sometimes there's good news, sometimes there's bad news, but getting the right news I think is what we're shooting for," he said. "We're concerned we're not getting the best information out right now."

To qualify for its new permit, Montague plans to hire engineering consultants to produce long- and short-term plans for the CSO system, and eventually build the infrastructure to phase out CSOs altogether. The total cost to separate Montague's stormwater and sewer systems is estimated at about \$25 million, according to figures shared at the retreat.

Montague officials are working with RCAP Solutions to develop a sewer regulation review plan, a project expected to cost \$69,700, and plan to hire engineers from Wright-Pierce to develop a CSO operation and maintenance plan for about \$35,000. These items could be on the warrant at the next special town meeting, Ellis said.

Ellis noted that upgrades to the town's sewer system in 2008 and 2016 have led to a 95% decrease in the volume of sewage released during CSO events.

"This is an important realization, quite frankly, for me," Ellis said. "When I'm proofing these reports I'm like, 'Holy shit! What we did, did help.'"

The town's sewer system is overseen by the department of public works (DPW), rather than the CWF. Increased regulatory requirements about the CSO led the town to create a new position in that department this year. Kyle Bessette, a DPW employee since 2016, was introduced as the lead operator of the collection system at Monday's selectboard meeting.

Toxic Gas and Grit

The treatment plant now known as the Montague Clean Water Facility was first built in 1964, prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act. The facility was expanded to add a secondary biological treatment system in the 1970s.

According to CWF superintendent Chelsey Little the original section, which includes the operations building, is in "dire need of repair." An urgent problem discussed at the retreat was the accumulation of hydrogen sulfide gas in this building.

Little explained that the building's HVAC system failed earlier this year, causing a

"multitude of issues." The unvented gas, reacting to form sulfuric acid, corroded beams inside the building and damaged the circuit board that controls the plant's large spinning screw pumps.

Today the gas is being vented out of the building, but a long-term solution is necessary. Ellis called the situation an "immediate safety issue" for staff at the CWF.

Besides a new HVAC system, the operations building also needs a new boiler and a new backup heating system.

"It's not a regular industrial building," Little said. "There's just so many different things going on – different gasses, and so many things that need to be taken into consideration. There are explosion-proof areas of the building, so it just becomes really complicated."

Among the laundry list of other necessary improvements are new clarifier tanks and new aeration tanks at the CWF, and a sewer relining project.

The "biggest-ticket item," according to assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, may be a drying pad for the "grit" removed during treatment. Cost estimates are expected in the coming weeks, Ramsey said. Montague is currently sending this waste to Greenfield at a cost of about \$8,000 per batch, and hopes to see savings from dewatering the material.

The DPW is currently looking to hire a truck driver/laborer, and the CWF a laborer/operator. The plant is benefiting from the recent hiring of a full-time laboratory manager, town officials noted.

Industrial Relics

When the plant was first built, discharge from paper mills made up much of the wastewater the facility treated. As the mills wound down their operation and eventually closed – the Strathmore in 1994, Southworth in 2017 – the town was left with a treatment facility poorly equipped to handle the smaller quantity of residential waste, Little explained.

For a time, the department earned revenue by accepting partially-treated sludge from a number of other local towns, but after staff were unable to explain to regulators the unique "Montague process" they had developed, the town was ordered to discontinue the practice.

Back in the good graces of the regulators, the CWF recently signed an agreement with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to accept sewage from Orange, Sunderland, and Deerfield. The agreement brought in \$5,800 in revenue last month, according to Little, and the outside material is helping the plant maintain standard loading levels on the weekends.

"It's been a win-win situation," Little said. Another relic of the industrial era is that in Montague, the sewer rate for industry is less than that for residential homes. One way to ease the burden of rising rates on residents, Little said, is to increase the industrial rate.

Sewer rates for most Montague residents are currently \$16.94 per thousand gallons – an 11.5% increase over last fiscal year. Accord-

FIXING A HOLE

Ed Gregory went Sunday to check out the section of Route 2 that collapsed in heavy rain last month. "The gray strip is a road being constructed for access to the bottom of the slide, so as to clean up and 'shore up' that basal area," he writes. "Sizeable chunks of traprock are laid, and upon this base, crushed traprock is dumped and rolled smooth. The road is on an elongated diagonal, running east-west, due to the steepness of the riverbank. An array of heavy equipment and construction components line the highway from the landslide area down to the Fall River Bridge. This project may continue into the early fall months."

ing to Ellis, sewer rates have doubled over the last six years. The industrial rate is \$15.68 per thousand gallons, and the selectboard plans to discuss raising it this fall.

"It's unheard-of to have industrial customers on the lowest rate in town," Little said. "And the industrial customers have higher [nutrient] loading levels, so it costs more money to treat their waste." Part of the town's long-term control plan update, Little said, will be an analysis of how these rates are structured.

All Hands On Deck

The short-term fixes the CWF needs, according to an assessment shared at last week's retreat, add up to about \$1.75 million in costs.

Town officials said they are looking for grants, and any other forms of help they can find, to fund these capital projects. However, Ellis said he worries the town lacks the technical know-how to make wastewater infrastructure decisions of this scale. He has requested the assistance of the Community Engineering Corps, a volunteer program of the American Society of Civil Engineers, to help the town assess its needs.

"I'd like to pursue free resources, to the extent that we can and they are credible, before we ask for money," Ellis said. "We need to know what we need before we go and spend

on something... I am very concerned that we lack that informed element, to help us think through and prioritize the many smaller decisions that we're having to make."

A newly federally funded program at the New England Environmental Finance Center in Maine may also be a resource to the town. "We were like, 'Let us be your guinea pig,'" Ellis said.

At Monday's selectboard meeting, member Matthew Lord said that the coming costs should not fall on ratepayers. Though the majority of households in the town are on the sewer system, many are not.

"The capital projects, and the size of the projects we're looking at – to put that on the back of the sewer users alone would be onerous, in terms of the costs for them, and also not in line with how the sewer fees were originally designed," Lord argued. "When we're talking about a new HVAC system and a new boiler, we're talking about capital projects, which are outside regular operation and maintenance."

Kuklewicz agreed. "It's the same as maintaining your roads in a snowstorm," he said. "There was a push, for years, that all the costs associated – to the nickel – belonged to the users, but as we talked about last week, the facility is an asset to the community at large."

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

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

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

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2023 • Our 123rd Year

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

- Commercial
- Residential
- Industrial

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

Abby Graseck
Zen Shiatsu

Turners Falls & Gill

413-834-5382
agraseck.shiatsu@gmail.com
www.abbygraseckshiatsu.net

uChoose Rewards
Debit Card Rewards Program

Earn Rewards
Every Time You Use Your Debit Card!

Redeem Rewards
You Choose How To Redeem Your Points!

Shop Dine
Cash Give Travel

Sign Up is **FREE & Easy!**
Scan the QR code or go to
greenfieldsavings.com/uChoose

888-324-3191
greenfieldsavings.com

Greenfield Savings Bank
Member FDIC/Member DIF

MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST

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

178A N Pleasant
413-253-4776

Harriet Paine
REALTOR®

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

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

COHN & COMPANY



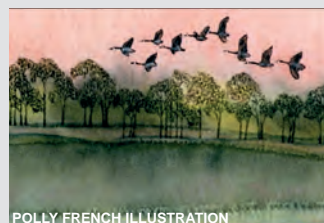
MoRe

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

AUGUST 10, 2023

MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

RACING WITH THE TWO AUGUST MOONS

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – The summer that I imagined as being one to remember is indeed memorable, but not for the reasons I thought.

Late June and parts of July were full of flowers, bright sunshine, and birdsong. Then the rains came. Since then we have traveled in circles trying to guess what weather would happen today.

Yet, the wrens who graced our kitchen door raised a family of four, nesting in a carefully woven oven-shaped nursery perched on the top of a long-handled brush for washing the floor. In exchange for our patience and changed traffic patterns in and out, these young Carolina wrens will fill our lives and yard with song over the coming seasons, well into winter.

One morning before the youngsters hatched and when mother wren was taking a break from incubating, I peeked into the nest. The comfy cradle contained four speckled eggs placed in a tight circle and sheltered by a snakeskin!

This ancient ritual performed by certain bird species has always been shrouded in speculation and mystery. What prehistoric memory stirs in a modern-day feathered being to seek out a skin recently shed, and to line the nest with this talisman totem? Is it to protect the future generation of wrens from the evil eye, harm, or predation?

We marvel at the mystery, and permit ourselves an enormous sense of pride that our carefully protected community of garter snakes living in the garden and wood piles contributed to this ancient ritual.

Over the month since they've left the nest, I've encountered the wren family here and there, at the edge of the garden or picking through the woodshed stacked with firewood. Sometimes they're fussing and scolding wren-style along the woodland path that leads to the rushing river. They likely hardly give me a thought, and don't remember that we lived side by side for more than a month. They listened to our music in the kitchen, overheard mealtime conversations, and now they're out on their own.

That path is bordered by lovely maple-leaf viburnum, rapidly flowering and now already producing green fruit that will darken as the weeks race through the season.

Stunning and beautiful days, the kind that happen only a few times in the summer, have shared this month with incredibly thunderous rainstorms, tropical downpourings. As you may recall from

my earlier musings in this space, those wet days, like snowy days at another time of the year, are mostly spent on inside chores, like trying to do some indoor archaeology deep into the ancestral clutter in the upstairs north bedroom.

That room receives and welcomes castoff clothing, old books, and stuff we can't bring ourselves to throw away. The bedroom has provided much material for stories over the years, often inspired by photographs lost in the pages of a book or letters stuffed into some desk drawer unopened for 50 years.

Then again, rainy days like today can also be do-nothing days of lingering on the front piazza with the memories of great-grandparents joining us, drifting back from the early days of the last century. They're the ones who built the front porch and spent time sipping lemonade or iced tea out here in 1910, maybe smoking a pipe or two. We sit and watch the rain, just as they did, only we are buoyed by a glass or two of wine as we watch the downpour pummel trees and the green-leafed canopy across the way.

Our summer friends the sassy catbirds keep an eye on us, rain or shine, from the mountain of the holly bush in front of the piazza. We try to trim back the prickly branches year after year to clear a path for the mailman, which only encourages new vigorous growth.

Catbird loves the dense labyrinth that hides the secret nest. The catbird couple scolds us when we come too close. Each summer I have to try to liberate the holly from the entwining tendrils of the invasive bittersweet, getting out as much as I can until the catbirds become increasingly threatening and alarmed. They warn me when I'm getting too close to the nest.

After the first moon of August, the Full Sturgeon Moon, we light out for the coast to spend an ephemeral day at Plum Island, to get a dose of sand and salty air. We know that all the beaches and parking lots out there are closed except for one, but we go anyway. Just to get away for a day.

Fragile communities of piping plover take precedence, and they own miles of beach until the sand colored eggs and future ploverslings have hatched and grown. The dunes and miles of beach belong to the birds and the dratted biting green head flies.

Mother Nature has sent hundreds upon hundreds of tree swallows to this spit of dune and marsh

see **WEST ALONG** page B8

Above: This alleyway in the Patch is giving a relaxed, high-summer look.

RECIPES KERNELS OF SUMMER GOODNESS

BY CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – We eat corn every day. We may start with breakfast of corn flakes, or a corn muffin with a cup of coffee. We may lunch on tacos. We snack on corn chips, munch on corn bread, enjoy corn as a vegetable with supper. In the form of cornstarch, corn thickeners soups and sauces; as a syrup it sweetens candies and beverages; and as an oil it fries foods crisp.

Most importantly, most corn in America is grown as animal feed, so when we eat chicken or hamburgers or pork chops we are indirectly eating corn.

Tucking corn into other foods hides how central it is to our diet. Only in summer, when it waves from fields and beckons from farmstands, does it jump out as a must-have food. But at any time until the early 20th century, most Massachusetts residents would have been eating bread that was largely made of corn. They would have had corn fritters, corn muffins, corn soups, and cornmeal mushes such as “Indian pudding” and hasty pudding.

The centrality of corn to America is age-old. Small ears dating back to 5,500 BCE have been discovered in Mexico, one of its Central American homelands. Long before the European colonists arrived, corn traveled north and became the vital crop for all the aboriginal peoples of North America.

When the first English arrived in Massachusetts in 1620, the Wampanoag they met were farmers as well as hunters and foragers. Corn was their major crop. They taught the colonists to grow it by explaining how



A customer chooses corn at the Great Falls Farmers Market in Turners Falls.

to plant it with dead fish as the fertilizer. The Nipmucs of our area also grew corn. They parched much see **CORN** page B4



Travel with Max

By Max Hartshorne

A weekend in the Adirondacks – and a visit to Hudson.



Warren Street in Hudson, New York is a surprising collection of hip stores, boutique hotels, and interesting eateries.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – This is the time of year when I try to stay home as much as I can. Even though our winters have become more mild, there are still really only a few months a year in the Pioneer Valley that are truly summer, the kind of days you're glad you are in your own backyard, or doing something that is only a short ride away.

So July and August are about close-to-home trips. That gives me time to fit in those visits to old friends I've been promising I'd visit for years.

But the traveling years are going by soon, so for this reason, I set out for the Adirondacks in New York for a weekend of fun with an old friend, and to make good on a promise made long ago.

My friend Bruce lives in Chestertown, New York, population 677, located inside the vast Adirondack Park – one of the largest state parks in the US, about the size of Vermont and three times as big as Yellowstone! During my three-day visit, I got a chance to meet many people who love these mountains the way people down here in the Valley love Cape Cod or Maine. It's their summer place.

We got a chance to circle a private lake in a water-ski motorboat with a friend of my friend's who lives in Houston. Jennifer comes here to the Adirondacks as much as she possibly can, and will retire here in a few years.

see **TRAVELS** page B5

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'SANDY CHEEKS'

Hi! I'm Sandy Cheeks. My adoption fee is waived, so I am free! In some ways I'm not perfect, but in the cuteness category, I get an A+.

Looking to adopt a special cat who truly needs your help? Come meet this Feline Leukemia (FeLV) positive cat today! Feline Leukemia (FeLV) is a cat-only virus that shortens their lifespan significantly. Cats with FeLV are generally

healthy and free of symptoms until the end of their time with us, and deserve loving families with whom to enjoy all of life's pleasures.

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

BRIDGES between WORDS and IMAGES

By JAN ATAMIAN

TURNERS FALLS – A library is an island oasis. Calm and tranquil, it can transport you away from the calamity of daily living. Here in Montague, we are fortunate to know many passionate and creative librarians who really do care about their community.

Angela Rovatti-Leonard is one person who has earned her wings. For the past nine years, she has worked as the youth services librarian at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Her smile and expression radiate with knowledge and expertise. In her own youth, Rovatti-Leonard recalls loving to walk with her second grade class each week to visit the local library in Southampton. For her, this is where it all began.

Like a ribbon tying us to the past, this early partnership between schools and libraries continues to the present day. Partnerships expand a library's impact and reach within a community, translating into success for all parties.

Nowadays, many towns would like a modern architectural building of light and space to house their collections. A beautiful space for books and people is humanizing. It is a place to sit and reflect.

When there was no space for teen programming at the Carnegie Library, Rovatti-Leonard began partnering with the Brick House and its youth programs director, Megan Richardson. The Carnegie Library has also recently received an ALA grant which allows it to expand its space out into the community for teens.

The Brick House now has a Teen Zine Club, on Thursday afternoons through August. A "zine" is



JAN ATAMIAN PHOTOS

English teacher Becca Daniels, left, and youth services librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

a self-published, non-commercial printed work. Creators fold, staple, sew, tape, or glue self-expressions and artistic passions on paper.

Along the line of the Zine Club, Rovatti-Leonard has inspired youth through the Comi-Con movement, which includes graphic novels as literature. The term "graphic novel" came into use in 1978 with the success of Will Eisner's *A Contract With God*. It was conceived as a book-length literary work for adult readers, depicting Eisner's memories of growing-up in New York's poor immigrant Jewish community.

In 1991 the graphic novel *Maus* by Art Spiegelman, depicting how his father survived the Holocaust, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Recently, in June 2022 in Athens, Tennessee, the school board voted to ban *Maus* due to "inappropriate language." In an interview, Spiegelman told CNBC he was "baffled" by the school board's decision, calling the action "Orwellian."

Rovatti-Leonard is happy to be living in a place where book banning is not an issue.

Just over the Turners Falls-Gill bridge on Route 2 resides the Four Winds School, an independent middle school for students in grades 5 through 8. In the tradition of a one-room schoolhouse, students learn at their own level and pace, gaining faith in their own curiosity and critical thinking. Along the way, lifelong learners and community-minded citizens are created.

The school's focus on social skills, mental health, and social justice is woven throughout the curriculum. Most importantly, Four Rivers students discover their

love of learning. For instance, Four Winds graduate Falon Paxton, age 15, is on the Youth Advisory group at the Carnegie Library, and works there on Saturdays.

Becca Daniels, English language arts teacher and co-director of the Four Winds School, has thrived in this environment for the past nine years, and is excited to announce that she is also partnering with Rovatti-Leonard at the Carnegie. She describes the partnership as an initiative to make reading more accessible and enjoyable, after the disruptions of remote learning and COVID in general.

Daniels recently held a successful graphic novel fundraiser on Facebook, raising \$500 in three days. She is replacing several assigned reading books with graphic novels. One is *All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson, which depicts a homeschooled pre-teen justifying her life in a public middle school.

Two historical graphic novels by Nathan Hale are also on the list: *The Underground Abductor*, which looks at slavery and the evolution of Harriet Tubman, and *Cold War Correspondent: A Korean War Tale*, which tells the story of Marguerite Higgins, a reporter trapped inside Korea when the Communists took Seoul in 1950.

These graphic novels, along with many others, can be found at the Carnegie Library. The Four Winds School is planning two walking field trips to the library this year. If you are interested in finding out more about Four Winds, contact Daniels and science teacher Hattie Adastra at teachers@fourwindsschool.info.

Senior Center Activities AUGUST 14 THROUGH 25

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.

WENDELL

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

ERVING

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

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

Monday 8/14

9 a.m. Interval

10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

Tuesday 8/15

9 a.m. Good For U

10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 8/16

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact

10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/17

9 a.m. Core & Balance

10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 8/18

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

Monday 8/21

9 a.m. Interval

10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

Tuesday 8/22

9 a.m. Good For U

10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 8/23

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact

10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/24

9 a.m. Core & Balance

10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 8/25

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 8/14

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Chair Yoga

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Pot Luck

Tuesday 8/15

1 p.m. Ice Cream Social

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/16

9 a.m. Veterans' Hours

9:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/17

9 a.m. Chair Yoga

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

(by subscription)

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 8/18

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

2 p.m. Chair Dance

Monday 8/21

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Chair Yoga

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Kitchen Club

Tuesday 8/22

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/23

9:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/24

9 a.m. Chair Yoga

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

(by subscription)

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 8/25

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Pizza Party

2 p.m. Chair Dance



Some of the graphic novels purchased for Four Winds School students.

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

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

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

MPD from page B3

running around South Ferry Street area. ACO responding. Chief and ACO speaking with someone at dog's residence. ACO remaining to help secure dog pen. 1:27 p.m. Caller reporting ongoing issue with neighbor playing drums in garage too loudly on G Street.

2:21 p.m. Caller states he just returned home to Thirteenth Street from the hospital to find that his house had been broken into and items were missing. Referred to an officer. 3:15 p.m. Caller states that there is a large black bear on Dry Hill Road, and that he (the caller) is not comfortable returning to his house. Bear not seen. Male party moved along.

4:10 p.m. Concerned citizen reporting that an 18-wheeler is attempting to go over the canal bridge, which isn't allowed.

4:36 p.m. Report of large black snake on the sidewalk near Country Creemee. Officer advises snake is in a planter, black, and about three feet long. Call printed for ACO. 6:29 p.m. Caller states there is a man panhandling at Food City and he is playing a fake violin with his fingers, which the caller read online is part of a nationwide scam. Officer advises party gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 8/2

8:33 a.m. 911 caller from South Street states she is walking her dog and there is a bear in the middle of the road, so she is unable to get home. Bear is gone; officer remaining in area.

12:20 p.m. Noise complaint regarding loud drums on G Street.

12:29 p.m. A 27-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a default warrant.

1:24 p.m. Caller reporting two men with open containers at Peskeompskut Park. Second caller states males are urinating in the park. Officer advises containers are iced tea and lemonade; does not smell any sign of alcohol.

3:18 p.m. Caller states a male party is yelling

at cars at the Unity Park drive-by; he appears to be disoriented. Described as wearing ski goggles, a dark shirt, and ripped jeans. Officer advises that party is now walking on bike path, not harming anybody or causing a disturbance. 5:40 p.m. 911 caller states there is a party passed out in the driver's seat of a vehicle heading into Turners Falls, right before the bridge. A 31-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, OUI-drugs, and OUI-liquor, second offense.

Thursday, 8/3

1:28 p.m. Caller reports an ongoing issue with vehicles going the wrong way on Canal Street since the detour in Gill.

1:30 p.m. Report of ongoing issue with people drinking in Peskeompskut Park.

3:51 p.m. Caller from N Street states that there are four dogs out on a roof. Officer confirmed that there are a couple of dogs on the roof; advises dogs are causing a disturbance to the neighborhood. Town Hall advises that there are no dogs registered to this address. Officer advises that there are at least four large dogs; unknown if they are aggressive. ACO will look into the situation. Two more calls received regarding dogs. 3:52 p.m. Caller from G Street would like it noted again that her neighbor is playing drums and it is loud.

4:48 p.m. Caller reporting a male acting strangely and yelling at cars on First Street. Officer advises party went back into his home.

7:47 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue states that someone threw a jug of chocolate milk at one of his windows and there is damage. Referred to an officer.

8:14 p.m. Caller reports that he was assaulted in Montague Center 30 or 45 minutes ago; stated he was already at hospital. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 8/4

9:51 a.m. Chief Williams located a male violating public drinking bylaw at Peskeompskut Park. Summons issued. 3:43 p.m. Party from Park Street into station to report that her neighbor's dog is aggressive and tried to bite her yesterday. Report taken.

3:53 p.m. 911 caller states they have been calling every day for the past few weeks and nothing has happened; neighbor continues to play drums and cause a disturbance. Drumming had stopped prior to officer's arrival. Advised of options.

6:29 p.m. Report of ongoing issue with unleashed dog on G Street. Copy of call left for ACO.

Saturday, 8/5

7:44 a.m. 911 caller from Second Street states that during the night, someone came into her apartment and stole her cell phone and wallet; suspects daughter and son-in-law. Investigated.

1:38 p.m. Sewer alarm sounding near the site of the former Bridge of Names. Wastewater department notified.

2:31 p.m. Officer notified directly about a dog bite incident at Unity Park and is responding.

3:11 p.m. 911 caller states that a male is passed out in a vehicle on Montague City Road and they are unable to wake him up. A 41-year-old Huntington man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

11:44 p.m. Two calls reporting a vehicle crash on Turners Falls Road; vehicle left scene. Area checked; unable to locate. Area departments advised to be on lookout.

Sunday, 8/6

1:05 p.m. A 59-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a probation warrant.

8:52 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with an officer regarding plants being ripped up from his Millers Falls Road yard. Advised of options.

CORN from page B1

of their crop in front of fires. In this form it could be carried on foraging and hunting trips, or stashed in handy places for winter.

Though all corn is a single species, *Zea Mays*, there are several varieties. As well as popcorn, these include sweet corn, usually eaten as a vegetable; dent corn, whose kernels indent when dried and are used for hominy in the Southern states; flour corn, used for tortillas in the Southwest, and flint corn, typical of the North because it withstands cold weather. These types have been hybridized so we have corn adapted to needs ranging from animal feed to fresh ears for summer cookouts; from popcorn for the movies to cornmeal for breads and pancakes.

The English colonists brought their own favored cereal crops – wheat, barley, rye, and oats – to Massachusetts. Their collective noun for these was “corn,” so it was natural to class the Native Americans’ cereal as corn, and identify it with the adjective “Indian.” Things made with it were called “Indian,” too: “Indian pudding” was not a pudding made by Native Americans, but an English pudding made by substituting Indian corn for wheat; “Rye and In’jun” was bread made from a mix of rye flour and cornmeal.

Other peoples have also adapted corn to their diets and needs. All over Central and South America they make flatbreads such as tortillas, and corn cakes such as the *arepas* of Venezuela, the Peruvian *pastel de choclo*, and the deliciously filled *pupusas* of Guatemala.

Northern Italy has many sorts of cornmeal cookies and biscotti. There, *polenta* – cornmeal cooked in water and flavored with butter and Parmesan – is often preferred to pasta. Similar cornmeal mushes called *mamaliga* are staples in Romania, where they're served with cheese and sour cream, and in Africa, where every country has its own name for it.

In England, tuna and corn is popular in sandwiches; in Puerto Rico cornmeal is a dessert favorite in *sopapillas* – little cornsticks doused in syrup – and *funche de leche de coco* – cornmeal cooked in coconut milk.

Here we are in the middle of corn season, and the favorite way to eat it has to be to munch it straight from the cob. If you usually pick up corn from a local farmstand or the farmers markets in Turners Falls or Greenfield, you will know that this year corn is spread on counters rather than piled in the usual mounds.

Blame the roller-coaster weather, which has limited or even destroyed many farmers' crops. That's made corn more expensive, but many will agree it's worth it. Garrison Keillor even wrote, “People have tried and tried but sex is not better than sweetcorn.”

CHICKEN WITH CORN AND CIDER

Cider brings a differently delicious note to this dish. Bone-in thighs are best because they are more flavorful, but boneless works, too. Tarragon and thyme taste very different; tarragon is exceptional with chicken, but thyme is also good.

1 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. oil
4 chicken thighs
salt and pepper, to taste
½ cup finely chopped onion
1 to 1½ cups hard cider
1 tsp. dried tarragon or thyme
2 ears corn
3 Tbsp. heavy cream or sour cream



Preheat the oven to 325° F. Season the chicken with salt and pepper.

Heat the butter and oil in a frying pan over low heat. Fry the chicken gently for 4 minutes on each side, or until lightly golden. Remove to a baking dish, cover with a lid or foil, and bake in the oven for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, discard all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the frying pan. Add the onion and cook gently for 4 to 5 minutes without browning it.

Off the heat, stir the flour into the pan, return it to the heat, and stir in a cup of cider. Let the mixture thicken for a couple of minutes, then stir in the tarragon or thyme.

Scrape the kernels from the

corn onto a plate, scraping the cobs to get all the juice. Add this to the pan and cook for 2 minutes. Season to taste, then if necessary remove from the heat until the chicken has had its time in the oven. Then stir the cream into the corn mixture, and add the chicken and its pan juices.

Simmer for 3 to 4 minutes, adding seasoning and more of the cider if you want a thinner gravy. Serve with baby potatoes or rice and summer vegetables.

PEACHY CORN MUFFINS

12 canned sliced peaches
6 Tbsp. butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
¾ cup yellow cornmeal
4 tsp. baking powder
½ cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. vanilla extract
½ cup milk, or as needed
1 Tbsp. decorating
(or ordinary) sugar



Drain the peach slices and reserve the liquid. Pat the slices with a paper towel to dry them, then cut each into four or five pieces. Set aside.

Heat the oven to 400° F, and grease or line a muffin pan with paper cups. Melt the butter and let it cool, but not solidify.

Mix the flour, cornmeal, and baking powder, then stir in the sugar and cinnamon. When thoroughly blended, make a well in the center and stir in the melted butter, beaten egg, and vanilla extract. Working quickly, stir 6 tablespoons of syrup from the canned fruit, and then the peach pieces.

Stir in milk, a couple of tablespoons at a time, until you have a soft dropping consistency. Fill the muffin pan, sprinkling a little decorating sugar or granulated sugar on each.

Put in the oven, immediately turning the heat to 375° F. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until a skewer poked in the middle of a muffin comes out clean.

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

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

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Project*, portraits by Nayana LaFond. (See article, Page A1.) Through August 30. Reception this Sunday, August 13, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *William H. Hays*, color-reduction linocut and woodcut prints featuring the New England landscape and architecture. Through August.

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

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

Plum Boutique, Greenfield: *Travels*, paintings by Debra Cootware. Through August 25.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Viscera*, mixed-media by Gyuri Képes; *Black Families of Greenfield*, "(t)he faces, energy and achievements that helped to shape the town's identity and creative pulse." Both on view through August 31.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Robert Mace Bent*, paintings, through August. Reception on Sunday, August 27, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Bar-*

ry De Jasu, photographs, through August 17.

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

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *A Study in Contrasts*, fiber art by Sandy Tobin and photographs by Thierry Borcy. Through August.

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 responding 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.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Eighth Annual Juried Art Show: undercurrents*. Work that illuminates the rarely seen or overlooked. Through September 2.

Club George, Northampton: *Discovery and Coherences*, photography by Andrew Held and Nancy Lowry. Through August 26.

TRAVELS from page B1

Upstate Vibes

I arrived at Bruce's rustic mountaintop cabin after driving the smallest of roads, dipping up through Jacksonville Vermont, to Bennington, and crossing over to New York State at Hoosick, with pretty rolling hills and farms. Three hours later I was navigating with caution on the steep dirt road that winds up to his cabin. Another friend soon arrived, driving an 1100cc Indian motorcycle but managing to climb the dirt driveway with ease.

We all headed out later to a cool

outdoor place for dinner and drinks called Beck's Tavern in nearby North Creek. This is an outdoor and indoor place that has a big field with an outdoor stage and a live band along with cornhole courts, comfortable tables, and a full pub in two buildings. It's built for the ski crowd, who visit Gore Mountain and come here for *après-ski*.

They serve *poutine*, which is a plate of french fries covered with gravy then covered with cheese curds. My friend Brian, who had never savored the cheese-curds-on-fries goodness, was amazed. Have you ever had *poutine*?



Boating on Friends Lake in Chestertown.



Olana, the former home of painter Frederic Church, in Greenport, New York.



A railway bridge walkway over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie.

MOVIE REVIEW

On a Wing and a Prayer (2023)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I like movies based on true stories. I have actually seen quite a few of them. Some of them on the list are *Miracles From Heaven* and *13 Lives*. That last particular one is about an impossible rescue of boys trapped in an underwater cave. I was able to see it on Amazon Prime.

I guess it is turning into a lucky spot for me, when it comes to those kinds of movies, because I also watched *On a Wing and Prayer* online because it is streaming on Amazon Prime.



The movie received a streaming-only release despite featuring several top stars.

The film starts out with various people who become involved in this story just living their lives. The character Doug White, played by Dennis Quaid, is having a barbecue with some of his extended family. In the middle of this visit he has a flying lesson, which he is so bad at. It is like the ninth time he is trying to get it right.

Another guy, played by Jesse Metcalfe, whose flying background

comes in handy in a big way later, is having problems with his girlfriend. Then there is this guy who just started working in the control tower at an airport, who's not exactly decent at this kind of work.

The airport is where the family starts to head when things go wrong with a flight they take on one Sunday. What I mean by "wrong" is Doug, who is not a good pilot, suddenly has to fly the plane they are on with the help of his wife, played by Heather Graham.

Here is a guy who, like I said, is not a good pilot – and on top of that, is having a crisis of faith, due to a life-changing event. His wife tries to reassure him that God is always with him, no matter what. Because of this flight he has to take one big leap of faith.

One hint as to how the character played by Jesse Metcalfe comes in is that it is a very good stroke of luck that this other guy is in the control tower that day – and also that he has a cell phone with him at the time of this flight. Maybe the movie should have been called *The Miracle Flight* instead, because they get rescue crews and trucks out there for the landing, and Doug has to pilot the plane through a storm. Let's just say there is no need for the crews to be put to work.

This event must have been amazing to see in real life. I know that in the film, the new guy in the control tower rushes out to see for himself how the whole flight lands. Anybody else out there at the time must have thought it was an amazing sight as well. Word definitely got out pretty well about this miraculous flight.

I liked this way better than the true story movie about *Tetris*, which I also saw.

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

sunbug solar
An energy partner that will make you feel right at home
413 884 1000
sunbugssolar.com
Certified Corporation

Turners Falls Pizza House
Family Owned & Operated
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
Dace Argy, Family & Staff
PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS
www.turnersfallspizza.com
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

Peter Waters Painting Services
Interior/Exterior Custom Residential Fully Insured
Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com



A WITNESS TO HISTORY

Words and photographs by
ED GREGORY

June 15, at right

Here's a shot of the Farren chapel-chimney coming down. A north exposure, looking south at the west side of the complex. The excavator operator uses a steel beam as a "toothpick" to peck away at the chimney, an effective method to dislodge stubborn brick construction. The chimney was 50 feet high, and a four-course thick brick construction. Notice the communication antenna on top of the chimney. The next phase is to demolish the chapel itself; the building with the ocular windows.



June 26

The demolition project is about one-fifth of the way complete. It's expected to go well into July and possibly to August. The property reclamation will follow into September.... I've been granted special dispensation to access the site. Safety gear is worn, and predetermined distances from moving machinery must be adhered to.

June 28

They began the main, 1900, building today. I try to get there every day for a couple hours.

July 26, above

This is the south side of the 1964 wing, the Farren Care Center. Associated Building Wreckers' Volvo EC480E HR excavator has a 92-foot reach, and is making easy work of gnawing away at the south facade. The single-story building rubble to the left was once the hospital's "X-ray wing," built in 1975. A Metso Nordberg LT105 stone-and-brick rubble processor - a crusher - is on site at the north end, and is being used to crush the materials into 1- to 2-inch sizes, which will later be used as fill for the property recovery project.



August 1, at right

From the Farren Care Center roof, looking west to the remains of the 1975 X-ray wing. The wing was later converted to administrative office space for the hospital, and served as the main entrance to the Farren Care Center.

August 7, at left

One of two subterranean oil tanks being removed. In the spring of 1988, a pair of 10,000-gallon, fiberglass oil tanks were put in place at the northwest lot by Mackin Construction Co. of Greenfield. Each tank weighs 5,000 lbs., and held fuel for the hospital's physical plant. After a three-day inspection, a hygienic team drained, inspected, and cleaned the two tanks before removal was OK'd. The removal process was overlooked by the Turners Falls Fire Department deputy chief Kyle Cogswell and his team of Turners Falls firefighters. An inspector from PSI, a geotechnical engineering company that overlooks hazardous waste cleanup, was also on site.

August 9

I've had some great opportunities regarding chronicling the demise of this complex. I know there are people that wanted to save it. What those people don't know are the details in keeping the place "alive." It's truly unbelievable as to the logistics to maintain a complex such as this, especially one that's been in decline for years. I've had the opportunity to see up close, and bear from the "horse's mouth," those details... astounding!



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

Gerijohnson Realty

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



WWW.GJAR.COM

GERI JOHNSON, 45 Years of Experience



MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309



SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.

"Rock solid service with level advice"

Complete Masonry Supply

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

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls

413-863-4322

and at our new location

529 S. Main St, Brattleboro

or 802-579-1800

www.shanahansupply.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Toma to Flower, Baby Baby Explores, bobbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Isle of Klezbos*, live klezmer band film accompaniment. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rufus Cesspool, The Upstairs District*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Landowner, Strange Fate, Open Head*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lady Pop*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Shakey Graves, Lucius*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *EarthKry*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sweeping Promises, Lost Film, Wojcicki*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *J. Smith & The Oddballs, Paul Sticca*. No cover. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body, Rocking Puppies, Raw Impressions with Lou & Adele Barlow*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *BWare*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *The Huntress and Holder of Hands, Footings*. \$ 8 p.m.

Northampton Center for the Arts: *Jason Anderson*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owen Manure, Van Walton, Human Pontiac*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 4 p.m.

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Anthony Pasquarosa, Liam Grant, Ethan WL*. Free. 5 p.m.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *David Wax Museum, Lexi Weege*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Flems, Cheap City, Riley Lucifer*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gloons, Warm, Fred Cracklin, Abel Blood*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Bouyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Ben Varian, Jake Tobin, Blue Dish, beetsblog*. \$ 7 p.m.

Black Birch Vineyard, Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem, Louie Phipps. \$ 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *1 Ambassa Duo*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

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

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Larry LeBlanc, Gail Hegeman and Friends*. Free. 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Wet, LUCY*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Club D'Elf, Duke Levine*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Hitchcock Brewery, Bernardston: *Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons*. No cover. 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Sapling, Bunnies, Cutlass*. \$ 6 p.m.

Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *Corki & Ken*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Native Sun, Lip Critic, Color Killer, Slob Drop*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

JJ's Tavern, Florence: *The Prozacs, Some Kind of Nightmare, A.P.E., Limited Hangout*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *John Kadlecik*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Droplets, Mesmers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Sandy Bailey, Ciara Fragale*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Don Gadi, Hooper James, East Coast Oracles*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

Wizard's Castle, Montague: *John Sheldon*, kirtan. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions presents *Charley's Place*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rave in Leo* feat. *DJ Pinky Promise, DJ vlnrble, Lex Burlesque*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Behold!, True Believers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Wonder Twins, Padded Waltz*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Greenfield Records, Greenfield: *Chimes of Bayonets, Just Mason, The Scouts, No Demo*. \$ 2 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Slothrust, Pronoun*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Fever Haze, Nanny, Teen Driver*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Tree House Brewing Company, South Deerfield: *Old Crow Medicine Show*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Next Stage, Putney, Vermont: *Bread & Puppet*. \$ 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jonathan Foster*. No cover. 9 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Come On In My Kitchen*, celebration of Robert Johnson with readings by his sister *Annye Anderson*, music by *Hubby Jenkins, Tim Eriksen*. Free; \$ for dinner after. 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Fairy House Day IV: Mermaid Wedding*. Kids' activities, crafts, stage show, and music by *Wednesday Knudsen, Kryssi B., and Madden Aleia*. Free. 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods & Kenny Segall, Malik Abdul-Rahmaan*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Richard Lloyd Group* (ex-Television). \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Modern English*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Daniel Higgs, Chris Weisman*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Sandy Bailey, Cloudbelly, Luna Dawn*. \$ 7 p.m.

COMICS and PUZZLE

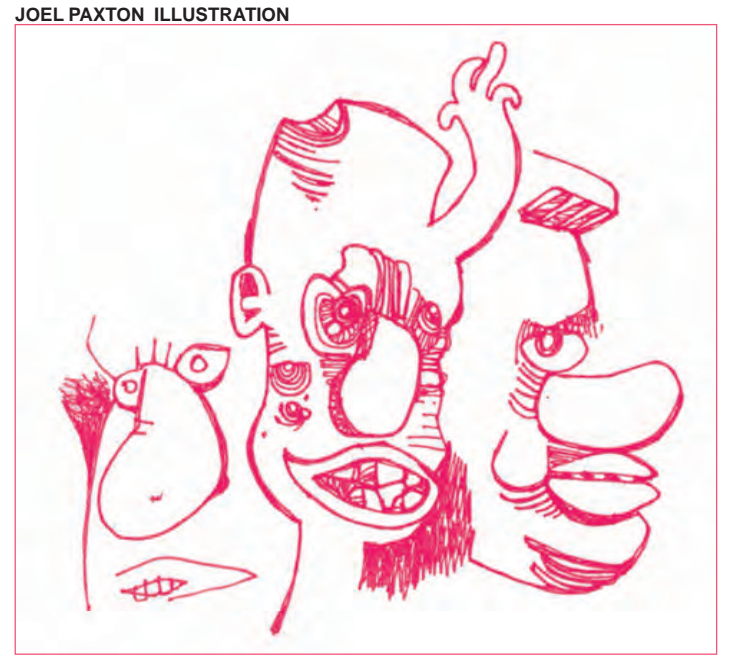
OVER THE HILL *Carolyn Clark*

Panel 1: Harry: "Look, Harry! Blue skies!"
Cupcake: "Finally! Did you see the photos of the washed out roads?"

Panel 2: Harry: "Yes, I've been so worried."
Cupcake: "Why, Cupcake? We were never in any danger."
Harry: "Yes, but somebody somewhere was having a stroke or heart attack."

Panel 3: Cupcake: "Somebody was panicking that the baby would come before she could get to the hospital."
Harry: "Thelma, you have too active an imagination."

Panel 4: Cupcake: "maybe so, but the odds are that I'm right, Harry."



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

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

HY OLLBL EY PRO CHAP SQUUCO AGEPTROZ PGB COPPOLA EY PRO GBLZ "NOMEY"!

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: 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

WEST ALONG from page B1

to keep those fly populations in check. Soon swallow numbers will swell up to the thousands as they meet, feed, and gear up for the day in a few weeks when they will suddenly be gone, heading south.

With diminished beach because of high tide and crowds that throng the available sands right up to the warning signs that mark the forbidden plover zone, the place looks like a Sunday afternoon at Coney Island. We take a quick peek at the ocean just to say we saw it, and jump back into the car to make our getaway and head to town.

We stop long enough to watch the elusive purple martins, still raising young in the high-tech artificial gourds that hang from carefully engineered poles, each capable of supporting a colony of two dozen pairs. This is a far cry from the martins in Jean-Jacques Audubon's painting of purple martins nesting, more than two centuries ago, in real gourds somewhere in Pennsylvania.

Fair warning: don't bother putting up those high-priced fancy purple martin apartment birdhouses anywhere in our valley. Sadly, we have no martins in our region, and haven't for decades, if ever. Those houses are fancy enough, but you'll be inviting the riff-raff English sparrows to move in. You'll never see a purple martin around here, that's why we linger to have a look when we're at Plum.

On the way out of town we stop at our favorite harborside seafood restaurant in Newburyport where we have been having lunch for years whenever we are in town. I am only slightly bemused by the menu prices that have kept climbing. In the '70s our favorite fried scallop platter was priced at \$16, with almost too many scallops to safely

eat in one sitting without getting scallop indigestion. This year the same platter topped out at \$32 a plate plus tax. Full disclosure: we got the platter anyway!

Back in the Valley at the end of the day, we bathed in the rain forest greenery of our own corner of the state, having enough of sand dunes, crowds, green heads and high prices for a week or two. We'll go back when the piping plovers decide to share the beach with us.

With August racing by, and with the Blue Moon at the end of the month waiting in the wings, we'll see how much we can pack into the rest of the summer days. Seems as though that season is never quite long enough.



Purple martin, *progne subis*.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This Saturday: Wendell Old Home Day!

By **KATHY-ANN BECKER** and **COURT DORSEY**

WENDELL – The spark of old-time togetherness will ignite friendships old and new when Wendell's annual Old Home Day lights up the Common with smiles and laughter once again.

Wendell Old Home Day is back this Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Wendell Common. Started back in the 1930's, Wendell Old Home Day can boast of being old, but is the kind of ephemeral event that always caus-

es people in the late spring to ask, "Will there be an Old Home Day this year?"

Yes! Wendell Old Home Day 2023 will kick off with a ring of the Wendell Town Crier bell at 10 a.m., and features over 31 booths full of exceptional local original arts and crafts exhibitors. Town officers will also be present with information and a welcome.

At 11 a.m. sharp the home-grown parade, shortest on Earth, will promenade from the north end of the common to the south end,

led by the siren of the WFD truck. Some local vehicles of note and pride will fall in behind, and then the frolicking pedestrian marchers with kazoos, decorated strollers, and bikes will raise a ruckus. The Leverett and Wendell Police car will bring up the rear.

Marchers will turn into the common to strut across, ending up at the children's tent for free games and sack races. At high noon the Meetinghouse bell will call for attention, and the Town Crier will announce a citizen initiative land declaration of appreciation to Native peoples who

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 or call (413) 863-8666.

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. **\$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

care for this land. The Selectboard will announce the most honorable Citizen of the Year award.

After noon, the Meetinghouse will be open as an off-the-common gathering place, with refreshments. From then on the day will be utter merriment, with tractor rides, Morris dancers, baby goats, story telling, historic tours, games and more!

Music will feature Abdu Saar

and Perry Howarth and other volunteer musicians, and DJ Bobby. Annie Hassett and Court Dorsey will lead a community sing at the Meetinghouse from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

There will be great food. Diamond Farm of Wendell and Sun Kim Foods always provide wonderful meals that are worth the trip alone, and there will be ice cream and baked goods.

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

GREENFIELD SOLAR

Local Solar PV Installers for over 16 years in western Massachusetts

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

Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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

allEarth SOLAR
PREMIER DEALER

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

NEW FOOD!

THE VOO

78 3rd St TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS

ORDER ONLINE:
thevoo.net

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement

GSB
Wealth Management & Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com

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

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

**Tile
Lino
Carpet**

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

Ed Terault, Owner