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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 24, 2023

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Public Solar Grid Touted To Help Town ‘Decarbonize’

By GEORGE BRACE

The Leverett selectboard devoted their August 15 meeting to a conversation with the energy committee about “community decarbonization.” In the course of the discussion, the energy committee gave the board an outline of its pilot project to create a municipally-owned, solar-powered, “microgrid,” which members said would help reduce the town’s dependence on fossil fuels.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson said he was motivated to convene the meeting by concerns about “global environmental circumstances generally,” and by a conference he had recently attended on “Decarbonizing Communities and Campuses.”

Hankinson defined “decarbonization” as “removing carbon dioxide from the air, or not putting more in,” and said that he believed the principal sources of carbon emissions in Leverett were fuels used to power heating furnaces and vehicles. His hope, he said, was to “work up... a campaign that we can

see LEVERETT page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Long-Desired Repairs Under Contract for Old Town Hall

By JEFF SINGLETON

Bids are in for two of the three projects to continue renovations at the old town hall and branch library in Montague Center, the oldest public building in Montague. In the absence of assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, who is coordinating the projects, town administrator Steve Ellis announced the results of the request for proposals at Monday’s selectboard meeting.

The board approved the award of a project to repaint the building’s façade to the low bidder, JJS Universal Construction of Dudley, “for a lump sum fee of \$70,000 and a total contract value not to exceed \$85,000 for unit costs over the baseline.” Ellis explained that “unit costs” in a bid contract are for “additional work,” essentially change orders, which could be approved by Ramsey.

The slate roof repair was awarded to Larochelle Construction of South Hadley, for a base bid of \$35,000 and maximum contract of \$85,000 if more slate shingle replacements are needed. A third proposed project, to replace the building’s windows, has been put on hold.

Ramsey had initially considered combining all three projects in one request for bids, but said in July that

see MONTAGUE page A5

Zoning Change on Hill Moves Forward, Though Neighbors Oppose Parts Plant

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague planning board voted 3-2 Tuesday night to recommend a zoning change that would allow a specific parcel of town-owned land, between the public safety complex and public works garage and two cemeteries near the corner of Turnpike and Turners Falls roads, to be developed for industrial use. The motion, which recommended that the selectboard send the proposal to the October 10 special town meeting, was strongly opposed by nearly every commenter at a packed hearing on the second floor of town hall.

Supporters of the zoning change – mainly town planner Maureen Pollock and several members of the planning board – stressed the need for manufacturing jobs, a positive impact on the town’s tax base, and the potential for housing



Public comment was uniformly negative on a large new workplace on Turnpike Road.

development, which the revised zoning would also allow.

Opponents emphasized truck congestion at an already-busy intersection, the impact of a major development on woodlands and

two abutting cemeteries, and its potential to change the character of their neighborhood.

The proposal to change the parcel’s zoning from “Neighborhood

see PLANT page A7

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Teachers Head Back In, Without Contract



Union co-president Heidi Schmidt (left) addressed the school committee Tuesday evening as members lined the meeting room walls.

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “When I see former students, one of the first things they ask me is, ‘Who’s still at the school?’” Heidi Schmidt told the regional school committee during the public comment period of their meeting Tuesday night. “Staff are leaving our district for more competitive salaries. Staff turnover is harmful to the educational environment.... It’s hard for students when familiar faces are not here.”

Schmidt, an art teacher, is co-president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, the union repre-

senting district staff. The union and district have been deadlocked in contract renewal negotiations, and “Unit A,” the teachers, have been working without a contract for over a year; the talks are now in formal arbitration.

According to both parties, the sticking point is in wage increases over the term of the contract – GMEA representatives argue that their proposal would reduce attrition to other area districts, and that the administration could meet its terms for as little as \$160,000 spread over four years.

Administrators and school committee members,

see GMRSD page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Eyes Million-Dollar Tax Override

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee spent most of Monday night’s meeting reviewing department budgets for the current fiscal year to determine whether a Proposition 2½ override would be advisable.

While developing the FY’24 budget before May’s annual town meeting, after finding a large gap between departmental requests and the town’s projected revenues, the selectboard and fin com had asked department heads to find ways to reduce their requests.

Though Erving’s residential tax rate is only \$8.00 per \$1,000 in value, Prop 2½ also limits total taxes on existing property to a 2.5% annual increase; as the town’s new growth in property has been negligible, the only other way to increase revenue would be for voters to approve an override.

However, the board decided not to ask for an override at the annual town meeting, and a balanced FY’24 budget was passed based on the reduced requests.

On July 15, town administrator Bryan Smith asked department heads to review their original requests and the final reduced amounts so the selectboard and fin com could revisit the FY’24 budget.

see ERVING page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Who Speaks For the Trees? Warden, Chair Butt Antlers

By KATE SAVAGE

The Gill selectboard hosted a heated debate at their August 14 meeting over the authority to fell trees along town roads. While the town’s highway department has been doing the work for decades, Joe Williams, newly elected as tree warden in May, now insists he should be guiding the process.

“I’m in charge of hiring to cut the trees down, not the highway department,” Williams asserted. “I hire or interview or get bids to take the trees down, I mark the trees to come down, I supervise the highway crew when they are doing tree work.”

“Absolutely not,” snapped selectboard chair Randy Crochier. “I have grave, grave concerns about having another person in charge of our highway department. You were in here when [highway superintendent John Miner] first got appointed. You had complaints about John then... I’ll say this straight up: I believe this is a sideways, backwards run for you to attack John Miner and the highway department.”

“I disagree,” answered Williams.

Since 1899, state law has mandated that every city and town in Massachusetts have a tree warden. The law makes them responsible for the care and control of all public shade trees, except those along state highways. The warden can also be

see GILL page A6

Wendell Debates Fate of Redeemables

By SARAH ROBERTSON and MIKE JACKSON

“I think this is the biggest impact on Wendell residents since the tax collector stole the money,” Tom Mangan told the 30 or more people packed into the highway garage during last Tuesday’s road commission meeting.

The house was packed for a discussion of a longstanding program to sort out redeemable cans and bottles at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS). In the decades since the state’s bottle return program was first introduced, volunteers had separated out eligible containers, diverting the proceeds to charitable causes. In recent years, half of what was collected was donated to the town’s weekly food pantry, Good Neighbors, and the other half kept as a stipend by

the volunteer transporting and cashing in the redeemables.

The program was discontinued on July 1, and the sorting area at WRATS that once housed boxes for cans and bottles now stands empty.

“It’s an inordinate amount of work,” Phil Delorey said, “for very little money.... We also feel there

has been a conflict of interest with one of our employees.”

Delorey – Wendell’s building inspector, zoning agent, project manager, and chair of the road commission, which oversees WRATS – was the target of much ire at the August 15 meeting.

see WENDELL page A5



Tom Mangan asked how the town could restart its public container redemption initiative.

One Final Week Off: Next Edition Slated For September 7

Illustration: Heavy Hangs the Head.....A2	Profile: Wendell’s Abdou Sarr.....B1	M/M/M: Glock Shredder.....B4
Four Letters to the Editors.....A2-A3	New Column Launched!.....B1	Device/Advice: Appliance Dementia.....B5
Local Briefs.....A3	Valley View: Seeking Silver Linings.....B1	Teen Ponders Deepest Abyss.....B5
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....A4	Senior Centers Listing.....B2	Gill Police Log Highlights.....B5
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....A7	Libraries Listing.....B2	Our Monthly Children’s Page.....B6
On the Road: Beaches & Castles Edition.....A8	Galleries Listing.....B3	Arts & Entertainment Listing.....B7
Preparing the Fleet.....B1	Montague Police Log Highlights.....B3	Three Comics, One Great Puzzle.....B7



The Montague Reporter

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Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

It Will Still Exist

In our last edition, we observed in this space that the Greenfield Montague Transportation Area should not be expected to cease to exist once it has been divested of its final piece of property, the FRTA bus maintenance barn on Deerfield Street in Greenfield.

GMTA, after all, was constituted by voters in the two communities in 1924, and we have seen no evidence that the trustees the towns appoint to carry out its business, in accordance with legislation of that era empowering communities to join together in transportation areas, have the unilateral power to destroy them.

Nor do we believe the existence of a body politic is premised on its ownership of property. Any public official who does should be examined. That is a fundamentally anti-democratic and economically elitist position.

We read this week with some interest that Montague town administrator and GMTA trustee Steve Ellis (by a funny twist of fate, illustrated on this very page – hi Steve! Not trying to single you out!) had contacted the Department of Public Utilities, which he asserted GMTA was created “under” in 1924.

But while it is correct that the regulation of *street railways* was assigned to the Board of Railway Commissioners in 1906, who merged into the Public Service Commission in 1914, and were recombined into the DPU in 1919, it does not follow that DPU had jurisdiction to regulate *transportation areas* themselves. When the question later arose, it was confirmed that transportation areas were *independent public authorities*.

And in the 1970s, it was clarified by legislation that transportation areas have the same “powers, limitations, duties and organization” as transportation authorities.

Why Greenfield and Montague would wish to ignore the existence of a second local transportation authority is beyond us. As we wrote last week, there are plenty of services such an entity could provide to our residents.

Weekend service, for example. A pilot program promised by the FRTA seems to be dead on arrival. Perhaps that body is simply contending with too many member communities to manage the task.

A GMTA would be perfectly suited to run Saturday and Sunday buses along one route, back and forth between downtown Greenfield and downtown Turners Falls. Shouldn't Turners residents be able to go to Ice Cream Alley and Greenfield Records without driving a private vehicle? Shouldn't Greenfield residents be able to visit the Country Creemee, Break-down Records, and the soon-to-open Music Connection?

Not to mention that some people do work on weekends.

This is only one of countless dreams and visions for GMTA's future that elected and appointed officials apparently planned to smother, as if at night with a pillow, simply because it has *grown too old* and *no longer owns a building*. We encourage our readership to imagine the others. We welcome letters on the topic.

The two densely settled communities at the heart of this county have an opportunity to take matters into their own hands in the coming years, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, and return to the original promise of the transportation areas a century ago: local control of the means of mass transit.

Just as municipal light plants were revived in the era of broadband internet, our transportation area still has power – and our transportation challenges are real, and growing.

CORRECTIONS

In our August 10 edition, an article highlighting collaborations between Montague public libraries and other institutions – the Brick House and Four Winds School – around access to and use of graphic novels (Page B2, *Bridges Between Words and Images*) contained two errors.

First, Four Winds School was accidentally referred to in one instance as “Four Rivers.”

Second, the wrong name was given for Four Winds teacher and co-director Becca Danielsen, who was referred to in both the article text and a photo caption as “Becca Daniels.” Our most sincere apologies for this error, and our thanks to the reader who brought it to our attention.

We will always try harder, and always want to correct the record when we make mistakes!



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Steve Ellis admits he was surprised at the level of complexity involved in managing a small community like Montague when he took the position of town administrator. “I also had no idea how kind and generous people are, and how receptive to honest and thoughtful explanation they can be, even when things are hard,” Ellis says. “And bridges! Sewers! Water! The cost to repair or replace them is somewhat terrifying.”

Letters to the Editors

Wrong Place for Major Employer

I want to express my opposition to the Montague planning board's proposed rezoning of a 15.6-acre of wooded land (Parcel #21-0-152) and a 13.2-acre plot known as Springdale Cemetery (Parcel #21-0-004), both located on Turnpike Road in Turners Falls to the right of the Montague police station.

The proposal calls for a zoning change from “Neighborhood Business” to “General Business.” The main difference would allow for manufacturing with a special permit. A Greenfield manufacturer, NE-XT, has expressed interest in building a 100,000-square-foot facility on this site.

After attending the planning board meeting on July 25, it seems apparent to me that the board is try-

ing to bulldoze this through with little to no regard for the 200-plus nearby residents that would be affected by this change.

Many in the neighborhood are angry, and have organized a group called Rest In Peace to fight this rezoning and to inform the public. The name reflects a respect for the deceased, their families, and their loved ones who enjoy the peace and tranquility of the two cemeteries in the area (Springdale and the Catholic cemetery), hiking the wooded trails, as well as a desire to perpetuate the peace and tranquility of the homes in that area.

This proposed change would bring additional traffic to an already-busy Turnpike Road, with an already-busy four-way intersection

at the police and fire station. Our children who walk or bike to the Gill-Montague school would be at further risk to their safety. Needless to say, noise levels in our neighborhood would increase dramatically.

I think it is the responsibility of our planning board to consider the negative impact of this site, and challenge them to do their due diligence to find a better location for this facility. If the planning board approves this rezoning, then it will go to a special town meeting for a final vote in October.

Don't be bulldozed.... Become informed, and make your voice heard.

Evelyn Walsh
Turners Falls

Preserve Neighborhood Woodland

We are writing to express our concerns about the Town of Montague planning board's proposed rezoning of two parcels of land located off of Turnpike Road in Turners Falls.

The lots in question are currently covered by a beautiful pine forest with many walking paths and trails used by local residents to walk their pets, go jogging, or simply take a leisurely walk along the shady trails. At this point, no studies of any kind have been done concerning the impact this change would have to the local residential community.

Once this woodland, which has been in existence for over a century, is clear-cut and bulldozed, it will be gone forever. Replacing it with a few businesses, or one large business, a few shrubs and ornamental grasses, would be a travesty.

This rezoning proposal has already unanimously been accepted by the selectboard without con-

sideration of the local community's interests. A 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility belongs in an industrial park, not in the middle of private cemeteries, a neighborhood of nicely-maintained homes, senior citizen housing complexes, and a regional high school. This proposed rezoning will result in a project that is the wrong size and in the wrong place.

Help conserve the peace and tranquility this special forest offers by sending a message to the planning board, selectboard, and town meeting members that this is an unwelcome change to our community.

The rezoning plan is not in the best interest of our village, and would have negative and lasting consequences to our future.

Jerry Wondolowski
Colleen Carlisle
Turners Falls

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Staff and volunteers at the *Montague Reporter* will be taking one final week off before heading into fall, so there will be **no paper on August 31!** Our next edition will come out on September 7.

The deadline for submitting your **wrapping paper design** – or proposal – for our third Wrapping Paper Edition is September 1. The format is 20 by 22 inches. You don't have to submit a completed design; you may submit an idea for one, with samples of your work, to features@montaguereporter.org with "Wrap" in the subject line.

Chosen artists will each receive a stipend of \$200, and will have six weeks or so to complete their work and get it to us. The Wrapping Paper Edition will be printed in late November. This is a fundraiser for this paper, and a fun way to get your art in front of a wider audience while also helping to keep us going!

Curious about hiking, paddling, wildlife, hunting, fishing, and more across the region? Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust executive director Emma Ellsworth and staff will be chatting with the public about land protection, habitat restoration projects, and all things outdoor-related in a **"conversation about conservation"** this Thursday evening, August 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The event will be held at Honest Weight Brewery at 131 West Main Street in Orange, and Honest Weight will donate a portion of the evening's beer sales to Mount Grace.

Erving researcher, lecturer, author and historian Sara Campbell will present **"The World of Major William Erving"** in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Free Library

this Thursday evening, August 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Erving (1734-1791) was the son of a wealthy merchant who purchased land on both sides of the Millers River from the colonial government in 1752. He donated the land that would eventually become Wendell, and worried that "the people [of Wendell] might relapse into a state of barbarism" without support for learning!

This free public talk is sponsored by the Wendell Historical Society and the Wendell Free Library.

Greenfield holds their monthly **Arts Walk this Friday** evening, August 25 starting at 5 p.m. There will be music at several different downtown locations, including Spiralhead at Greenfield Community Television at 5 p.m., Tobey Sol LaRoche, Derek Sensale, and Elliott Lee Friesen at Hawks & Reed at 6:30 p.m., Ezra Prior doing an "Arts Walk Rap-Up" at the LAVA Center, and Atomic Scissors at Madhouse Multi-Arts at 7 p.m.

Check the exhibits listing on Page B3 for gallery shows and opening receptions.

If you enjoyed reading about geologist Richard D. Little's presentation on **armored mud balls** and other local geologic wonders in our May 4 edition (*Richard Little Jokes about Geology, But He's Serious About Mud Balls* by Easton Smith), you might want to attend his lecture this Friday, August 25 at 6 p.m.

Little will present on "The Amazing Geological History of Northfield" at the Trinitarian Church of Northfield, at 147 Main Street. The free event is one of many scheduled as part of Northfield's 350th Anniversary celebration.

Also part of Northfield's 350th is

a **guided hike at the Calvin Swan Homestead** at Brush Mountain this Saturday, August 26, at 9 a.m. The Brush Mountain Conservation Area comprises 46 acres off of Gulf Road.

Calvin Swan (1799-1875), a free-born African-American man, was a carpenter, businessman, landowner, and ardent abolitionist in 19th century Northfield. Swan was a leader in his own Methodist community off Gulf Road, and a member of both the Greenfield abolitionist group and the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society.

The National Spiritual Alliance will host a **Psychic Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, August 26, at the Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. To register, or for more information, visit spirituallianceusa.org/calendar.

Founded in 1874, Lake Pleasant is the oldest continuously-existing same-site year-round Spiritualist center in the United States.

Join herpetologist Mike Jones of MassWildlife for a **look at local reptiles** at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol, this Sunday, August 27 at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 1 p.m. and a concurrent program for kids will make the event a positive day for the whole family. The series is open to all, and is free.

Leverett Library's **Music on the Patio** series wraps up next Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. with the Machine Shop Band.

The LAVA Center's **Local Filmmaker Series** continues with Althea Levin Rieff Keaton presenting their short films next Thursday, August 31 at 6 p.m.

Keaton, a writer, artist, and arts educator, will screen and discuss with the audience five short films, ranging from 36 seconds to one minute and 40 seconds. See Keaton's work online at alrkeaton.com.

The LAVA Center is located at 324 Main Street in Greenfield. The suggested donation is \$5.

Seaweed monsters, naiads, dryads, pirates, and fairy queens and kings of all ages are invited to **"The**

Magical, Mystical Wedding of Merfolk," which will take place at Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, September 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to dress "Magical Formal" for this special occasion, an outgrowth of the traditional "Fairy House Day on Avenue A." Wings, tails, horns, beaks, and antennae are all welcome. Expect wedding cake, a photo booth, a butterfly release, fairy house-making supplies, and live music by Wednesday Knudsen, Kryssi Battalene, and Madden Aleia.

All are invited to participate in the annual Prettiest Picnic Contest, with prizes, and all will be entered in a drawing to win the Ultimate Lovelights Box Set – plus a cameo in the next episode of *The Lovelights*.

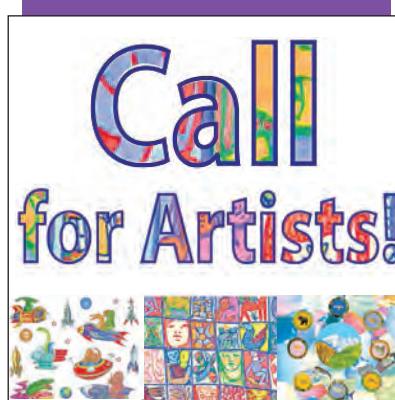
The Lovelights is a comic series, a performance group, and a children's TV show produced by Montague Community Television and Looky Here – the media empire also responsible for our own monthly Children's Page. Participation is free, and all are welcome.

Mitch Mulholland wrote in to remind folks that there is **no Montague Common Hall open mic** in August: "Too many attendees are on vacation. This follows the tradition of Open Mics over the last few years." The event will resume on Saturday, September 9.

Local artist Jean Kozlowski is exhibiting at Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield through September 17. Mainly an outdoor watercolor painter, Jean also creates still lifes. She started her painting career in Maine and became a traveling artist, taking her paint brushes to the Caribbean, France, England, Spain, and Italy.

In conjunction with Jean's exhibit, the gallery is hosting a **Tiny Art Fundraiser** and raffle. Paintings, photos, fiber, and mixed-media artworks will be for sale in five-by-five-inch (\$25) or three-by-three-inch (\$10) formats, with proceeds going towards the support of the nonprofit gallery. Email margedvaa@gmail.com with any questions.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



for our third Wrapping Paper Edition

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.



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Two More Letters to the Editors

Headline Too Sassy

I have been an enthusiastic subscriber to the *Montague Reporter* for several years, and rarely have a complaint with your coverage of local events. However, I must take issue with your characterization of a recent Leverett selectboard meeting.

The headline on the front-page article in your August 10 issue – *Leverett, Fearing More Work, Looks Gift Forest in Mouth* – completely mischaracterizes the discussion of Bruce Spencer's offer to turn land over to the town as a working forest, as well as the selectboard's determination on how to proceed. I know; I was there.

The headline clearly suggests that the town turned its back on Mr. Spencer's offer when, in fact, the selectboard and most of the town residents in attendance, spoke positively about the prospect of a town forest, and Mr. Spencer's generosity in offering the land to the town.

That there was discussion about

the challenges that the town would face in accepting the property, that there was a determination that some aspects of the proposed transaction needed further study, and that the selectboard ultimately felt that accepting the Spencer land and assuming responsibility for a town forest was too substantial a decision to make on its own without a consideration and vote at Town Meeting in no way reflected anything other than prudence and a respect for democratic decision-making in Leverett.

Unfortunately, because someone thought it was a cute idea to use a hackneyed phrase to get a laugh, an important discussion in our town was misleadingly reported, and an erroneous impression given to town residents about an important community matter. I really expect better from the *Reporter*.

Steve Weiss
Leverett

Layers of History

As I watched proceedings leading up to Georgia's Fulton County DA Fani Willis spelling out the racketeering indictments of former President Trump and his co-conspirators, I reflected on those who had gone before and made that moment possible.

Sixty years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the August 1963 March on Washington. Douglas Harris of Orange was there, and was inspired to give up a scholarship, drop out of college, and drive to Georgia to join the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which was headquartered in Atlanta.

He joined hundreds of others who put their lives on the line. Some were later found in shallow graves; others, like Doug, were shot at and jailed, and others were beaten and suffered police dog at-

tacks. But they persisted despite all obstacles.

Their goal? To register Blacks living in the South to vote. Later the goal was to run for office and become part of local, regional, and national government so they might have a say in governing their own lives and building strong communities, like Congressman John Lewis, the former president of SNCC.

Trump and Company's indictment, except for the judge, was mainly handled by members of the Black community, from DA Willis to the Clerk of Courts, Che Alexander, and Sheriff Labat who once served as the president of Georgia's Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

The Civil Rights era of the past has bent the arc toward justice.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser
Orange

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ERVING from page A1

"Small adjustments may be able to be made with existing appropriations," he wrote, and "larger adjustments would require action at the Town Meeting. An even larger adjustment might require a Proposition 2½ Override which, if approved by Town Meeting vote and a Town Election, would permanently change the levy capacity of the Town."

At their August 7 meeting, the boards met with the school committee, library director, police chief, fire chief, and water and wastewater superintendent. This week, they continued discussion with the police chief, fire chief, and water and wastewater superintendent, and met with the town planner and senior center director.

Fire & Police

Fire chief Philip Wonkka said that an increase of \$12,000 to \$15,000 in his budget, coupled with already-approved money, would allow him to hire a fourth firefighter, legally required for fighting a fire inside a building.

Water and wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders reported significant increases in the costs of electricity, chemicals, and sludge disposal, and increased testing requirements. He said \$20,000 should be allotted for testing and the cost for sludge disposal would be approximately \$54,000. Sanders said he was waiting to get more information on increases in the cost of heating oil and propane.

Police chief Robert Holst said the FY'24 reductions had meant eliminating a proposed cadet pro-

gram. The program would create a full-time civilian position to provide hands-on training and education for people seeking a career in law enforcement.

According to Holst, hiring a cadet would supplement police staffing, and provide potential replacements for officers who leave Erving. Eliminating the program had reduced his FY'24 budget by \$47,598. Besides restoring this, Holst recommended reinstating \$10,300 per officer for academy training for new hires; the budget as approved only includes \$5,000 for academy training.

Planning & Public Works

Town planner Mariah Kurtz asked the board to restore \$5,000 for surveying, as surveys are required for most development projects. She also recommended restoring \$48,500 for road layout surveys, necessary before starting road reconstruction.

For the former International Paper Mill property, she estimated a cost of \$57,000, which would cover a property-line survey of the full 43 acres, wetland delineation and a detailed topographical map for a 10-acre parcel considered developable, and a plan to split the parcel.

Kurtz shared a list of potential capital projects for future years, including a shared-use hiking path near Erving Center, a new cemetery, reconstruction of the Swamp Road bridge, public water supply for Farley and Erving Center, demolition of the Usher Mill boiler building and water tower, maintenance of the Pearl B. Care historical building, and the renovation or relocation of town hall.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory was unable to attend the meeting, but Bryan Smith reported that he was requesting \$57,000 for an additional equipment operator and \$35,000 for the operating budget. Kurtz also recommended restoring \$25,000 that had been reduced from the highway department's budget for surveying.

Schools & Seniors

School treasurer Jennifer Eichorn sent a memo reporting that health insurance costs are currently within budget, but that if several vacant positions are filled or new positions are created, the town would need to add approximately \$21,000 per position.

Bastarache and fin com and capital planning committee member Debra Smith attended the school committee meeting on Tuesday. Debra Smith asked for a five-year capital plan, and Bastarache requested information on the elementary school's filling of the vacancies, in order to estimate the impact of additional health insurance costs.

Senior center director Paula Betters recommended restoring \$5,000 to her budget for supplies, equipment, and contractors for activities established by the activities coordinator, a new position this year.

Betters said that the center keeps costs low through extensive volunteering, including from her and her husband, Gary Betters. The board and fin com asked that she document the number of hours the two donate.

A Cool Mil

Bastarache and selectboard chair Jacob Smith both estimated the

override amount could end up being approximately \$1 million.

Capital planning committee member Peter Mallet commented that it would be important to estimate the cost of the override to the average homeowner.

Debra Smith asked the selectboard and fin com to consider the potential consequences of a failed override vote.

"We need to hear from department heads what it looks like - FY'25 and forward - if an override does not pass," she said. "That is going to mean a change in services."

The selectboard agreed to firm up dollar amounts and continue the joint discussion at their September 6 meeting, and to call a special town meeting for early October. Debra Smith suggested holding an informational meeting a week before the town meeting.

Other Business

The board approved a one-day liquor license for the town's September 23 Fall Festival at Veterans Memorial Field. Recreation commission member Jacquelyn Boyden said Hitchcock Brewing of Bernardston will provide alcohol in a "beer garden" inside the tennis courts.

The board approved renewing and expanding the town's contract with Comcast, for \$3,000 per month, to provide fiber connection for the police station, Erving Center fire station, public works building, senior center, library, and town hall.

The board appointed Mark Blatchley to a vacant school committee seat, and McCrory as tree warden, with both terms ending June 30, 2024.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Most Remaining ARPA Earmarked for Police

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Personal schedules made it necessary to postpone the Wendell selectboard's August 2 meeting to the afternoon of Monday, August 7, when two of the three members met for a pole hearing. Member Paul Doud and acting chair Gillian Budine approved four poles near the intersection of Locke Village and Lockes Hill roads, as requested by National Grid to improve service reliability.

They also appointed Alistair MacMartin to the road commission, and appointed treasurer Carolyn Manley, road commission chair and project manager Phil Delorey, finance committee co-chair Thomas Richardson, and facilities engineer Jim Slavas, and Doud himself to the capital planning committee.

The complete selectboard then met in the town office building on August 16. Board of health chair Barbara Craddock attended by Zoom and, citing extended-family health issues, announced that she would finish her term but not run again in May. She said one or two people had expressed interest in the board of health, and that she would help whoever runs for a seat learn what they need to know.

Craddock said a new variant of COVID-19 is emerging, more contagious but with less dire outcomes than early strains. Wendell was experiencing a small surge in cases. Craddock said she did not support a new mask mandate in public buildings, but did recommend wearing them. A vaccine is expected late

September or early October.

She added that she had attended a cannabis webinar, and would forward information about new state regulations to the selectboard.

Police Department

Leverett police chief Scott Minckler came to discuss a new police cruiser. He said his preference was for a Ford hybrid, and one was already ordered for delivery this fall, but the order was not binding for the towns. He said his department replaces vehicles on a nine-year rotation, and his intention is to eventually make the entire fleet hybrid.

Minckler said the vehicle he wants, which would come with an "administrative" package, would cost between \$50,000 and \$55,000. The next cruiser replacement would include a "full-use" police equipment package, and would cost more. Grants may be available to defray the cost of hybrid vehicles.

Budine said the recent money managers' meeting budgeted for a cruiser next year, but that ARPA funds could be used this year. Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said \$85,000 was remaining in the town's ARPA account. Postponing the purchase would put the expense for when it was planned, but would probably increase the price.

The board voted to authorize using up to \$50,000 of ARPA money, and up to \$20,000 from community policing money, to purchase a new Ford hybrid cruiser.

Minckler stayed to say that, in spite of advertising for the posi-

tion, he had not yet hired a new animal control officer (ACO). The job requires some course work, then demands much and pays little. His officers will continue to cover the responsibility.

The Leverett police have sponsored an annual town tag sale at their elementary school. Minckler invited Wendell residents to participate as vendors this year, interested people can call to register for a 20-by-20-foot area. The sale will take place Saturday, October 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Budine said she had not yet been able to compare amendments to the intermunicipal agreement for police service, as recommended by town counsel, with the original agreement. She had not heard from Collins Center public services manager Michael Edwards, who was supposed to highlight the changes.

The board agreed to postpone their comments on the agreement to allow Edwards time to respond, or themselves time to review the amendments.

Fire Department

Fire department captain Asa deRoode requested monitored fire alarm systems at the town hall and the police station. The current alarms would alert anyone in the building, but cannot be heard outside the building. A monitored system would alert appropriate departments and start a response even if the building is unoccupied.

deRoode said it was important in that area, where houses are close

together, making response time more critical.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo said the systems would require two phone lines and an alarm panel in each building.

Johnson-Mussad agreed to find out the cost. The library and office building already have monitored alarms, and he suggested adding more would reduce the price for each one. Each system has an installation fee and a charge for regular maintenance.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato agreed to conduct a performance evaluation of Cuneo.

Other Business

Johnson-Mussad said he and Doud had consulted about his need for a clerical assistant, who could take over some repetitive tasks. The shared clerk budget line has eight unused hours per month, which could be spent on the position. The town's existing clerks had not yet been asked whether they want more hours.

The selectboard authorized Johnson-Mussad to attend free classes to become a certified public purchasing official for Wendell.

The board approved the Wendell Historical Society's request to waive a demolition fee for overhaul work the society is doing at the former Wendell Depot post office. They appointed Laura Doughty to the Wendell Cultural Council, and asked Johnson-Mussad to arrange a meeting with the New Salem selectboard to discuss replacing the gym lights at Swift River School with LEDs.


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WENDELL from page A1

Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), said that it was the most people she had ever seen at a road commission meeting. "I see both sides," she said. "There's a lot to do at WRATS."

At the heart of the matter was the fact that along the way, the volunteer sorting and redeeming the materials on behalf of Good Neighbors – and taking a stipend – had been hired as a part-time employee at the dump. Though he reportedly handled the redeemables off the clock, commissioners said they still saw town resources were going into the program, even as WRATS was running a deficit. The employee was not at the meeting.

Mangan, a Wendell resident and onetime board of assessors chair, presented information about the program he had gathered during the previous six weeks.

Over half of all Wendell residents have visited the Good Neighbors food pantry in the last four years, Mangan said. The group is funded by grants to buy food from the Western Mass Food bank, and the revenue from the redeemables is considered "supplemental," and small – an average of \$727 per year, and only \$357 in 2022.

While the volunteer-employee had been "double-dipping, essentially," Mangan said, he found no evidence from road commission minutes that any concerns were expressed, or performance evaluation given. The conflict of interest issue could be remedied, Mangan argued, by designating him as a "special employee" under Section 20 of the state ethics law.

Mangan called the commission's justification for ending the program an "uninformed opinion," and warned that the decision could cost the town \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year by adding additional material to the mixed-stream recycling bins sent to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). He asked what it would take to restart the program.

Delorey pointed to the free store at WRATS, a separate shed operated entirely by volunteers, as a workable model. "It's not the town's mission to recycle bottles and cans," he said. "There are other ways for this to happen other than it being a town employee, and taking up town space."

Resident Shawn Jarrett complained that she had called and emailed Delorey multiple times about the matter,

and he had not returned her messages.

"I'm not aware I've had any calls from anyone that I haven't returned," Delorey said. He recommended letters be delivered to the highway department mail slot in the town offices.

Jarrett said that for some time WRATS employees had worked both at the free store and sorting redeemables, and asked why it was now a problem. Two years ago, she pointed out, the road commission had threatened to empty the free store shed in order to use it for returnables. She asked what work wasn't being done because a part-time employee had been sorting redeemables.

Asa deRoode, captain of the Wendell fire department and "manager" of WRATS, which he described as "more of an autonomous collective," said there was building upkeep and maintenance that needed to be done, and that he was working on compiling an operations manual, with photographs.

The returnables program, deRoode said, "needs to be sustainable. It can't be dependent on just one person."

"It's going to take a village to sort 40,000 cans," Ameen warned. "I encourage you all to look at your volunteer schedules."

Ameen said a new redeemables shed would need a MassDEP permit. She cited Northfield as an example of a town where a non-profit food pantry runs a separate redeemables shed at the dump, and offered to organize a field trip for Wendell residents.

Another reason to "consider more of a community effort," Ameen continued, was under Wendell's contract with MRF, it might be problematic if the town were found to be removing higher-value aluminum and plastic from the recycling stream; volunteers diverting them before they join the stream would not cause this concern. The current five-year contract ends in 2025.

Unlike regular recycling, she explained, all container redemption statewide is managed by a monopoly called TOMRA, which has an "exclusive contract" by law.

Delorey said the road commission was not concerned about money from redeemables going elsewhere. "It was never an issue of money for WRATS," he said.

The commission has no plans for the newly-cleared space in the recycling shed, he added, but might use it in the future to separate glass and plastic containers.



MONTAGUE from page A1

he decided to bid them separately because they have "unique traits." "How much [the masonry and roof] projects cost will dictate how we design the window project on that building, because the windows can be scaled up or down," he explained.

The funding source for the masonry repair is a \$100,000 appropriation by town meeting in May 2022. The board approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the roof and window repairs at its June 6 meeting on the recommendation of the capital improvements committee. At that meeting the estimates were \$50,000 for the roof repair and \$200,000 for the windows.

Ellis said these projects were "building maintenance" and would not trigger the need for handicapped access improvements, such as the construction of an elevator to the second floor of the building.

The first floor serves as a branch library under the oversight of the library department while the second floor, the onetime town meeting hall, turned into a basketball court in the 1960s and is administered by the parks and recreation department. Parks and Rec ended regular activities more than a decade ago due to the lack of handicapped access.

An Exciting Special

In another development in the same village, a \$500,000 appropriation for improvements at the Montague Center park was placed on the preliminary warrant for the fall special town meeting. Ellis said the town would need to appropriate the project's full cost, but that a state PARC grant is hoped to reimburse nearly two-thirds. The project has recently been narrowed to focus on playground improvements.

The board confirmed Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 as the date for the special town meeting. The meeting will take place at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, and the options of holding a virtual or hybrid meeting were not discussed.

The selectboard reviewed a preliminary warrant and motions for the meeting. The final warrant is expected to be approved in mid-September.

Proposed articles include a bylaw change and funding mechanism to provide longevity payments to non-union town employees; giving the cemetery commission greater authority to develop its own policies; rezoning land adjacent to the public safety complex from "neighborhood business" to "general business," and granting the selectboard the authority to sell it (*see article, Page A1*); and granting the board the authority to accept as a donation the land in Montague City on which the Farren Care Center long sat.

Spending articles include a \$12,500 "pass-through" from the cable company Comcast to the local access station, Montague Community Television, to fund equipment purchases; transferring \$12,885.56 in settlement money into the town's "opioid stabilization fund"; \$60,000 for a "local limits study" at the Clean Water Facility, needed to satisfy state and federal licensing requirements; \$95,000 to replace generators at two sewer pump stations; and \$69,700 for consulting services to ensure the sewer system complies with regulations.

Still More Repairs

Ellis reported on the status of the project to repair the adjoining roofs of the town-owned Shea Theater and Colle Opera House buildings. He emphasized the possibility that con-

tractors will find greater "rot" than expected when the HVAC unit on the Shea roof is temporarily removed during the first weeks of September.

The selectboard authorized him to approve change orders for the project.

Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz requested that the board approve a \$995 contract with the Hastie Fence Company of Agawam to repair the fencing around Unity Skatepark. Dobosz said that some skatepark users "like to slam against [the fence] – sometimes I'm sure by accident, but other times on purpose, unfortunately."

After a brief discussion of whether the town had a policy for procurement of smaller projects – it apparently does not – the contract was approved.

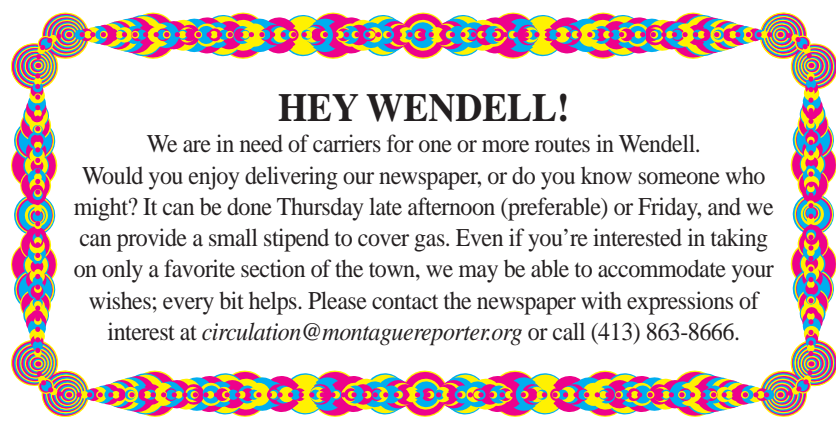
Other Business

Executive assistant Wendy Bogusz presented an update on the town's information technology (IT) policies. She and Ellis have been collaborating to improve cyber-security, asset management, and online platform efficiency, which includes setting up three locations for hybrid meetings.

The pros and cons of the town's current contract with Suzor IT of Orange – reportedly a busy company with a good deal of experience with local municipal government and school districts but limited time to offer support – were discussed, but no vote was taken about the contract, which is in its last year.

Bogusz announced that the First-Light Power company plans to drain the Turners Falls power canal for repairs from September 8 through 14, earlier than formerly planned.

Ellis announced that the bus maintenance facility formerly rent-



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GILL from page A1

ordered by the selectboard, road commissioners, or highway surveyor to cut or trim obstructing trees and bushes.

Williams claimed that the town's tree warden budget was rolled into the highway budget in 1978, after a warden was elected who was also a member of the highway department, and wasn't allowed to receive payment from two separate departments.

"So we want to go back 45 years and redo everything?" asked Crochier. "We're not going to change it in this meeting. Sorry."

"Sorry, that's my elected duty," Williams answered.

"Great," said Crochier. "Your budget is zero at this point."

"Okay, I guess no trees get cut down," Williams parried.

Selectboard member Charles Garbiel noted that the town budget for FY'24 was already allocated, but Williams could prepare now for the next budget season, when he could work with the finance committee to determine how the tree warden role would function moving forward. The board agreed to pay \$600 so Williams could attend the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden course.

"Let's have the talks and figure out what the tree warden is going to do in this town," agreed Crochier. But he returned several times to Williams's use of the word "supervise" to describe his relationship to the highway department.

"I can't have people who work for the town serving two lords," Crochier said. "They either report to this board or they report to the tree warden, but they can't report to both."

Though Williams offered that he could instead be "overseeing" the work rather than "supervising," Crochier answered: "I'll be leaving the board at some point. After that, you can do whatever the hell you want. But while I'm here I would argue this."

Landslide Progress

The selectboard celebrated two stories of progress on Route 2: the rapid repair of a section washed out by flooding, and the erection of suicide prevention barriers on French King Bridge.

"For anybody who hasn't driven by it, drive through. It looks great," said Crochier, about the bridge. "It does not change the view off that bridge, in my opinion, at all. Actually, in my opinion it makes the view much better because it's so much safer – safer for people that are in

need, and safer for the first responders that have to respond."

Crochier thanked former state representative Denise Andrews, who first discussed barriers on the bridge with him 14 years ago when he joined the selectboard, as well as Stacey Hamel, who became a vocal advocate for the barriers after her stepson was suspected to have jumped from the bridge in 2018.

The board also expressed gratitude to MassDOT for its rapid response to last month's major road washout. "I don't think it's any secret that MassDOT takes a beating in this area," Crochier said. "In this case, it's been a month, they've done an amazing amount of work down there, mobilized an incredible amount of people, and it looks like it will be open sooner than later – and much safer than what it had been, by the looks of it."

Crochier concluded: "I think it's important to say the positive thing about DOT, and their response to this, because all of us like to complain when they don't respond fast."

Growing Sewer Scene

In the quest to understand how to expand the sewer commission, town administrator Ray Purington, attorney Donna MacNicol, and town clerk Doreen Stevens have been hunting through dusty archives to learn how the commission was originally formed.

Based on old meeting notes, Purington said expanding the number of seats on the commission would probably require approval by town meeting, but might also call for a ballot question vote. "Making changes to elected positions often requires both of those steps," he explained, but said he would consult with MacNicol and report back at the next meeting.

"It's just frustrating," said Riverside water district commissioner Chris Pelletier, who has been pushing for the expansion to ensure that the neighborhood's sewer users have some say in its management. "But I get it."

Crochier affirmed: "None of this means that we can't start working with you." The town's three-member selectboard currently doubles as the sewer commission.

Pelletier said he was beginning to research grants and other possibilities for updating the sewer pump station, which sends the neighborhood's wastewater under the Connecticut River to Montague. "Instead of buying pumps every so often, let's try to get this taken care

of," he said, adding, "Hopefully it will benefit everybody."

On the topic of rickety sewer equipment: on August 6, flushed clothing once more clogged the sewer pumps, damaging an impeller and leaving the town without any spare parts in case of future emergencies. Though a price estimate from Kats Pump Service had yet to arrive as of the August 14 meeting, the selectboard approved the purchase of a pump and two impellers, provided the cost seemed reasonable to Purington.

Shrinking Fire Truck

The selectboard voted, in the face of a nationwide vehicle shortage reportedly causing major de-

lays and cancellations, to downsize the fire department's new brush truck chassis.

In October 2022 the department, looking to replace the 1985 brush truck currently in use, ordered a new Ford F450 truck chassis. Brush trucks, designed for wild-fires and rough terrain, are smaller than traditional fire engines.

Nearly a year later, the chassis still hasn't arrived, and may not ever be built. But deputy fire chief William Kimball reported that the upfitter MHQ does have a slightly smaller F350 model on hand that would cost \$5,000 less. After consulting with other vendors and state agencies, Kimball concluded that the F350 would be sufficient

for the department's needs.

"I think it's a great idea," said Crochier, noting that if the town waits and the larger chassis is canceled, "we're back to square one."

"And at a higher price," added Purington.

Other Business

Jake Morrow was appointed as a Slate Memorial Library trustee until the next town election on May 20, 2024. Diana Pedrosa was appointed as a firefighter through June 30, 2024.

The board approved the use of a new voting machine, the ImageCast Tabulator, for state elections. Town elections will still be hand-counted.



Gill-Montague Education Association members and supporters gathered at the middle and high school before Tuesday's meeting.

GMRSD from page A1

meanwhile, have said they will not negotiate in the public arena, but that permanent raises should not be funded by one-time sources of revenue.

Tuesday's school committee meeting, the last of the summer, was notable for another reason: for the first time since March 2020, the committee met in person, in their dedicated classroom at Turners Falls High School.

The room could not contain the crowd of over 60 GMEA members and their supporters, who came to show support for a contract settlement. Wearing matching red shirts, they filled the room's audience chairs, stood lining the walls behind committee members, and spilled out into the hallway, listening intently as seven speakers delivered statements during the meeting's public comment period.

"Teachers are the glue that holds the district together," said Carol Gloski, who worked for a combined 45 years in the district as a teacher and guest teacher before fully retiring.

"It seems that you are granting administrators their pay raises because you want to keep them," Gloski told the school committee. "Why don't you want to keep the teachers? If you don't have a strong 'leader teacher' base, the leadership is null and void – you don't have a working ladder when you have lower rungs broken or missing."

Joyce Phillips, a former teacher and longtime school committee member, provided numbers suggesting the top-level teacher salary had increased by less than 3% in that time between FY'10 and FY'22. (According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that same period saw 30% consumer inflation.)

"Today Gill-Montague is a revolving door of teachers," Phillips concluded. "Investing in your teachers is investing in your students.... I want to see that the teachers have the tools they need to bring the students what they deserve." GMEA and school committee members alike gave Phillips's statement a small round of applause.

"I'm not sure why this committee is refusing to move forward with the numbers presented," said Finn Cross, a parent and former paraprofessional. "It seems like such a small amount to fight over."

In accordance with state open meeting law, the school committee members did not discuss the teachers' pay or reply to any of the seven people who spoke

during the meeting's public comment section, as the topic was not on the posted agenda.

"You're welcome to stay as long as you want," chair Jane Oakes told the audience, and many stayed through the rest of the nearly two-hour meeting, including a number of union members standing silently along the room's walls.

Superintendent Brian Beck announced the "good news" that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has moved the district's application for a new elementary school building to the second round of consideration, and would send a delegation to tour the district. He estimated that 25% to 50% of the remaining applicants will be approved this year. "We're still in the game," he said.

The committee approved a special tuition rate of \$350 per day for an older special education student, beyond 12th grade, whose family is moving to another district. Business manager Joanne Blier said she hoped to negotiate with the student's new district to tuition the student back to Gill-Montague, to ensure their education is continuous. She clarified that the "sending district" would also pay for the student's transportation.

Blier also committed the board that a number of ash trees on the Turners Falls High School grounds had been afflicted by the ash borer, and that after consulting with the Montague tree committee, the district planned to remove the trees, and replant in the spring.

The committee unanimously approved handbooks after hearing presentations from the school principals about what has changed in them. The biggest change this year was one combined handbook for Gill, Hillcrest, and Sheffield elementary schools, and a second combined handbook for Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School.

"Someday hopefully we have one name," principal Christopher Barnes commented, as an aside.

Oakes reported that no letters of interest had been received from volunteers to fill either of the two vacant Montague seats. The committee's next meetings are scheduled for September 5 and 19, and any letters received by September 18 will be considered at the second of those meetings.

Members agreed that if the committee were to meet in person again, the room should at least have a fan. "It's either too cool or too warm regardless," Oakes asserted.

**Montague Community Television News****Eager to Share**

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – If you missed it, chances are we got it! And if it's a Montague public meeting you're after, you're sure to find it on the MCTV Vimeo page.

There you will also find MCTV's videos from the 10th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, as well as many from the previous years in our extensive archive. And remember, MCTV videos are for the community to use and enjoy! If you would like a copy of any of our videos, don't hesitate to ask.

We are currently looking for businesses to participate in our *Local Business Spotlight*. If you are interested in having your business


featured, please reach out to infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com, and be sure to check our website and Vimeo page for all the newest videos.

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. Stop by the station, 34 Second Street in Turners Falls, sometime between Monday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., email us, or give us a call at (413) 863-9200.

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PLANT from page A1

Business,” which does not allow manufacturing uses, to “General Business,” which does, followed confidential discussions between town officials and NE-XT Technologies, which manufactures precision steel industrial components at a Greenfield plant that until earlier this year was named Valley Steel Stamp (VSS). The company has publicly announced that it has outgrown its current site, and is seeking to expand in a new location.

Emails between NE-XT and town officials, disclosed to the *Reporter* this week upon request, show negotiations about the Turnpike Road site began in April. The timing suggests that NE-XT approached Montague after the Greenfield city council had initially rejected a proposal to rezone land along the French King Highway for industrial use last winter. In June, the Greenfield council voted unanimously for the zoning change.

Tuesday’s hearing began with a slide presentation by Pollock, who noted that NE-XT had been working with Greenfield “for a few years” but that “it’s been difficult to find manufacturing land in Greenfield.”

Critics of the proposal suggested that it was a potentially unlawful instance of “contract zoning” or “spot zoning” – terms for a zoning change made for the benefit of a particular developer, inconsistent with land use in the surrounding neighborhood.

A good deal of Pollock’s presentation was devoted to a map of the entire town showing that the areas that allow industrial development – “Industrial,” shaded pink, and “General Business” in blue – are limited, and she explained that most are either small, have “steep slopes” or wetlands, or have already been developed.

Citing five recent Montague planning documents that “identify the need to support industrial and commercial growth,” Pollock argued that the town needs to increase the amount of land available for manufacturing.

“I feel this question goes beyond this particular business,” she said. “This property along Turnpike Road can’t solve [the problem], but it could provide a way to bring revenue into the town...” Pollock said that while the zoning change could create a “permit pathway” for either a manufacturing or large-scale residential use of the parcel, it would not constitute a “handshake” with any developer.



KATE SAVAGE PHOTO

Evelyn Walsh, who lives four doors down from the potential industrial site and helps maintain the cemetery it directly abuts, gave a detailed critique of the rezoning proposal.

The hearing then opened for public comment, which was dominated by opponents of the proposal. Turners Falls fire chief Todd Brunelle asked whether the board had inquired about hazardous materials the manufacturer would be using, and whether the public works, police, or fire departments had been consulted about their potential new neighbor’s impact on public safety.

“And what about the cemetery?” a voice called from the audience.

Pollock said that discussion of these issues was “premature,” and should be addressed when a potential developer applies for a special permit, if the zoning map is revised.

Oakman Street resident Evelyn Walsh, representing an *ad hoc* neighborhood group called “Rest In Peace,” gave a detailed critique of the proposal, reading from a colorful flyer the group produced. Rest In Peace, she reported, had collected 88 signatures against the change in the last four days.

Walsh also serves as secretary of the board governing the private Springdale Cemetery on Turnpike Road, which abuts the town-owned parcel, and which was also included in the original rezoning proposal. The cemetery’s board, she reported, voted to oppose the zoning change for their property.

Walsh emphasized the potential impacts of a manufacturing facility on the neighborhood, including congestion caused by “additional car and truck traffic,” risks to chil-

dren “walking or biking to and from the Gill-Montague school,” and threats to “mature trees and other botanical assets in displacement of natural habitats.”

She also questioned the legality of rezoning at the request of a particular developer, which she called “arbitrary and random.” “No property owner is safe from this capricious practice,” she said. Walsh also charged that “the town has been working on this proposal for many weeks, but the neighbors were never asked for their reaction.”

Several speakers pointed to alternative parcels that they said could be developed for industrial use, including one abutting the Franklin County Technical School and another on West Mineral Road. One critic said that NE-XT Technologies was, in fact, owned by a hedge fund based in Delaware.

(According to materials reviewed by the *Reporter*, VSS was incorporated in Greenfield in 1971 by now-president Steven Capshaw’s father. In 2021 it was announced that VSS had “received an investment” from Jefferson River Capital, a New York private-equity firm that manages the family wealth of billionaire investor and Costco chairman Hamilton E. James. A new company, Valley Precision Parts Corp., was incorporated in Delaware that year by principals of Jefferson River; in 2022 this company registered to do business in Massachusetts, took out a \$22.5 million mortgage and purchased VSS’s Greenfield property from the Capshaw family for \$4.1 million, bought up VSS’s stock, and changed its name to New England Expert Technologies Corp.)

“We’re really getting ahead of ourselves,” said planning board member Bob Obear. “We’re talking about a zoning change – we’re not at a special permit hearing... To suggest that this is a done deal with regard to any manufacturer, or any special permit, is not the case. The town has a rigorous procedure that has to be followed.”

“Many people forget that taxes are going up every year,” he added. “If we don’t move forward to increase the tax base, many of you are going to see your taxes increase beyond your wildest dreams.”

Ariel Elan, who lives in Montague Center and serves on the capital improvements and energy committees, argued that it did make sense to “draw the line” by opposing the zoning change rather than waiting for “wrangling over special permits.” She also said that, as a town meeting member who has observed numerous “post-industrial disasters” involving abandoned factories, she becomes “extra concerned” when she hears the term “hedge fund.”

“What sense of responsibility does anyone have, who builds any kind of facility,” Elan asked rhetorically, “when their investors disappear, and have no enforceable legal liability?”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, who did not state a position on the zoning change, said that the idea had already been on the “radar screen” before Montague was approached by NE-XT. During the planning process for the public works garage on Turners Falls Road, he said, the town had considered using the parcel in question in that project, but decided not to do so because it was seen as “developable” if rezoned.

“The impetus for acting on this now was that an inquiry was made,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “Our community always has choices to make. We would not be doing our jobs if we didn’t say we might be able to bring in someone to build a five- or ten-million dollar building, bring 200 jobs to the community, and generate the taxes and economic impacts that might be beneficial to the community.”

“This may not materialize, and maybe there will never be manufacturing on the lot,” Ellis continued. “The timing and the process are not perfect, but we are seeking to present the community with an opportunity.”

After a brief discussion among planning board members, chair Ron Sicard said he did not feel the board needed to wait for a future meeting to vote on the matter. He made a motion to remove the Springdale Cemetery parcel from the rezoning proposal, and to recommend that the selectboard place the rezoning of the remaining 15.8-acre town-owned parcel to “General Business” on the upcoming special town meeting warrant.

“I would like to see it go to town meeting,” said planning board member George Cooke, and Obear said that he felt “very strongly there’s a process involved, and this is the beginning of the process.”

Board member Sam Guerin stated that although he was “in large part in favor of the amendment,” he felt the town needed more “documentation” of the legality of the selective zoning change. Elizabeth Irving said that since she did not hear any members of the public speak in favor of the change, she was going to vote against it.

The final vote was 3 to 2, with Cooke, Obear, and Sicard voting in favor of the motion and Irving and Guerin in opposition. Sicard did not comment on his vote.

Additional reporting was contributed by Mike Jackson.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on August 22, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

New TFHS Principal Named

Turners Falls High School has a new principal. Thomas Osborn, who served for two years as assistant principal at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, has already moved into his office on Turnpike Road. Osborn replaces Patricia Gardner, who left in July to become the director of teaching and learning in the Southbridge district.

Though born and bred in New York City, Osborn has lived and worked for a number of years in Massachusetts. He was previously a middle and high school English teacher, as well as acting assistant principal at Bartlett Junior-Senior High School in Webster.

Osborn said he was “absolutely delighted” to be selected. “I’m

humbled, actually, by the opportunity to become part of this community,” he said, “and genuinely honored to be given the chance to serve as principal.”

A Wheelchair Swing For Unity Park?

Just when you think the Unity Park playground is complete, some perceptive persons noticed what is missing: a piece of equipment that would allow a child using a wheelchair to swing along with other children.

The group sponsoring the acquisition of such a swing is called A Friend to Friend, and includes Lesley Cogswell, Kathy Webber, and Jon Dobosz, who enthusiastically endorsed the project. So far the group has raised \$9,000 of the \$15,000 needed. Cogswell told of a family who raised \$104 by making and selling raspberry jam.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 21, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

\$42 a Day Is \$15,330 a Year

A *charette* – a meeting to gather the ideas of residents – was held in Erving on Monday to consider the fate of the Usher Mill. Run by the UMass Donahue Institute, it was attended by over two dozen townspeople and officials. The Institute received a \$30,000 grant for a planning assessment.

The property, composed of several former industrial buildings, has a rich history, though it has been abandoned for years and is in disrepair. The Housen family, its current owners, have offered the mill and the land it sits on to the town if Erving will waive the roughly

\$103,000 owed in back taxes.

Interest on the back taxes is accruing at \$42 per day.

A Life in Three Centuries

Alma Rose (Field) Duckworth, 103, died August 5, 2003 at home. She was born at Cold Brook Farm in Montague in 1899, so she lived in three centuries.

She was widely read and traveled, and wherever she lived her gardens were lovely. She and her sister Rebecca Jones restored the Daniel Carr House and its early 19th-century Rufus Porter murals.

Mrs. Duckworth continued her interest in antiques and fine silver and her counsel was often sought in those fields. She was a 90-year member of the Montague Grange, which she joined at age 14.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 20, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Local Matters

The first sheet of writing paper from the Keith Mill was made yesterday. The Keith Paper Company are laying the foundation for a stock house. It is to be 90x50 feet – three stories on the river side, one story on the railroad.

George Fritz had his clothes on and sat up, for the first time since he was hurt yesterday afternoon.

Hon. R. N. Oakman is our authority for saying that the tobacco crop – at least his – will fully equal previous years. He estimates that his increases a ton of green leaves a day.

The water never was as low at the dam as at the present time, excepting one Monday when they shut it off at Bellows Falls, and it was forced back into the ponds,

which were then, as now, nearly empty. It is safe to pass out to the island over the dam-head.

Children living in the vicinity of the old school house have been quite busy of late in breaking the windows of the school, and on Sunday, while the Rev. Mr. Reuss was preaching, a number of stones came in through the windows to the danger and annoyance of the congregation. Parents, see to it.

Some time ago a man died at Montague City leaving a large family in straightened circumstances. A subscription paper was started for their assistance, and was first presented to R.L. Goss, who declined to sign till the paper was full, when he would double any single subscription on the list. B.N. Farren, Esq., unaware of Mr. Goss’s offer, gave \$50, and Rector cheerfully doubled it.

Mr. Schuler has two nice rooms to let in the second story of his building.



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Two from earlier this summer! Many of our readers are traveling this year.

Left: Joyce and Tina Phillips and Carol Gloski shared the June 29 edition of the Reporter at Ross Castle in Killarney, Ireland.

Right: The Reporter's own Photo Beat guy, Joe R. Parzych, was out and about at Wells Beach, Maine, with our June 15 edition. Joe said hello to our readers in his hometown of Gill, and had a question for Upinngil: "Are you missing any cows? No sign of cows on boogie boards, having fun, wearing sunglasses... You never know!"

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



ON THE ROAD

LEVERETT from page A1

begin to deliver" for a town-wide decarbonization effort.

He added that he had recently read an article portraying friction between the Athol selectboard and the town's decarbonization taskforce, and that he wanted Leverett's energy committee to know they had "full support from the selectboard" on the matter.

Energy committee member Richard Nathorst said the group was working hard to increase solar energy generation in Leverett, which would help decarbonization, and described its current work on solar siting and a potential "microgrid" pilot project in collaboration with the UMass Clean Energy Extension.

The project, Nathorst explained, would involve the creation of a system to distribute electricity generated by the town's solar array to the public safety complex, elementary school, and library. The microgrid could also provide backup electricity storage for emergencies.

Nathorst said that if the pilot was successful, additional "neighborhood" microgrids might be created in the future, which would allow for surplus solar power gen-

erated in Leverett to be used locally rather than sold to Eversource Energy at wholesale prices. This would enable residents unable to install solar systems on their homes to receive solar-generated electricity.

An additional benefit to decarbonization, he said, would arise from using locally solar-generated electricity to power heating systems based on heat pumps. Nathorst said heat pumps tend to require a backup system during very cold weather, and that though there may be a shift to propane backup in the future, many currently use resistor heating – inefficient, "like a toaster," he explained – drawing electricity from the commercial grid often generated by coal and other "dirty" fuels.

Asked how the microgrid would be financed, Nathorst said money was available from grant sources and incentive programs. He added that community solar survey and action plan reports his committee recently received from the Clean Energy Extension enable the town to move forward in applying for this funding.

Energy committee member

Brooke Thomas suggested another helpful avenue towards decarbonization would be keeping relevant issues "in front of the Leverett public," and commented that Leverett uses more energy than surrounding towns. "We're wasteful," he said.

Thomas also suggested the committee could provide town departments with a "map" showing what types of decarbonization measures are possible, then discussing what's feasible. Social and environmental justice issues, he said, should be kept in mind throughout the process.

Selectboard member Patricia Duffy commented that Leverett's town-owned broadband and police regionalization initiatives were evidence of its ability to break new ground and accomplish complex tasks. "It is time we start pushing" on decarbonization, she said.

As the discussion drew to an end, Hankinson spoke of "preparing the mindset" for choices the town will face several years in the future. He said he hoped to initiate a "town-scale promotional effort to get people nodding their heads" to decarbonization, and that he felt the solar microgrid pilot project could be folded into that goal.

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Blowing Gas

Following that discussion, the selectboard reviewed a proposal from resident Zack Katz that the town implement a phased ban on fossil-fuel-powered lawn equipment, beginning with leaf blowers.

The proposal received an initial cheer from one member of the energy committee, but was described as an "overreach" by another.

Nathorst commented that he thought the town should encourage replacing such equipment, but didn't think it should be in the business of banning things. Hankinson said he thought the proposal may come up as a warrant article at town meeting, but he wasn't sure.

Paper Pushers

The selectboard addressed concerns, brought to its attention by the Council On Aging, over the availability of the paper version of the town newsletter.

Hankinson said he was told the newsletter was "especially meaningful" to a population of elders in town who either don't like the online version adopted by the town as a default over a year ago, or don't know how to access it.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford, who is responsible for producing and distributing the newsletter, said that she understood the issue, and that the town makes paper copies available at the Leverett Village Co-op, the town library, and the town hall. Stratford said volunteers are also available to deliver paper copies upon request to her office, but the town had not received any.

Board members suggested that the Council on Aging reach out to elders with this information, and help Stratford create a list of residents wishing to have copies delivered. Duffy suggested copies also be made available at the transfer station.

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AUGUST 24, 2023

Above: As many local residents enjoy the last days of summer break, the forces of order quietly amass in Gill.

Bringing West African Dance... To Wendell!

By KAREN GUILLETTE

WENDELL – Charles and Shay Cooper are among the many enthusiastic area residents feeling very lucky to have Senegalese dancer Abdou Sarr offering West African dance classes locally. According to Shay, “Attending Abdou’s African dance class was truly uplifting, energizing and a great learning experience all around. I am so thrilled he will be teaching again.”

Her partner, Charles Cooper, adds that “Abdou is a consummate

energetic artist and teacher who graciously invites participants to dance in celebration of life. He creates a safe uplifting space for all ages and levels of experience. It is a complete joy to watch him perform.”

Abdou – my friend and neighbor – grew up in Senegal, a West African country known for its music, dance, food, and *terenga* (hospitality). As a young boy he found it difficult to sit still in the classroom because he always wanted to be moving, dancing. In addition, he did not respond well to his very strict teacher.

His mother, Ami Faye, was a professional dancer who understood that Abdou’s energy and interests were not well suited for the school environment. She supported his desire to find a different way of learning focused on traditional arts. Mme. Faye specialized in dances from their Serer ethnic group. Abdou went with her to her performances, and learned the traditional Senegalese dances.

“My mother is my best friend,” says Abdou. “She not only taught me how to dance, but also how to sew. I make my own dance costumes and also make and sell custom clothing to African friends and others.

“Making clothes is an art for me and I love dancing in clothes that I design and create. When I started out learning these skills in Senegal, many of my male friends teased me about learning and performing ‘women’s work.’ They no longer tease me now that they see the results of following my mother’s advice and training!”

With his natural talent and hard work, Abdou was able to develop his dance skills to the point where

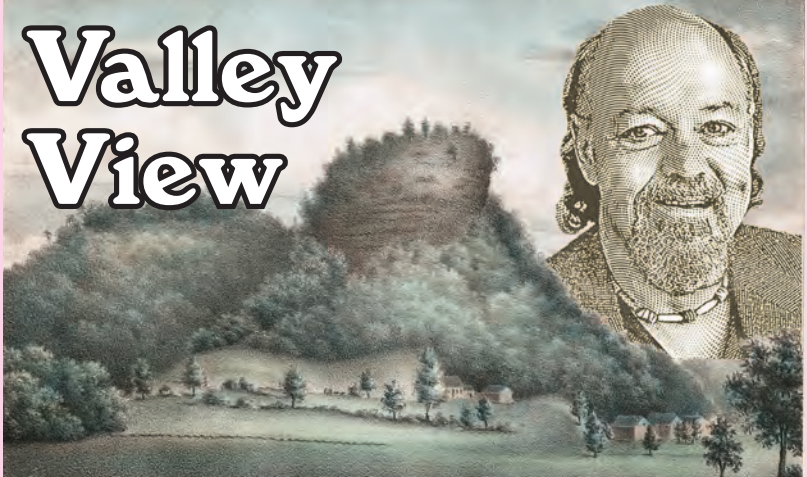
see **DANCE** page B8



CLARA SARR PHOTO

A West African dance class led by Abdou Sarr in Wendell.

Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – A peculiar summer it has been. Peculiar, indeed. And it ain’t over yet.

Rain, rain and more rain. Swollen midsummer rivers and streams. Washed-out hilltown roads. Lawns and bushes difficult to keep up with as faraway Hawaiian hellfire roars. One can only imagine what our hurricane season will bring. It could get serious, with howling winds drowned out only by the deafening “Drill, Baby, Drill” chant from head-in-the-sanders.

It just so happened that, during the July deluge that raised the Deerfield River to threatening levels at Shelburne Falls’ Potholes and wreaked havoc with Conway tributaries and Deerfield’s South Meadows, I was reading Jeff Goodell’s *The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*. Having read Goodell for decades in *Rolling Stone* magazine, and having believed his canary-in-the-coalmine warnings, I had purchased an advance copy and thus received his sobering book fresh off the presses on July 12.

It was surreal – in fact, downright frightening – as some of what I was reading unfolded out my windows and on my backyard brook. It’s a must-read for anyone still in doubt that Armageddon’s knocking.

Just last week I received a US Fish and Wildlife Service press release from project leader Ken Sprankle’s Connecticut River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Sunderland. It identified July’s Connecticut River flows as by far the strongest on record. How could anyone find that surprising? Meanwhile, endangered shortnose sturgeon were the beneficiaries. Twenty passed the Holyoke Fish Lift between August 2 and August 5, unheard of for that time of year.

No need to go there. I’m sure ubiquitous Connecticut River watchdog Karl Meyer is on top of that development.

So, no, it’s not all gloom and doom.

Likewise, there have been good signs on the wildlife front along my daily, crack-of-dawn neighborhood rambles. A healthy deer population is thriving here, with a rich variety of lush summer grasses and forest browse to choose from. Now fruit and hard mast is dropping,

adding sugar and protein to a fall diet that builds essential fat stores for winter survival. Well, that is, if we have a winter. Perhaps some have forgotten that we didn’t have much of one last year.

Mature does, that split off from fellow travelers in May to establish nests and birth their fawns at the dawning of June, are now regrouping into small mixed groups of young and old. These groups, always monitored by bucks, will remain together through fall and winter.

Though the fawns are getting big and their spots have faded, they still defer to their mothers’ lead when crossing roads and skirting neighborhoods. I’ve been watching one doe with a fawn and another with two fawns, plus two young bucks – the bigger one a pronghorn – and a much larger buck with a massive body mass and broad antlers.

The big guy does not show himself often. I’m sure he’s seen me many more times than I’ve seen him. Of course, that holds true for all the deer in the neighborhood, including those two does and three fawns that joined up last week. They’re out, about, and visible at first light, and always lurking the rest of the day along the edges of a quiet Upper Greenfield Meadows street where homes sell like hotcakes.

I have learned a great deal about deer since I quit hunting, and stopped owning gun dogs with good noses and boundless energy. Now traveling solo under gray dawn light, I get right on top of whitetails and know their habits. If ever I wanted to kick them out of their mid-morning beds, it wouldn’t take me long to find them. But that’s all behind me now. I’m more than happy to just observe them and learn their routine.

Though I have not seen turkeys in recent weeks, in late June and early July I often bumped into a tiny group of two adult hens and three poults. This tiny “flock” raised my concerns about nest mortality and overall brood survival. Then, during the same time frame, not three miles east on the other side of the Green River, I had to stop my truck on the way home from Henshaw Lumber to allow a flock of four adult hens and some 30 little ones cross the road. So, I see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Elder Connect

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – The town of Montague has 2,000 people over the age of 60, and there are a lot of services they are not aware of, according to Roberta Potter, director of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging. Potter, who has been in her position for 14 years, wants seniors to know about services they can access and initiatives she hopes to undertake.

To that end, she took time out of a busy day to fill me in, and we’re going to try to meet once a month to keep the stream of information coming in this new monthly column, *Elder Connect*. I’ll also be covering senior resources in this paper’s readership area of Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett.

Some news is seasonal, like the Community in Support of Agriculture (CISA) **senior farm shares**, made possible by CISA and Red Fire Farm. These shares are just \$10 for the entire season, and provide one or two grocery bags of fresh local produce each week. Pickup is at the Gill-Montague senior center in Turners Falls, and the shares are ideal for individuals or couples who can’t possibly use the full share offered to families.

Yes, it’s too late for this year, but it’s good to know and something to think about for next spring. This ongoing column will remind you.

Is cooking for just one or two people a challenge, especially with the onslaught of nutritional information that seems to change all the time? From Potter, I learned that LifePath has a nutritionist who will visit communities

see **CONNECT** page B4



WICKS PHOTO

Roberta Potter, director of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging, spoke with us for the inaugural *Elder Connect* column.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“REMME”

Remme’s favorite song is probably “Wild Thing.” She’ll make your heart sing with her cute antics and zest for life... and she sure is an energetic little thing!

Remme is only eight months old and a Jack Russell-Dachshund mix, which makes her smart, determined, and hyper. Remme’s previous family gave her up when their landlord wouldn’t allow dogs. She loves to learn and is

food-motivated, so she’ll be easy to train and will make a great companion for people who appreciate tenacity and love.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT The Montague Soapbox Race Returns!

TURNERS FALLS – The Seventh Annual Montague Soapbox Races are coming, and will again be held in Turners Falls on the Unity Park hill. All past racers are invited to register for the 2023 competition.

Race day is Sunday, September 17, at noon. Registration is now open with a deadline of Wednesday, September 13 at montague-soapboxraces.com. Only 60 racers will be accepted, and there will be no same-day cart registration – you must register in advance. All carts must be hand-built, and anyone from 8 to 80 years old can race.

In addition to earning \$4,850 for the Montague Parks & Recreation Department last year, thanks

in part to primary sponsor Greenfield Savings Bank, 20 racers went down the hill, with some breaking speed records (37 mph recorded for the first time!) and some spectacular (soft) crashes, as well as amazing cart designs.

The popularity of the event, and the sport itself, is evident in the distances people will drive to race their carts. Racers have come from as far away as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York state, and of course, Vermont and New Hampshire. “Most of these people came to town, stayed overnight, ate local fare, and put on displays of ingenuity and daring-do for the onlookers,” note the organizers, adding, “Please

come out for the races and give them your support.”

The Montague Soapbox Races are organized by the Montague Parks & Recreation Department as a fundraiser for their program scholarships. Sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and of course racers are needed.

If you are interested in going down the hill, volunteering, or helping fund this unique event, visit the race website, where you can find the full year’s schedule and forms to register your cart or your intention to sponsor or volunteer. If you volunteer, sign up and you will receive a free t-shirt at the event and be included in the group photo.

LATE-SUMMER LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

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

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE

Multiple days: Grab & Go Bags. Science: Egg drop lander. Craft: Paper pumpkin. Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

Every Saturday: Saturday Story Time. Jump-start early literacy skills for preschoolers. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: LEGOs at the Library. Carnegie, 1 to 3 p.m.

Every Thursday: Playgroup, guided and free play for pre-

schoolers, older siblings welcome. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Friday, August 25: Youth Advisory Committee. Bring your ideas and suggestions for teen library programming. Snacks provided. Carnegie, 4 p.m.

Saturday, September 9: Back to School Bash. Live music, crafts, activities, free book. Carnegie, 11 a.m.

Thursday, September 11: Lemonade Social. Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.

Monday, September 11: Friends of MPL Meeting. All welcome. Email vgatvalley@gmail.com for more info. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

WENDELL

Every Tuesday: Art Group. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Every Friday: LEGO club. 4 p.m.

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

Every Sunday: Yoga. All levels, sliding scale donation. 10 a.m.

Thursday, August 24: Wendell Historical Society. Sara Campbell presents on the life of Major William Erving. 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 28: End of Summer Lawn Party. Games, prizes, treats, karaoke. 3 to 5 p.m.

ERVING

All Month: Art Exhibit, landscape photography by Joelle Fabrizio.

Sunday, September 10: Puzzle Swap. All ages, no puzzle required. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 10: Genealogy Drop-in Help. 1 to 3 p.m.

LEVERETT

All Month: Art Exhibit, watercolor paintings by Nancy Emond; *Story Walks*, new story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Free classes, all welcome. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m., beginners 11 a.m.

Every Monday & Wednesday: Online Qigong. Free, all welcome. See leverettlibrary.org or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com for info. 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday: Playgroup, for children ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. See leverettlibrary.org or email budine@erving.org to register. 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday: Play Mah-jongg. Beginners welcome. 1:45 to 4 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

Friday, August 25: Puppet Show by No Strings Marionettes. Northfield Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 2: Puzzle Swap. Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more info, email friendsofdm101360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, September 6: Readers’ Choice. John Hersey, *A Bell for Adano*. Pick up a copy at the library. 10 a.m.

Thursday, September 7: Spice Club pickup starts. Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes while supplies last; look for a new spice every month.

Senior Center Activities AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 8

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 8/28

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

Tuesday 8/29

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
Wednesday 8/30
9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/31

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

Friday 9/1

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

Monday 9/4

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

Tuesday 9/5

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
Wednesday 9/6
9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/7

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion
Friday 9/8
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 8/28

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

Tuesday 8/29

3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 8/30
9:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Thursday 8/31

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/31

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

(by subscription)

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 9/1

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

Monday 9/4

5 p.m. Death Cafe
Tuesday 9/5
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/6

9 a.m. VA Agent
9:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

Thursday 9/7

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

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 9/8

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

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.

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

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 guess some nests did just fine, thank you.

As usual, nesting survival rates likely varied according to when the hatchlings emerged. Clutches arriving during heavy, extended rains can suffer high pneumonia mortality. Although second nests often do unfold, they produce fewer poults, and these enter winter less capable of surviving harsh conditions.

Bottom line: nest mortality this year does not appear to have been catastrophic. That said, even if it had been, it would have been irrelevant. Our statewide turkey population is off the charts and can withstand some ups and downs.

On the home front at Old Tavern Farm, where 18th-century Hinsdale spirits lurk, I'm getting things done. In fact, I'm way ahead of the game in the woodshed, where four cords of bone-dry hardwood has been under cover since late March or early April. Yeah, yeah, I know I'm gonna need three more cords before all is said and done. No problem. It's all lined up. We'll cross that bridge when we reach it, if the July deluge didn't wash it out.

I finally found a carpenter to replace and frame four barn windows and shore up siding in the backyard alcove. Problem was that in the assessment process, he discovered related structural complications that needed attention before they got ahead of us. Not an emergency, but it needed to be done. I'll soon cross that maintenance project off the list.

Stewardship of a large, historic barn can get expensive. The carpenter's been at it more than a month, reinforcing cellar joists and carrier

beams and stabilizing vertical timbers. When his work is done, we'll need some slate-roof touch-up, if I can find someone who'll actually show up after promising to do so. Never a given these days. I've learned that I'm not alone. Many other local residents living under slate roofs have been trying to find a dependable roofer since Tim Duprey left us.

Which reminds me of yet another vexing project that's been staring me in the face for 10 years. The question is: how do you find someone to paint and roof a barn cupola? No wonder so many are on display these days in various stages of decay along our country roads. It's sad. Perhaps there ought to be some sort of state initiative aimed at saving historic barns and cupolas. Vermont has such a program. I think even tight-fisted New Hampshire has one, too. Why not Massachusetts before all of its old barns with pit-sawn timbers disappear from the roadside?

I'm not begging, just asking. Are not old barns important historical assets worthy of preservation? Do they not add to our rural historic character? I'd say it's worth pondering before they're gone, leaving only paintings and photographs. Maybe the state Historical Commission should come up with something. I won't hold my breath waiting.

Who knows? Maybe I'll hit Powerball and hire the slate contractors who've worn a path to Deerfield Academy. Problem is I pay taxes.

Gary Sanderson lives over in Greenfield. Questions and comments can be sent to gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Project*, portraits by Nayana LaFond. Through August 30.

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

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *We'll Show U*, group exhibit showing works by Rachel Cyrene Blackman, Bil Gardner, Youme Nguyen Ly, M. Rudder, Emikan Sudan, and John Vo. Through October 6. Reception this Friday, August 25, from 4 to 9 p.m.

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.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Tuesday-verse: Sorcerer Central*, paintings by Olivia Hamilton. Through September 29. Reception this Friday, August 25, from 5 to 8 p.m.

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." Through August 31.

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

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 Bory. 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: *Jean Kozlowski Retrospective Exhibit*, a look back through the painting career of local artist Jean Kozlowski. Through September 17. Reception next Thursday, August 31, from 3 to 5 p.m.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Horses Flee; Transformers Explode; Masked Raiders Escape; Streets Flood; Barricades Smashed; Honeybun Stolen/Taken

Monday, 8/7

7:31 a.m. 911 caller reports she was in a two-car accident at Old Stage and Gunn roads. No injuries reported. Caller states one of the vehicles has minor smoking. Shelburne Control contacted for FD. Rau's to tow both vehicles. 12:27 p.m. Caller states a male party is drinking in Peskeompskut Park; she wants him arrested. Officer advises male party is not drinking, has no empty containers, and appears to be sober at this time. Advised of complaint.

1:33 p.m. Report of two loose horses on Turners Falls Road. Horses seen heading towards barn but then ran into woods. Chief spoke with owner; they are trying to get the horses home. Horses secured.

2:52 p.m. Caller states cars are going through the one-way alley from Second Street onto Canal Street and not stopping to look at the signs; she is concerned that there will be an accident. Officer advises he stopped a car yesterday in this area; there is increased traffic due to the detour and people attempting to avoid traffic lights. Detour sign put out at Canal and Third streets.

7:46 p.m. Caller from N Street states that there are three dogs standing on the roof. Printed for animal control officer.

Tuesday, 8/8
4:20 p.m. Caller states that there was a loud explosion noise, and then the power went out in the Marshall Street area. Eversource advised on scene.

Wednesday, 8/9
6:12 a.m. Caller from East Mineral Road states that a deer was hit by a car and is still alive; deer is trying to get up but has broken legs. Deer dispatched. DPW advised of its location.

8:36 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that two dogs are kept in a car in the driveway for hours every night; tried calling ACO last night but didn't get a response.

11:21 a.m. Caller reports a goose with one leg by the picnic tables near the fish ladder. ACO advised; states it's from last year and the goose is fine.

11:23 a.m. 911 caller declines need for medical or fire; wants police. Officer advises female is intoxicated and not making sense. She wants to file a report about a missing baseball bat. Advised to call PD when she is sober.

12:16 p.m. Caller states a male is drinking in Peskeompskut Park; she yelled at him to stop, and he won't. Referred to an officer.

12:53 p.m. Caller states she went back to the park and told the male party to leave and that she was calling the police, but he

didn't leave. Officer advises no alcohol on scene. Male is having an iced tea and feeding the squirrels.

2:09 p.m. Caller states two male parties are drinking sitting along the fence on Avenue A. She told them to stop or she would call the police. Officer advised. No alcohol.

2:32 p.m. Vehicle repossessed on Turners Falls Road; stored in Northampton.

5:02 p.m. Caller reports a large razorback snake near the riverbank off Crescent Street. Officers advised.

11:47 p.m. Received probation warrant for male on Fifth Street; GPS strap violation.

Thursday, 8/10

12:37 a.m. 911 caller reporting an assault on Lake Pleasant Road. Officers tied up on other call; requesting mutual aid. Control dispatched Erving. Advised of options.

11:22 a.m. Caller from Park Street reports neighbor's dog is on a leash that is too long and reaches into her yard. Dog is aggressive; makes it difficult for caller to get out of her car or take her own dog out. ACO will respond after finishing up a call in another town.

12:38 p.m. Caller from Twelfth Street complaining of loud drums at neighbor's house. Drummer advised of ongoing complaint.

3:03 p.m. 911 caller reports some trees look like they are going to come down on Main Street near West Pond; believes road should probably be closed. DPW checked trees; states they are aware of the concern, and trees have been leaning like that for years.

5:12 p.m. Caller states they have had issues with homeless camps on Power Street and officers have assisted with telling people they need to move. Caller is *en route* from Northfield Mountain and would like to meet an officer. Officer out with two FirstLight employees.

Friday, 8/11

10:51 a.m. Walk-in would like it on record that the company he works for (Hillside Plastics, now called Altium) has received several angry phone calls and multiple visits from a male who believes their tractor-trailer units are speeding on Millers Falls Road. Party concerned about escalating behavior.

11:51 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle that may have struck a guardrail at Unity and Grove streets. Rail has been struck multiple times over the years; no new damage noticeable.

1:38 p.m. Caller reports that a woman just hit two parked cars at Greenfield Cooperative Bank with her car. Summons issued. Rau's responding for tow.

6:44 p.m. Open 911 line; can hear male and female yelling. Female states they were having dinner.

7:15 p.m. Report of vandalism on Avenue A: front door jammed open and unable to be locked; caller states he found a wooden rod with a nail in it. Caller called back stating maintenance is on the way to fix the door.

7:58 p.m. Caller reporting high drug activity, and very obvious drug buy, out in the open tonight at Fifth and L streets. Call left for detective.

9:10 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states she got home and noticed her motorcycle had been messed with. Just wants on record at this time.

10:36 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states there is a lot of noise; sounds like someone is bouncing off the walls. Babysitter states kids were roughhousing but will keep it down.

Saturday, 8/12

8:45 a.m. Caller states that a tree is blocking Montague City Road, resting on electrical wires. Road completely blocked; tree on primary wires. Eversource notified; ETA 30 minutes. No through traffic at this time.

9:05 p.m. 911 caller reporting blown transformer now on fire on G Street. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

9:34 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street states that cars and trucks are doing donuts and honking their horns at the end of the road. Quiet upon arrival.

11:08 p.m. Report of disturbance at Keith Apartments. Involved female refused to answer door. Neighbors advised of options.

11:22 p.m. Caller reporting a group of people under the General Pierce Bridge; states her son is there and may be bullied by another individual. Officer advises individuals have been moved along; a party or two scurried into the woods; unable to locate. Anybody that needed a ride was offered one. No further issues.

Sunday, 8/13

12:52 a.m. Passing motorist advises two youths outside the Discovery Center appeared to be possibly lighting a fire. Officer located two male parties with a video camera; flash from the device was the source of light; no fire started.

5:52 a.m. Officer advises that a male party had stolen/taken a honeybun from Cumberland Farms and the clerk caught him. No charges at this time, but party trespassed from location.

10:29 a.m. Caller concerned about threats made by a couple of men to slash tires at the Cutlery Block in re-

taliation to an ongoing dispute. Advised of options.

11:34 a.m. 911 caller reports a car full of people with masks attempting to break into an apartment on Montague City Road, currently vandalizing the property. No disturbance in progress upon officer's arrival. Involved party states no weapons were seen; however, a window was broken after something was thrown at it. Officer heading to new location to try to identify suspects.

3:25 p.m. Caller from Old Sunderland Road states there is a bear cub in her yard and she is worried as there are goats and horses there. States the cub is crying for its mother, who just walked into the woods. Referred to an officer.

8:18 p.m. Caller states a group of people are yelling at Unity Park near the dam; nervous it may turn into a fight. Units checked area; saw some juveniles by cars, but nothing of concern.

Monday, 8/14
9:05 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states that someone smashed the back windshield of his car last night. Referred to an officer.

6:38 p.m. Caller states that a large dog is barking near the bridge on Dorsey Road in Erving and hasn't moved in a while; thinks it might be injured. Shelburne Control advises dog is on the Montague side in the parking lot and has been reunited with his owner, who is fishing.

Tuesday, 8/15

3:26 a.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments states a male is in the hallway with a big knife, attempting to get in the door. Caller states another male is trying to get the A/C unit out and come into the apartment that way. Caller states she is in the bedroom with her mom and dog. No one found upon arrival; officers will check area.

8:17 a.m. 911 caller reporting accident at Greenfield and Greenfield Cross roads. Parties traded information; AAA on scene.

8:46 a.m. Caller states Montague City Road is flooded. DPW contacted for cones.

8:50 a.m. Caller states that when she was at the post office around 8:30 this morning, a bicyclist ran into her car. No damage, but wants on record as cyclist rode off quickly and did not answer when asked if he was OK.

9:35 a.m. Caller states that a truck drove through one of the barriers on Montague City Road; someone fixed it, but caller requesting warning signs be put up as this is a recurring issue.

10:43 a.m. 911 caller states people are driving through the barricades on

see MPD next page

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MPD from page B3

Montague City Road. Officer states barricades are broken on the Walnut Street side and moved to the side. Road reopened to traffic; water area coned off.

12:43 p.m. Two-car accident on Federal Street. No injuries.

3:15 p.m. Report of structure fire on Green Pond Road. TFFD advises fire is under control and they would clear shortly.

5:04 p.m. Caller states that a male party was causing a disturbance in the Walgreens parking lot; she went outside to ask him to keep it down or leave, and he threw a cigarette at her then went into the store and threw a box of hair dye at her. Male party took off in a silver truck. Officers unable to locate; requesting be-on-lookout. Officer provided statement forms for victim and witness.

10:42 p.m. Report of loose horse near Greenfield Cross and Hatchery roads. Officer advises horse is back home.

11:57 p.m. Officer reporting party sleeping in front of Shea Theater with prescription bottles on the ground. Male refused medical assistance; was able to walk away under his own power.

Wednesday, 8/16

10:13 a.m. ACO advises he responded to North Taylor Hill Road and removed a bat. Bat will be sent to a lab for testing.

3:02 p.m. Caller would like it documented that a town mower hit a parked car at Unity Park.

6:58 p.m. Caller states that she might have seen a dog on the side

of Federal Street. Officer states there is a beaver living in the culvert.

8:57 p.m. Caller states that a lot of water is coming up from the curb on Fifth Street; might be a water main break. TF water department advised.

Friday, 8/18

3:12 p.m. Caller states that the cones on Montague City Road for the flooding are crushed and on the wrong side of the road; some are missing. Additional callers state there could be an accident because the cones are on the wrong side. Officer advises there is only one barricade left as the others have been broken. Road is about 3/4 covered with water, so he placed the barricade in the middle of the road and people can pass slowly.

6:38 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street states a skunk has been roaming around her yard for a couple days; it won't leave and she thinks it may be sick. Call printed for ACO.

6:51 p.m. Caller reports barricades on Montague City Road now completely smashed. Officer advises road is passable at this time. Second caller states road should not be open and requests new barricades be put up. Officer moved one piece of wood to the side of the road, and advises no other hazards are making the road impassable or dangerous.

7:01 p.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace reports someone tipped over his adult tricycle and may have been trying to drag it away.

8:49 p.m. Caller states a male is curled up

in a fetal position on the side of East Main Street; caller did not stop as he is bringing his cat to the vet. Officer checked area; negative findings.

10:32 p.m. Report of what sounded like a fight or argument coming from the Discovery Center parking lot. Area checked. Officer advises Between the Uprights has a band playing which could have sounded like a fight.

Saturday, 8/19

8:09 a.m. Caller reporting sick skunk on I Street. Caller has been feeding it but ran out of food. The skunk has left the area.

2:51 p.m. Caller from Meadow Road reports that an apparently sick skunk wandered into a field there.

Sunday, 8/20

3:43 a.m. Caller reporting neighbor disturbance at Keith Apartments. Quiet upon arrival; involved party did not answer door. Caller advised of options.

10:06 a.m. 911 caller reports a tan Volvo and white Jetta racing toward town on Greenfield Road at 70 mph. Unable to locate.

11:09 a.m. Caller wants on record that at 3:30 a.m. someone was riding their four-wheeler around his house and the golf course.

10:25 p.m. A 51-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Monday, 8/21

3:55 a.m. Caller states there is currently a four-wheeler on the golf course, and he can see a flashlight as well. Officers advise grounds crew setting up for the day. No issues.

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

LXII: Glockabelle

Intro by J. BURKETT
Interview by TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – Glockabelle is another unique solo musician. She presently resides in upstate New York, but she used to live in Rhode Island, and we met her through her friendship with the folk singer Allysen Callery.

She seems to presently focus on piano, but has a very unusual approach, and plays other instruments as well. She is making a rare appearance in western Mass this Saturday, August 26, at Mystery Train in Amherst. Stop by – and maybe go home with a tiger!

MMM: Do you have any early experiences with music and art that you may want to discuss?

G: I used to have this Sesame Street Fisher Price record player as a kid that I adored. I'd put on my favorite records at the fastest speed possible and leap all over my parents' living room. I guess I already knew at that age that fast tempos gave me a sense of euphoria!

MMM: Do you want to discuss your music background from this point in your life?

G: I started out as a classical

pianist but always knew I was destined to take that technique to do something different. It wasn't until I moved to Paris and a neighbor of mine lent me his Casio VL-Tone that I started developing what I do now.

It was around that time that my mother mailed my glockenspiel from New York to Paris and without mallets, I started to invent and develop my thimble glock technique.

MMM: Any interests now, or things that you are enjoying, creating, or inspired by in the present?

G: I'm really enjoying living in nature. I left the city for the woods a while ago and haven't looked back. There is something so calming and inspiring about being in nature, then being able to travel all over the world to do what I do, which is a perfect juxtaposition.

MMM: Any favorite recordings you have been listening to?

G: I'm not sure where to start here... So much great music I've been discovering lately, but one of my top favorites currently is the Italo Disco singer and performer Raffaella Carrà. What a bright flame she was. What an inspiration. I recommend her song "Tanti auguri." I've had it on repeat for months.

MMM: Have you ever done duos with Allysen? Piano and guitar? Also, were you in other bands?

G: I toured with the Fiery Furnaces across America, and was in a French *chanson* group called Flop et Tout le Tremblement.

No duos with Allysen, but I'd like to!

MMM: Any western Massachusetts experiences that you would like to discuss?

G: A few months ago I appeared on CTSB-TV for their "Sessions" music program. The performance is up on YouTube if you'd like to watch!

MMM: Are there any music or art recommendations you have for us?

G: Music: Japanese psych rockers Les Rallizes Dénuvés, Hungarian synth genius Rodion GA.

Art: Yoshitomo Nara's work has been an influence. I also really love watching the geometric video art of John and James Whitney.

MMM: Would you like to talk about the white tiger, and it being present globally?

G: The white tiger theme came about years ago when I was studying at the École Normale de Musique in Paris. My duet partner was from South Korea and gave me a white tiger before one of our exams for good luck. She told me it was a symbol of strength and good fortune.

After receiving my first white tiger, I decided I would return the energy back into the universe by giving out one white tiger at every show of mine. To date, I've given almost 200 Glockabelle performances, which means there are dozens of white tigers all over the US, Canada, and Europe.

MMM: Any other cool music stories? Or funny jokes?

G: Knock knock.

MMM: Who's there?

G: S.

MMM: S who?

G: S-car-go!

CONNECT from page B1

to present programs about healthy eating.

There's also a **Kitchen Club** at the senior center. It meets on the first and third Monday of each month, and everyone is welcome. In partnership with the Franklin County YMCA, the Kitchen Club provides recipe ideas and nutritional information along with a blood pressure clinic, and hints for shopping wisely to get more "bang for the buck," as Potter says.

With so much essential information online, staying informed is a challenge for anyone without a computer. There are computers at the senior center for public use, but that's not always convenient. When the first COVID vaccines became available and the only way to schedule an appointment was online – sometimes in the early morning hours – many elders gave their information to a family member who then navigated the system.

The Gill-Montague Council on Aging (COA) was recently awarded a grant that will fund **training for elders to use computers** and provide a laptop computer at the end of the training. "Technology can be wonderful," says Potter, "but with everything online, lack of electronic access can hold people back. I'm hoping to provide

some digital equity."

There are more items on Potter's wish list. A Franklin County Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) bus schedule training program would be very helpful to elders, for instance. The schedules and routes can be confusing, and daunting when printed in small type on a paper fold-out. Having someone explain routes and special services would clarify things for potential passengers.

Many people don't know that they can **schedule a ride with FRTA** if needed. It does require some planning and patience, but it's worth it if one needs to get to a medical appointment. And with elections coming, it's particularly important to let people know how they can get to their district's polling place with scheduled rides.

Right now, Potter says it's not too early to think about **heating costs and fuel subsidies**. In Franklin County, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is administered by Community Action Pioneer Valley, a gateway to other services. Energy audits can lower electric rates and fuel costs by evaluating places in a home that require more insulation.

There is a process for determining eligibility, and people can come to the senior cen-

ter for assistance with applying.

The COA also has access to a **wood bank** that donates wood to low- and moderate-income Montague residents after volunteers cut, split and stack the wood. It is delivered in half-cord lots. Contact coa@montague-ma.gov for more information on the wood bank.

Small repairs are also sometimes necessary to make a house snug for winter, and the COA has small grants available for low- and moderate-income homeowners for repairs, especially those related to safety.

This is also a good time to think about **winter clothing**. Potter strongly recommends thrift shops and the Salvation Army store, not only because of the bargains to be found, but also because used clothing cuts down on the enormous waste caused by what people call "fast fashion," meaning clothing that is worn only a few times and then discarded.

Food, heat, clothing, transportation – every one of these things matters, but above all else, Potter wants to remind elders about the **importance of social contact**.

"Social isolation is a huge problem among seniors," she says. "It can lead to depression, poor health, poor eating habits and more." Local senior centers provide an antidote to isolation, and Potter notes that most centers

welcome people from other towns as well as their own. At the Gill-Montague senior center, there's a full schedule of activities and classes, foot clinics, and a cozy corner for coffee and conversation. Between classes there, "people linger and chat," says Potter. "A real sense of community has developed here."

The schedule of weekly events at the senior center is published in this paper, and detailed information is also available online at montaguecouncilonaging.org.

The formation of **Montague Villages**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping elders stay in their homes by matching volunteers to people who need help with small tasks or transportation, will add to the COA's offerings when it's up and running. Potter is supporting this effort, and believes it will improve quality of life for Montague seniors. She'll have more to say in October when we meet again.

Montague Villages needs people to serve on the committees that will get the organization up and running. Help is needed with technology, governance, fundraising, outreach, and more. Contact Helen Gibson-Ugucioni at (413) 658-8517 or higibson@comcast.net, or me, Lee Wicks, at wickswords@yahoo.com.

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FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

Earth's Deepest Trench

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Today, I will be talking about the Mariana Trench. It is the deepest natural trench in the world. It is 36,201 feet deep – that's almost seven miles! The average depth of the ocean is about 12,100 feet, which just really shows how truly astonishing this depth is.

The Mariana Trench was discovered in 1875 by a British ship called the *HMS Challenger*, which is why the bottom of the trench is called Challenger Deep. The ship used a weighted metal cord to measure the distance to the bottom. They recorded that the trench was 4,475 fathoms deep – 26,850 feet today – which shows that the cord must have gotten stuck on something on its journey down. In 1899, the *USS Nero* went out to the site, which they called Challenger Deep, and measured 5,269 fathoms (31,614 feet). This was closer to the actual depth, but still not quite there.

There have been a total of 22 crewed descents to the bottom of the trench, and seven uncrewed descents. There was even an astronaut who went to the Mariana Trench, which means that he has been to both the top and bottom of where humans are able to go. But humans are only able to go there in special machines and submarines which can stand the pressure of the water above.

If you were to find yourself at Challenger Deep without anything protecting you, you would be crushed in two seconds by the weight of water above – equivalent to 30 elephants stepping on you at the same time. But some animals have been able to adapt and live near the bottom.

One example is the snailfish. The snailfish is able to swim around comfortably at 27,000 feet underwater! It can achieve this by having a translucent body which can squish, bones that are pressure-tolerant, and a rock-hard head that cannot squish. Since it is the deepest-living animal in the ocean, it has no predators.

The snailfish relies on a lot of

pressure to keep it alive, which is why when scientists brought a snailfish to the top of the ocean, it could not manage the lack of pressure and quickly passed away. This is unfortunate, but it was truly an incredible discovery, as scientists believed that no fish was able to survive down there. Snailfish don't just dwell in the Mariana Trench; there are over 410 species of them, and they are found all around the world.

There is a myth that a Megalodon lives in the depths of the Mariana Trench. A Megalodon is a huge shark – three times larger than the Great White Shark – that lived 3.6 million years ago. It would be pretty cool if there was a Megalodon in the Mariana Trench, but it is just not possible. When you look at the amount of snailfish and other tiny organisms there are down there, they would not be enough to feed a Megalodon, which needed to take in about 2,500 pounds of fish each day. It is more likely that there might be a small, glowing squid that lives on crustaceans and sea-cucumbers.

If you have YouTube, there is an excellent video that I found interesting about all of the creatures on the way to the bottom of the Mariana Trench. It is created by BrightSide and takes you on a cool animated tour of over 50 creatures all the way to the Mariana Trench. I learned that the Leatherback Turtle can dive down to 4,000 feet below the surface. This video also teaches you about the different layers of the ocean, and how the heights of skyscrapers compare to their depths.

The next column I will write will be about getting ready for high school, and how the first couple of days went. I am excited, and I think it will be a great thing to start gaining more responsibility and getting ready to be an adult. I have already started turning in summer work and getting supplies for school.

I learned a lot about the Mariana Trench, and it has been something that I have been interested in for years. I hope that you have learned something, too.



Are Smart Appliances a Dumb Idea?

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – Efficiency is paramount in engineering, and that's a bigger concern with every passing year. Energy costs are rising, and fighting climate change needs our effort.

One of the simpler ways that companies are trying to improve possible efficiency, while also offering new marketable features in an otherwise commoditized space, is to make products "smart" so they can take more information into account in how they operate, potentially saving energy. And thus, so many of the fridges, stoves, washing machines, and microwaves you see out there have big color screens, Wi-Fi connections, and apps to talk to.

Unfortunately, software is a very different sort of product than hardware, as it requires ongoing maintenance, compatibility fixes, and security patches just to continue working at the same level. And that's a problem.

Software development and software updates in smart connected devices represent an ongoing cost, and if there is one thing anyone can say about big companies, it's that they don't like to spend money if they can avoid it – particularly if they already have yours. Many early connected smart-home and smart-appliance devices have already been effectively abandoned by their manufacturers, and no longer see updates.

This entropy of whole generations of early smart connected devices is already causing issues, and

not just for the customers that own them. While a lack of forward compatibility with new applications and systems is a problem in itself – those old "smart" devices often no longer have full functionality – these always-on, always-online, and insecure devices are perfect targets for automated hacks. Security researchers have been warning about the rise of IoT (Internet of Things, i.e. "smart" connected devices) botnets that can harness the vast networks of forgotten smart home hardware for their own purposes.

Put a little more simply: In a few years, when Samsung or LG decide they don't care about your purchase, your fridge or dryer could become a host to malicious software, which could be used for a wide range of attacks – from relatively simple DDoS attacks against other sites or services, to breaking into other devices on your network such as your phone or computer.

This isn't some kind of far-off bogeyman threat, either. Early generations of smart home hardware have already suffered this precise fate, and several families of IoT botnet malware have been discovered. Worse for customers, there's no single defense against this – no magic box you can plug in at home that makes these old connected devices safe. If a critical vulnerability is discovered after software updates end, that's a door left permanently open for abuse.

Having a good, recent-model router can help, as can keeping other devices on your network updated. You may also consider booting older devices that haven't seen updates

for a while off your network, as no internet access means no way in.

As we look forward, there are a couple of important developments that will make a dent in this rather critical flaw in smart home goods. For one, the rise of the Matter smart home standard, which I've written about before in this column, will make a difference, as it encourages greater competition between vendors through interoperability. That will make software more of a selling point, and *should* help encourage companies to do better and deliver updates for longer.

The other big change coming was announced quite recently. The FCC, under the Biden administration, is pushing for the creation of a "US Cyber Trust Mark," which would be a badge or indicator on smart home goods sold in the US indicating that they meet specific standards for security. These requirements would include certain levels of encryption for data and passwords, but may also mandate defined periods and frequencies for software updates – sort of like the Energy Star badge you might see on some appliances, but for security. Each product would also be required to include a handy QR code you can use to see specific data on that exact product – to use another metaphor, sort of like a nutrition fact label you can more easily scan.

A lot of the precise details for the Cyber Trust Mark are in flux as the agencies involved work out the details during a comment period in which companies and public groups can provide feedback and express arguments for or against specific benefits, as well as for which devices would be subject to its requirements. But once the typical governmental hemming and hawing is complete, the badge might be something to keep a specific eye out for when shopping for home appliances or other smart home goods.

In the meantime, I don't think smart appliances are an intrinsically good or bad idea, but they do pose their own risks and responsibilities that you should enter into knowingly.

If you're thinking about purchasing one, consider how frequently you plan to replace these sorts of appliances. Those who are the "buy it for life" type, and are making a significant investment, should be aware that software has an expiration date and they may not be able to rely on those "smart" features forever. Set a reminder in a few years to see if your model is still getting updates, and when a year or two goes by with none, kick it off your Wi-Fi.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot me an email at deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Relive July's Exciting Storms With These Gill Police Log Highlights

Saturday, 7/1

7:12 p.m. Caller reported what looked like a prosthetic leg on the TF-Gill Bridge. Foot brace located, removed.

Monday, 7/3

4:08 p.m. Main Road caller advises eight white-faced red Hereford cows are missing.

Tuesday, 7/4

4:37 p.m. Two Labradoodles found in front of station.

Thursday, 7/6

8:44 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a disturbance.

Sunday, 7/9

11:34 a.m. Assisted resident with low tire pressure.

Monday, 7/10

7:58 a.m. Small fire, Franklin Road. Assisted FD.

11:33 a.m. Wallet found, Barton Cove. Turned in to office.

Wednesday, 7/12

6:21 a.m. Caller reports a slippery substance all over westbound lane of Route 2.
6:48 a.m. Traffic lights are off on the Highway.
7:23 p.m. Water rescue at

Connecticut River buoys.

Thursday, 7/13

1:31 p.m. Assisted Erving PD; accident with injuries.

2:15 p.m. Transported subject to Baystate Franklin

2:34 p.m. Minor accident near Upinngil. No injuries.

8:20 p.m. Report of items stolen from van.

Friday, 7/14

12:33 p.m. Vehicle hit three cars and continued, Route 2.

4:07 p.m. Assisted Erving and Orange PD with assault.

Saturday, 7/15

2:22 p.m. Officer wanted for swimmers near boat ramp.

Sunday, 7/16

8:17 a.m. Caller advises a culvert on Chappell Drive is clogged and flooding.

2:27 p.m. Report of a subject on the barrels across the river. Assisted Montague PD.

4:49 p.m. Diverting traffic while DOT fixes washout.

Monday, 7/17

10:19 a.m. Assisted motorist pushing vehicle to fuel pump.

6:41 p.m. Two kayakers reported putting in near buoys.

Tuesday, 7/18

4:02 p.m. Caller reported a party on the island below the dam. Attempting to locate.

Wednesday, 7/19

12:10 p.m. NMH security called regarding an unattended raft at their docks.

12:24 p.m. Disturbance, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Caller states male party covered in tattoos with no shirt is walking toward Turners.

4:04 p.m. Two Labs with no tags reported running loose in the woods. ACO notified.

Thursday, 7/20

10:36 p.m. Caller from Barney Hale Road reports about 10 muscle cars "burning rubber out in the street."

Friday, 7/21

1:04 p.m. Oxygen truck stuck in driveway, causing a traffic hazard, South Cross Road.

1:21 p.m. Subject reporting a speeding UPS truck.

2:44 p.m. Severe flooding due

to culvert, Chappell Drive.

3:05 p.m. Flooding across highway slowing traffic.

3:45 p.m. Tree down blocking one lane, West Gill Road.

6:31 p.m. Washout on Bascom Road, Greenfield side.

6:52 p.m. Town-wide flooding reported.

8:27 p.m. Tree on wires, West Gill and Atherton roads.

8:34 p.m. Landslide in proximity with the dam.

Saturday, 7/22

11:51 a.m. Missing passport reported, Lamplighter Way.

Sunday, 7/23

7:34 p.m. Noise complaint, Green Hill Road.

Monday, 7/24

8:16 p.m. Caller reports gunshots across Main Road.

Wednesday, 7/26

10:30 a.m. Someone took down the stop sign at Munns Ferry and Main roads.

11:48 a.m. Fraud/scam reported, Ben Hale Road.

11:50 a.m. Animal complaint, West Gill Road.

Thursday, 7/27

7:56 a.m. Odor investigation, Hoe Shop Road.

3:19 p.m. Welfare check, TF-Gill Bridge. Initial report was a female party hanging over the side of the bridge.

Friday, 7/28

4:59 p.m. Accident, TF-Gill Bridge. No injuries.

Saturday, 7/29

9:57 p.m. Caller locked in at the boat ramp.

10:18 p.m. Caller reporting someone took the "No Trespassing" sign on abutment.

Sunday, 7/30

12:13 p.m. Assisted snapping turtle across Center and Hickory Hill roads.

4:23 p.m. Center Road caller looking to speak with an officer about shots being fired.

Monday, 7/31

4:49 p.m. Caller reports Montague PD has a small dog, in case anyone calls.

7:55 p.m. South Cross Road caller complains neighbor's exhaust is obnoxiously loud.

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The Children's Page

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Cushman Library, Bernardston: *Zara Bode's Little Big Band*. Free, outdoors. 6 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Cajun Two Step Night* with dance lessons, *Les Taiouts*, and live country karaoke with *The Honky Tonk Angels*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *William Tyler & the Impossible Truth*, *Garcia Peoples*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam SZ & Friends*. No cover. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Jolly Beggars*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Les Derailleurs*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jukebox Jake*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Stella Kola, A.P.I.E., Landowner*. Public show; Pete & Emma's wed-

ding. By donation. 3 p.m.

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Glockabelle, Electric Dawn, Miners, Holy Oaken String Band*. Free. 5 p.m.

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.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*. Free. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Best of the 70s*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tons of Steel*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Miles Hewitt, Hoonah, Trip.Lets*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Chris Goudreau, Tony Batey*. No cover. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sleep Destroyer, Glad Rags, bobbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ, JJ Slater and Lexi*

Weege. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Dave Alvin, Dead Rock West*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Kimaya Diggs*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *I Can Die Happy Now*, created & performed by *Frank Marchand*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Tuba Skinny*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Charles Free, Magick Lantern, Elsa, Chevrolet Pile*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Afro-Semetic Experience*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben-Ben Trio*. No cover. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*, 6 p.m. No cover. *Voo Sweet 16 Birthday Bash*, details TBA, 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Peskeompskut Park, Turners

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Ballroom: *Anthony B*, reggae legend; Perch: *Cloudbelly, High Tea*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dutch Experts, Roost.World, Public Circuit, Orange Peel Mystic*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Milk St., Waver Wire, Won Word Trend, Amulette*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Damien Jurado, Lilly Miller*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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

looking forward...

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Senegal-America Project* feat. *Tony Vacca, Tantra Zawadi, Abdou Sarr, Mamadou Ndiaye, and Derrik Jordan*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Leafies You Gave Me, Hedgewitch, Justice Cow*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Major Stars, Jeffrey Alexander & the Heavy Lidders, Bhajan Bhoj*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Juliana Hatfield*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

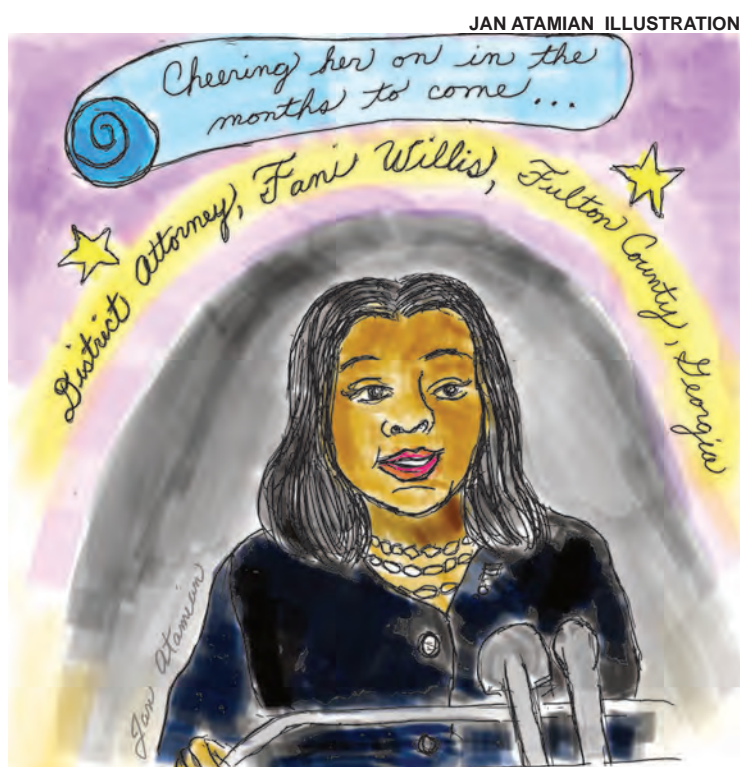
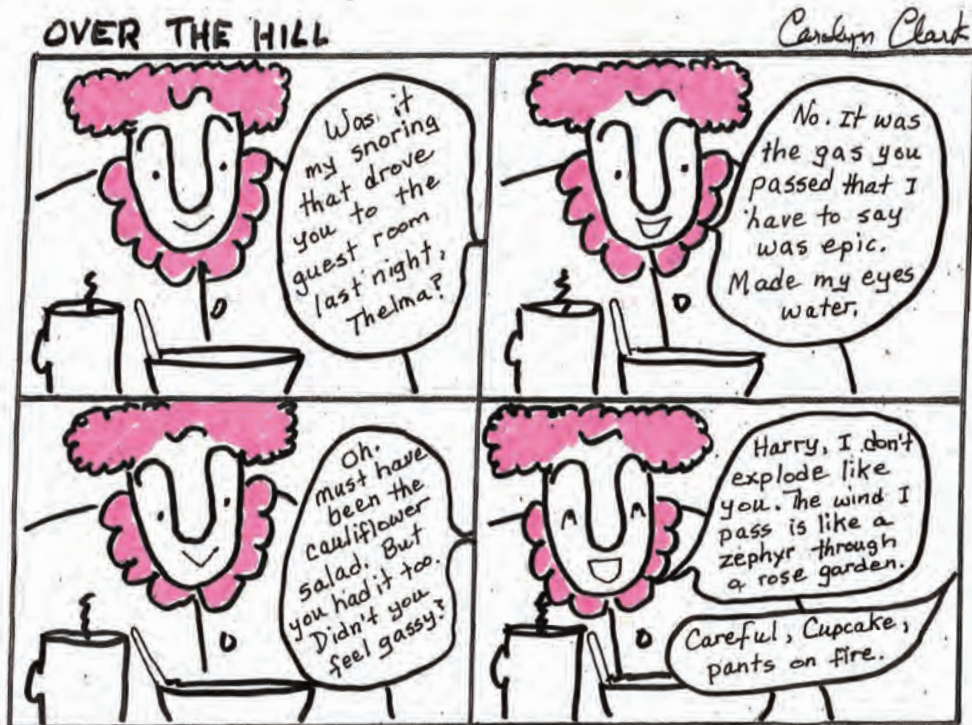
Nova Arts, Keene: *Xiu Xiu, Thus Love*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Pharcyde*. \$ 8:30 p.m.



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DANCE from page B1

he received local and regional attention, and became part of a Senegalese hip-hop group.

The Senegal-America Project

Meanwhile, back in western Massachusetts, local percussionist Tony Vacca was developing both an international reputation as a skilled drummer and a connection with Senegalese musicians that resulted in a cultural exchange called the Senegal-America Project.

When Vacca became aware of Abdou's talents, he invited him and his musical group to come and perform in the US. Abdou arrived in 2000 on a work visa. He spoke only Wolof, his native language, but took classes and now speaks fluent English. He is also now a naturalized US citizen, and has lived with his wife and two sons in

Wendell for the past 17 years.

At first Abdou found it challenging to deal with the differences in culture and climate. As a people lover, he complained that "there are more trees than people!" He has since grown to love living with his family on their Wendell farm.

"I didn't know how to grow food until I came here," he says, "but I've been learning a lot about gardening and farming. I also love that it's quiet, and I can play my drum outside anytime and no one complains! I played drums when I lived in Senegal, but mostly I was a dancer. Since coming here I have been playing more because if I can't find a drummer to play for me, I bring my drums and alternate instruction with playing for the dancers."

As his neighbor, I enjoy listening to his drumming outside in the spring and summer, as well as hear-

ing him speak Wolof on the phone to friends and relatives. It's such an amazingly rhythmic language! I also enjoy watching him play soccer with his sons and the neighbors' children in the driveway. All of the boys have become skilled soccer players under his tutelage.

Abdou has not stopped performing since arriving in the US 23 years ago. He has performed and taught West African dance to both school-age children and adults in a wide range of venues, from Boston to California. He was even part of the Montreal Jazz Festival in Canada in 2008. In addition to the classroom and performance settings, he provides dance workshops during school vacations and helps school-based soccer players increase their agility through African dance.

I observed his positive impact on youth first-hand in 2014. In my position as a youth development specialist for the Springfield Housing Authority's youth programs, I was able to hire him to teach West African dance to a group of children living in the John L. Sullivan Apartments in Springfield. Abdou easily fascinated and engaged the children with his high leaps, dance skills, and teaching style. He also taught them how to make a simple dance costume, and had them put on a performance for their families.

"I love what I'm doing," he says. "Dancing is very healthy, and it's good for everyone. Also, I love sharing my culture with people who have not been to Africa, and may not know how talented we are. In Senegal we dance to tell stories and to celebrate. We have dances to celebrate the harvest, freedom, and special occasions, from congratulations and birthdays to weddings. The only time we don't dance is when someone passes away."

Bringing It Home to Wendell

Abdou has worked extensively with the local organization Arts Are Essential, based in Acton. "Abdou teaches in a way that everyone -

all ages and abilities - can connect with, by breaking the dance down into segments and teaching each group of steps until all the students 'get it,'" they write on their website (arts-are-essential.org). "He makes learning dance steps fun as well as challenging. Sarr is highly charismatic and is an excellent role model for our youth, especially when sharing his experience and wisdom on Senegalese culture, the Muslim religion, and the arts."

Abdou's teaching philosophy can be summed up in his own words: "If you really want to teach young people the knowledge they need, make sure you study how to be an inspiring teacher."

During the past several years, Abdou has occasionally offered dance classes at the town hall in Wendell, which have resulted in many enthusiastic fans.

Sherry Monroe of Greenfield said she found the class very accessible for different levels of skills. "I really loved his sense of humor during class," she says. "He could laugh with us, and also at the same time encourage us. I also really appreciated his patience. Any time we needed to stop and repeat the last step, he was happy to go back and show us as many times as we needed. It was really a lot of fun. Even if we went to the class tired, he had a lot of energy to share with us. He sometimes modified a move if it seemed too difficult for folks."

Abdou tells his students the story behind each dance. "Some are about harvesting," Monroe explains. "Some about freedom, and other themes. I found it easier to learn the moves knowing the traditional meaning or purpose of the dance."

Claudia Citkovitz of Shutesbury adds, "With all that is fractious and difficult in today's world, what a joy to walk into an historic, New England meeting space, and find this explosion of sound and fun. The dance class I attended was truly all ages - I would guess 7 to 85 - and everyone danced like no one



Wendell resident Abdou Sarr in his home country, Senegal.



SHELLY CRYAN PHOTO

Sarr dances in Sobo Bade, an artists' village in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal, in 2011.

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