

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 39

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Helping Sort It All Out



AMY DONOVAN PHOTO

Kaleb Reipold, volunteering at the county fair earlier this month, loads a bag of sorted containers into a single-stream recycling dumpster.

By JULIA WALKOWICZ

GREENFIELD – When the annual Franklin County Fair took place earlier this month, many people flocked to the rides, games, and treats offered. However, 11-year-old Greenfield resident Kaleb Reipold and his mother Faith were focused on a specific interest: recycling.

It was the pair's third year volunteering at the fair, but Faith Reipold attests her son's interest began way before. "It really started when he was about two years old – he's been full force about trash, recycling, and compost for a really long time," she says. "I thought it would phase out a little bit," she laughs, "but –"

"Never!" Kaleb interjects. Inspired by her son's passion, Faith began to help him incorporate recycling into time spent walking their Doberman, Java. "My grandparents gave me a wag-

on," Kaleb explains. "I'd put two milk crates in it, and one would be for recycling and one would be for trash, so I'd just basically clean up the neighborhood because it would always get really dirty."

From his house this walk would lead Kaleb to the Greenfield city hall, where he would sort the items into the appropriate bins. After his wagon broke, Kaleb took part in river cleanups and trash walks before starting as a volunteer at the Franklin County Fair.

Kaleb and Faith remember their first year on the job as "dirty – it's dirty, sticky, and stinky, but a lot of fun." The volunteers work to collect recycling and compost from 30 stations set up around the fairgrounds, sorting them into their proper bins for disposal.

Amy Donovan, program director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, leads the recycling program at the fair, see **SPORTS** page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Voters Will Consider \$1.83 Million Tax Override

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard set October 23 as the date for a special election in which voters will decide whether to approve a \$1.831 million override for the FY'24 town budget.

Under the state laws known collectively as Proposition 2½, an override vote allows a town to increase the amount it raises by property taxes by more than 2.5% in a given year.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith and finance committee member Charles Zilinski estimated this proposed increase to the town's annual budget at approximately 17%.

The selectboard plans to hold an informational meeting on Wednesday, October 11, and a special town meeting will be held October 18 to appropriate the additional funds for town departments, contingent on the override passing.

As they developed the FY'24 budget that was sent to May's annual town meeting, the selectboard and fin com found a large gap between department budget requests and the town's projected revenues from taxes and other sources.

see **ERVING** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Son Blames Town's Runoff In Near-Fatal Treefall Event

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday's meeting of the Montague selectboard, which would be primarily devoted to a review of the warrant and motions for the October 10 special town meeting, began with a "public comment" about a very large tree that fell last Friday onto the property of an elderly Dell Street resident.

"It nearly killed the landscaper who had just finished the lawn," Ted Skrypek told the board. "And if it had fallen another 30 feet to the left, it would have probably killed my mother, who is 92. It was a perfectly nice day – no wind – and the tree just fell."

The property where Mr. Skrypek grew up sits on the edge of a ravine between Dell Street and Fairview Avenue, near the Thomas Memorial Golf Course, and the tree in question grew in the ravine.

Appearing before the selectboard on Monday, Skrypek said he believed that the town owned the property, and that the tree had fallen because runoff from a town "drain" had created a trench in the sandy soil.

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Plans Still Solidifying for Downtown's New Fall Fest

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – "I see this as a test to see whether we can keep doing it," said Klion Koehler, a local musician and audio technician who serves on the steering committee for this year's "Falls Fest," the October 21 event being organized to fill the gap left by the demise of the annual Great Falls Festival in downtown Turners.

"We are doing our best with a fledgling crew to reboot it," Koehler continued. "All our focus is on the diverse, talented people who are here. Let's round them up and

celebrate it."

"It is a work in progress," said Montague public libraries director Caitlin Kelley, who also serves on the steering committee. "We don't know whether we are going to get 1,000 or 5,000 people."

The committee is expected to appear before the town selectboard next Monday to discuss the state of the festival planning, and to request permits for use of public space.

Pending approval by town hall, Kelley said, the group's vision includes activities at Peskeompskut Park, Spinner Park, the municipal see **FEST** page A6



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

In a 2019 Great Falls Festival file photo, crowds stretch down Avenue A.

Experts Keeping a Close Eye On Mosquito-Borne Viruses

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – People living in a number of Worcester and Hampden County communities are at a high risk of contracting a deadly, mosquito-borne disease known as Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), according to state officials. Often called *triple-E*, the rare disease has shown up for the first time this year in lab-tested mosquitoes from a handful of communities in the south-central part of the state.

No EEE-positive mosquitoes have been detected in Franklin County this year, and the risk level here remains low, or "remote" according to the Department of Public Health (DPH). But John Briggs, director of the Pioneer Valley Mos-

quito Control District (PVMCD), said he plans to set more traps for testing in our towns next week.

Excessive rainfall and flooding this year, Briggs said, have made for a particularly robust mosquito season, including for some species that can be "vectors" of EEE.

"We are technically not out of the woods until the first hard frost," Briggs wrote this week to the board of health of Shutesbury, a PVMCD member town. "With the timing and the fact that multiple bridge vectors are coming back positive, I am a bit concerned that human transmission may eventually occur."

There is no cure for EEE. According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 30% of see **MOSQUITOES** page A5

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volunteers Tapped to Fill Two Empty Montague Seats

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Two vacant seats representing Montague on the regional school committee were filled by appointment Tuesday night, a step that may make it easier for the committee to meet in person.

After months spent fruitlessly soliciting volunteers to fill the seats until next May's town election, the committee received three letters of interest – one more than was needed.

Meeting remotely via Zoom with

one member absent, the committee encountered a final obstacle to the appointments: the already-complicated ballot process by which volunteers are nominated and selected only became more unwieldy in the video chat format.

Information technology director Tina Mahaney sent members a link to an online form when the time came to vote to fill first one seat, then the other. "I have to sign in to continue," Gill member Bill Tomb told her.

see **GMRSD** page A6

High School Sports Week: Football Season Kicks Off



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech quarterback Gabe Tomasi passes as Redhawk defenders move in. Frontier's 27-22 win last Friday was a nailbiter, with Tech ahead 22-21 until a late fourth-quarter Redhawk touchdown sealed the game.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Hurricane Lee flooded over coastal New England this week, causing strong winds and rain in the Pioneer Valley. As Lee drenched the coast, the Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder faced a different Hurricane down in Amherst.

The Amherst Hurricanes drowned out the Thunder 3-1, handing Turners their first loss of the season. By Wednesday the Hurricanes seemed to have lost some steam as Franklin Tech shut out

their field hockey team 6-0.

Also this week, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost a close one against the Frontier Red Hawks.

Football
Frontier 27 – FCTS 22

Last Friday, the Red Hawks spoiled Franklin Tech's home opener 27-22. Even though Tech lost, it was still a fun game. It was nice seeing all the old regulars, including Kevin up in the announcer's booth and the Turners Falls/Franklin Tech co-op cheerleaders revving up the crowd.

see **SPORTS** page A4

Wishing A Very Successful Equinox For All Our Readers

Puzzle for the Mailman.....A2	West Along: Around the Corner.....B1
Local Briefs.....A3	Elder Skelter: 'Villages' Prez.....B2
Heavy Earth Repairs.....A3	Montague Police Log Highlights.....B3
Source to Sea: Plug In!.....A4	Alternatives to Clowning.....B4
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....A7	Gill Police Log Highlights.....B4
MR On the Road: From Alaska to Greece.....A8	Our Monthly Kids' Page.....B6
Seventy in Dog Years.....B1	A&E Calendar: Busy Weekends!.....B7
No Times Like the Maritimes.....B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....B7



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

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

Production Staff

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

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

In Another Village...

For those who feel our "150 Years Ago" column, drawing from the archives of the Turners Falls Reporter, is too focused on the development of one village, here's a sampling of news the paper printed from Montague Center.

September 17, 1873: The guide-board at the south end of the village has been newly painted and improved, by substituting for Boston and Worcester, (places rarely if ever visited from this place by highway) places of more interest to modern travellers, such as Toby and Mt. Mineral. There is one mistake, which we suppose was copied from the old lettering. It directs travellers to Amherst via Sunderland, instead of via Leverett, which is the more direct route.

September 19, 1883: The Orthodox Sunday school held a picnic at Sugar Loaf the other day. On their return they passed a fine field of watermelons. The devil tempted the good people, and they helped themselves to the forbidden fruit. The owner, Isaac Munsell, although a pious man, couldn't be expected to do everything for the redemption of the world, so he took the names of those that had been tempted... and when they heard the scribe had recorded their indiscretions in his book, they murmured among themselves, and straightaway went and

settled with the pious granger, even unto the last farthing which he demanded.

September 20, 1893: Thaxer Shaw is ill with congestion of the lungs. He will probably be unable to go to the World's Fair as intended.... Mrs. L.C. Montague, who has been a great sufferer for the last two years, died last Wednesday evening.

September 23, 1903: The meeting of the Street Light association was held last week. The following officers were elected: Pres. W.H. Nims; vice-pres. W. Cummings, sec and treas., Miss Clara Harrington; exec. com., Mrs. Merriam King and Mrs. George Friedbach. It was voted to support the lights by subscription. The cost of electric lights for the streets for the whole year is about the same as for kerosene lighting for eight months.

September 17, 1913: The common was very prettily trimmed with ropes of laurel and hemlock with Japanese lanterns hung in various places, in the center a throne for the queen, booths and tents on every corner. The parade was fine, floats, autos and wagons of every description prettily trimmed. Nearly all were dressed in old costumes, worn by their ancestors.... It has been estimated a thousand people were present in the afternoon.

OBITUARY

Dillon Stanley Dudek

Dillon Stanley Dudek, 30, of Gill passed away on Sunday, September 10. A dedicated husband, father, and friend, he was born in Bangor, Maine on February 22, 1993, to Frank Dudek and Deborah Stanley.

He spent much of his childhood in various parts of Maine where he attended local schools before moving to Turners Falls. There he attended Turners Falls High School where he met his high school sweetheart, Julie.

Together Dillon and Julie built a wonderful life with their two daughters, Kaelynn and Piper. Dillon loved being a girl dad and took great pride in sharing his love of fishing and building with them. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty and was respected by many for his strong work ethic.

It was this work ethic that made him a

beloved employee of One Development & Construction, LLC of Westfield. He was always eager to share details and photos of projects and showed great pride in his work.

To those who knew him, Dillon was a kind soul with a strong spirit and the ability to make anyone laugh. To those who didn't know him he was a generous hand always willing to help.

Dillon leaves behind his wife, Julie (Thompson) Dudek, and daughters Kaelynn and Piper; his mother, Deborah Stanley of Madison, Maine; his Aunt Donna Stanley-Kelley and her husband Skipper of Hudson, Maine; his brothers Jehiel, Peterson, and Ryan of Maine; his father Frank Dudek and grandmother Maureen Dudek of Greenfield. He leaves behind many in-laws, nieces, and nephews as well as many friends including his



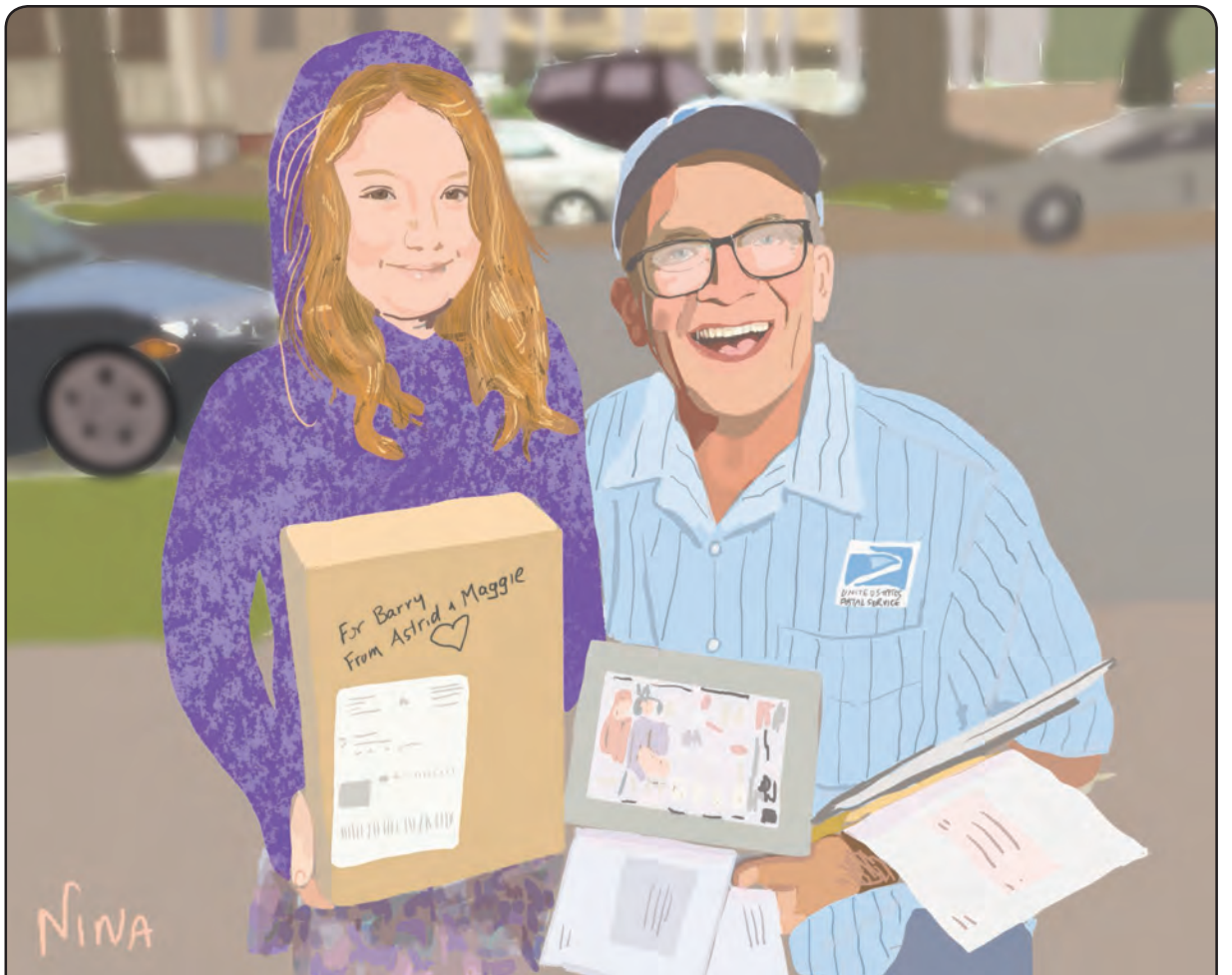
best friends Julian, Paul, and Lindsey.

Dillon will be greatly missed by many.

Calling hours will held this Thursday September 21, 2023, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Kostanski Funeral Home, 1 Kostanski Square, Turners Falls.

A Celebration of Life will be at a later date. For condolences, please visit www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION - FROM A PHOTO BY MAGGIE SADOWAY



Patch resident Astrid Anderson gave mail carrier Barry Troie a surprise gift the other day. Astrid and her grandmother ordered a jigsaw puzzle made with photos of Barry. "Barry is the best mail carrier ever!" says Astrid. "He's been delivering mail to my house for about 14 years. That's longer than I've been alive!" Residents will miss the cheerful carrier when he retires in about three years.

Letter to the Editors

Soapbox Race Committee Looking for Your Help

The Montague Soapbox Race was canceled this year due to a lack of registered racers by the application deadline, which is unfortunate, because it is a singular, unique event, with such joy shared by the builders/racers and their family and friends, and all the extra business that is generated in town.

And, in this time of the maker mindset, where makerspaces are being set up (Greenfield and Orange) and even towns are having events (Colrain), the Soapbox Kart is the ultimate form of maker-ism, taking it one step further to a kinetic art form that you can actually sit down in and ride... and which can also be utilized

for promotion, not just pleasure.

But it takes a big committee to make such a big event happen right.

The derby committee is a feisty group of six local people who love the sport and *panache* of soapbox racing for both young and old, and who are seeking additional committee members to help take on specific tasks of preparing and supporting this awesome annual event so it can be bigger and better than ever in 2024.

Current committee members consist of Peter Chilton of Nova Motorcycles, Seth Rutherford of 253 Pharmacy, Captain Luke Hartnett of the Turners Falls fire Department; Dan Burke of Rexel, Mik Muller of Montague WebWorks, and Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague recreation department. Additional input is supplied by Steve Ellis, town administrator of Montague, and Charles Bado of Omnibus Designs.

There are many tasks involved in an event such as this. The most important work is done in the months leading up, and includes gathering sponsors/underwriters, vendors, volunteers, and of course racers, and assisting with promotion, such as social media posts, article writing, interviewing, and posterage. Additionally, helping rally the interest of town businesses to hook in with events and special promos to support and take advantage of the event in general.

Other towns that have run such an event have raised multiple thousands of dollars for their cause, and in one case - Sharon, Connecticut - well over \$15,000 multiple years in a row. Raising that much for the Montague Rec department would allow them to sponsor many, many kids for summer camp and other activities.

So, why not join our committee and help improve this fun event? Or get in touch to ask what you can do to help. Or chat it up with your club, or any other organization you may be involved with, to see if they want to sponsor the event or build a cart or volunteer on the day.

Or just come out and spectate!

Help us make this event be a jewel in Montague's crown of yearly events!

The Montague Soapbox Race Committee
MontagueSoapboxRaces.org

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August.
No paper the fourth week of November,
or the final week of December.

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

EMAIL:

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

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

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

Annual Subscription Rate:

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

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE
LIMIT 4 PER YEAR

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

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

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____



hopes to start a conversation with locals about their familiarity with some of these sounds, and their encounters with new sonic communities in our region. Register to attend at engage.gcc.mass.edu. There is a \$10 admission fee.

Court Dorsey will read selections from *The Eddy Stories* Thursday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at the **Wendell Meetinghouse**.

"Eddy is a character that is both laughably simple and wildly cosmic," Dorsey writes. "Whether he is pitying his potatoes, chewing on nails, walking the stars or breaking his heart over a peach tree, he reminds us that life is both extraordinarily ordinary and deeply magical."

A suggested donation of \$5 to \$20 goes to support renovations and programming at the Meetinghouse. The event is part of a full fall lineup there that includes a caregivers gathering, concerts, other sound-related performances such as a cymbal sound bath and a sound journey, and classes in knitting, crocheting, and movement.

More information is available at wendellmeetinghouse.org.

On Friday, September 29 a special reception for "Why I Go To School: **Expressions Through Art**," an exhibit of work by kids from the Greenfield-based after-school program Twice as Smart, will be held in East 103 at Greenfield Community College.

Twice as Smart is described as "enriching after-school learning environment rooted in social justice that helps launch at-risk children on a path to higher education." Meet the kids, check out their art and essays, and grab a snack starting at 1 p.m., and enjoy a special musical performance at 1:30 p.m.

Franklin County was once a world leader in **tool manufacturing**. **Workers organized** with a democratic trade union that found itself targeted by a national political campaign. In Greenfield and surrounding towns, this led to a peaceful confrontation that surprised onlookers near and far.

Public historian Tom Goldscheider will present on this history, *At Sword's Point: A History of Trade Unions in the Machine Tool Industry in Franklin County* at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls next Saturday, September 30 at 2 p.m.

If you or someone you know worked in the local machine tool in-

dustry, your stories can help enrich Goldscheider's ongoing research. Introduce yourself at the event or contact him in advance at tom.goldscheider@gmail.com. A short video about the project is available online at tinyurl.com/tool-industry.

The next day, Sunday, October 1 at 1 p.m., the Discovery Center will host a **special geology presentation**. Professor Emeritus Richard Little presents his new 25-minute movie, *The Geology of Gill and Vicinity - The Best Place in the World To Study Geology*, a deep dive into the history preserved in our local rocks and landscape.

Little's film provides details about the birth and death of Pangea, local dinosaurs, armored mud balls, Lake Hitchcock, and the mysterious deep holes in the Connecticut's riverbed. He will bring samples for display, and will also lead a tour of the Center's Rock Garden.

On Tuesday, October 3 at 7 p.m., Next Stage Arts in Putney, Vermont is screening *Four Winters*, an award-winning documentary on **Jewish partisans during World War II**. Director Julia Mintz will take questions after the screening.

"Torn from their families by the ravages of Hitler's armies, men and women, many barely in their teens, escaped into the forests, banding together in partisan brigades; engaging in treacherous acts of sabotage, blowing up trains, burning electric stations, and attacking armed enemy headquarters," reads the description. "Against extraordinary odds, over 25,000 Jewish partisans courageously fought back against the Nazis and their collaborators from deep within the forests of WWII's Belarus, Ukraine and Eastern Europe." Tickets are \$10 at nextstagearts.org.

Montague Center illustrator and writer Kate Spencer reports that her **children's book**, *The Cat Who Walked the Camino*, is now available on Amazon.

"My illustrations and text tell the story of Don Pedro Pepito and his good friend Lucia, who walk from France all the way to the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela and experience the glories and hardships of the long trip across the north of Spain." Check it out!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Valley Medical Group will hold a **Health Fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, September 23 at their 329 Conway Street location in Greenfield. There will be activities for kids, such as a "stuffie checkup" station, crafts, games, and raffles, and you may register yourself and/or your kids as patients. Review your own health screenings with medical providers, learn about job opportunities, and talk with members of the fire and police departments. Rain or shine; learn more at vmgma.com.

"Thirty years ago this summer, my husband Vic and I packed up a big U-Haul truck and moved our family to Wendell in order to own and operate the Wendell Country Store," writes Patti Scutari. "As the song goes... What a long strange trip it's been!"

Patti and the Scutaris' son Vic Jr., along with longtime employees Donna Horn and Joy Gorzocoski, invite you to come celebrate the **Wendell Country Store's 30th anniversary** this Saturday, September 23 starting at 4 p.m. in the backyard of the Deja Brew.

The Wendell Warriors African Drumming Group will kick off the music at 4:15, followed by Eric Love singing the oldies of the '60s and '70s at 5 p.m., and 2 Car Garage takes the stage at 7 p.m. There will be crafters selling wares, and a bonfire after dark. Retired postmaster Charlie O'Dowd will pay a visit, and the Deja Brew will dish out food and libations. There's no cover charge.

The Leverett Historical Society will host a video premiere of *10-1* this Saturday, September 23 at 4 p.m. at the **Moore's Corner Schoolhouse** at 230 North Leverett Road. In 2017 and 2018, Leverett's sixth graders interviewed 15 former scholars of the one-room schoolhouse and produced a book of the same title with transcriptions of their interviews.

The 35-minute-long video to be shown Saturday shows what education was like in Leverett before the consolidated elementary school was created in 1950. "True memories come alive before your eyes as the 'ole school daze' are vividly told," reads the press release. "History and humor will capture your attention as you see and hear scholars of yore answer sixth graders' inquisitive questions."

Refreshments will be served.

The Nolumbeka Project will be at the Old Deerfield Crafts Fair this weekend, September 23 and 24. Seaconke Pokanoket Wampanoag artist **Deborah Spears Moorehead** will be honored for her mural *50 Mishoonash on the Connecticut River*, which has found its home at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Museum.

At 1 p.m. both days, Moorehead will present a Native American Storytelling family program in the Blue and White Society room of the Deerfield Teachers' Center. She is a descendant of Massasoit, the Supreme Sachem of the Wampanoag Nation in 1620.

Greenfield Community College's Community Engagement office is partnering with Greenfield nightspot 10 Forward to hold a **Vintage Karaoke Night** this Sunday, September 24 from 7 to 11 p.m. Sing out songs from the '60s and '70s, plus try your hand at a pop culture trivia contest (with prizes), all on the vintage theme.

The GCC Senior Symposium presents "**Soundscapes of the Connecticut River Valley**" with Jeffers Engelhardt next Tuesday, September 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Jon Zon Community Center in Greenfield.

Engelhardt's presentation draws on an archive of film and sound documentary from the unique community-based musical and sonic ethnography course he teaches at Amherst College. In sharing these sounds, images, and stories, he

FRENCH KING BRIDGE SAFETY BARRIER
completion reception held by the Town of Erving
Thursday, October 12
at 11 a.m. at the French King Restaurant
Please RSVP at www.erving-ma.gov/FKB

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
First St + Unity Park, Turners Falls, 10-4
Northeast UNITY Autoshow
200 Vintage & Custom European Cars On View
VW Audi BMW FREE!
Motorcycles + Food Trucks at NOVA

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone

MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL

(413) 774-1285



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych has been following the ongoing efforts to repair the slope on the side of Route 2 in Gill over the Connecticut River that collapsed amid this summer's flooding.

"Northern Construction Service LLC, the general contractor out of Palmer, is continuing work on the project," Joe writes. "The crew is using a Volvo EC250EL excavator to haul out remains of the debris, transferring it into a Volvo A30G articulated hauler."

"Besides this project," he adds, "they have been working on the French King Bridge safety barriers, and a while back on the General Pierce Bridge repairs. They worked on the Factory Hollow Bridge project back in 2012."

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

BURRITOS, BOWLS, SOFT TACOS, QUESADILLAS

Now Serving BBC Steel Rail

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

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

HEADSTONE CLEANING & Gravesite Maintenance
Over 30 years experience in cemetery work.
Serving Franklin County. (413) 489-3079

BOOK MILL
440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351


413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

Dudek Tax Service
10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376
Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com

FREE

PAPER
Week of September 25
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

**VILLAGE-WIDE
TAG SALE
+ Pie Auction!**

**Saturday, 9/23
9 am - 1 pm***

**Rutters Park
Lake Pleasant**

***Pie Auction @ 1 pm**
**Fundraiser for
The Bridge of Names**

Rain Date 9/30

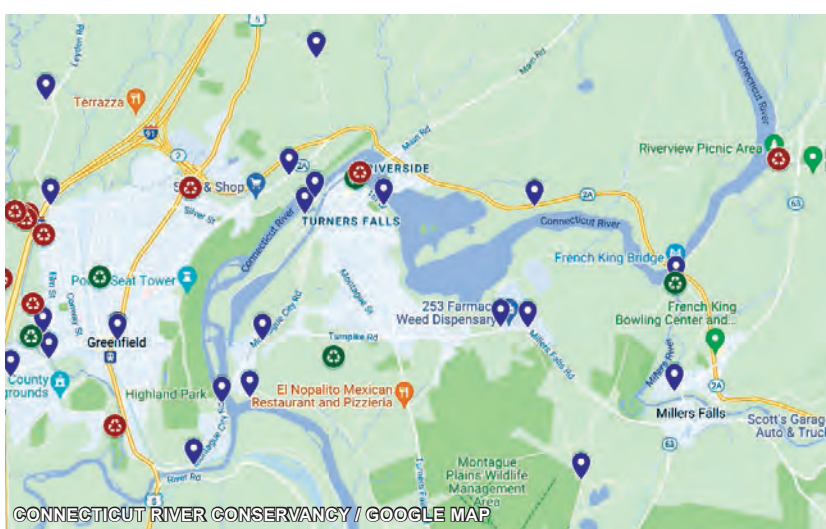
Still Not Too Late to Help With Source to Sea!

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – “There’s plenty of sites left for people to take,” FirstLight Power land specialist Beth Bazler told the *Reporter* Wednesday night. “There are sites with a decent amount of stuff – tires, a couch – that don’t currently have volunteers going to them.”

FirstLight is helping coordinate the Gill, Montague, and Erving segment of this Saturday’s annual Connecticut River-long Source to Sea Cleanup, in partnership with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC). As of press time, a number of locations scouted and mapped for the mass trash cleanup day have not been claimed. The CRC’s map of unclaimed projects, as well as “public” cleanups that would welcome extra helpers on Saturday, can be viewed at tinyurl.com/RiverTrash23.

Bazler encouraged stragglers to register with the CRC (find the form at tinyurl.com/TrashRegister23), but said super-late joiners can still plug in Saturday morning, either by going to the Green River Swimming Area in Greenfield or by just



As of press time there were a number of unclaimed sites (blue pins) on the map.

heading to an unclaimed site and contacting organizers about pickup.

Anyone interested in joining a “hauler team,” she said, is needed at the Montague transfer station: show up at 11:30 a.m., sign a waiver, and head out for the fun part.

“We have trucks – we just need a couple extra hands to help load them,” she explained. “They get to see a lot of different sites, and they get to see the trash piling up at the end of the day, so it has a

real warm fuzzy feeling....We even provide lunch for that team.”

Two spots on Power Street in Turners Falls are up for grabs – the area around the former Railroad Salvaged building. “Litter, tire, sofa. Urban area. Litter also on trails down to the river,” reads one description.

“[F]ood garbage, fishing garbage, household waste, abandoned tent sites, shopping carts, fireworks, bicycle tires, etc.,” reads the other. “Trash is found along old rail trail,

short woodland trail, and along the fishing areas next to the pond.”

Other unclaimed areas include Unity Park, vehicle “pull-offs” near the Barton Cove campground and airport industrial park, Cabot Camp, a chronic dumping site on the Montague Plains near Lake Pleasant, and Elm Street in Montague Center, where two volunteers are wanted to remove “One tractor tire with rim” and light litter.

Official volunteers, Bazler explains, are the ones who have signed waivers, and training is available for troublesome spots.

“But if people want to just collect trash in their neighborhood,” she said, “like they might do any other week, bring that to the Montague transfer station, because we have a 15-yard dumpster there available for people who are doing neighborhood cleanup.”

And for those who might like to sleep in well past noon on weekends?

“Well, we do always stop it in the afternoon,” Bazler replied. “Like maybe 3 p.m.”

At some point, in other words, it will be too late to join the cleanup.

SPORTS from page A1

But what was *really* nice to see was Josiah Little exceeding 200 yards.

The Eagles dominated the first half in every stat but the score. The Hawks only made two good plays, a 77-yard run and a kickoff return, but these accounted for both their first-half touchdowns. The Eagles burrowed twice into the Red zone, but came up empty both times.

Tech did manage to score one TD in the half, off a four-yard completion from Gabriel Tomasi to Jet Bastarache. They got the 2-pointer and briefly led, 8-7. But on the ensuing kick return, Frontier took back the lead 14-8. And though Franklin outscored the Frontiersmen 14-13 in the second half, it wasn’t enough, and Red held on to win by five points.

Tomasi completed five passes for 32 yards and a touchdown, and threw two picks. In a nod to West Coast offenses of the ’90s, Tomasi’s five receptions were all under eight yards. Tucker Hicks, Ethan Smarr, William Ainsworth, and Bastarache were his targets.

On the ground, Little rushed for 206 yards, Tomasi ran for 65, Bastarache had 17 yards, and Smarr and Cameren Candelaria each carried the ball once.

Defensively, Wyatt Whitman and Landen Hardy led the team in tackles, while Tyler Yetter pulled down an interception.

Field Hockey

FCTS 7 – Mahar 0 TFHS 5 – Mohawk 0
Mahar 4 – TFHS 3 FCTS 6 – Amherst 0

The Franklin Tech Field Hockey Eagles defeated the visiting Mahar Senators 7-nil last Thursday, but the big story was Kate Trudeau.

I got to the game in the middle of the first quarter, and by then it was already 3-0. Immediately, two or three regulars told me that Kate was closing in on her 100th point. Sure enough, Ms. Trudeau finished the game with three goals and three assists, giving her exactly 100 career points.

But, of course, field hockey is a team sport. Hannah Gilbert scored two goals of her own, and Lili Inman and Kenzie Sourdiffie scored one each.

The Turners Falls field hockey team also notched their first win of the season that night, besting Mohawk 5-0.

Ledwin Villafana scored three goals in the win, while Jaade Duncan and Ella Guidaboni each put one into the net. Avery Tela (2), Holly Myers, and Ayleen Ovalle-Perez all helped out with assists.

On Tuesday, Mahar edged out the Thunder 4-3. Villafana scored two goals and made one assist, Tela scored the third goal, and Guidaboni lent an assist. In goal, Conner Herzig made 10 saves.

Then on Wednesday, Franklin Tech went down to Amherst, and blew away the Hurricanes 6-0. The stats came in too late for this



Frontier’s Bray Arsenault uses a “stiff arm” against Franklin Tech’s Wyatt Whitman as the Eagles hosted the Redhawks last Friday.

week’s edition, but the drubbing gives Tech a 27-2 surplus of goals scored so far this season.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Mahar 0 PV Christian 3 – FCTS 1
FCTS 3 – Pioneer 0 Amherst 3 – TFHS 1
TFHS 3 – Greenfield 0 FCTS 3 – Hampden 0

Last Thursday, September 14, the Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder defeated the visiting Mahar Senators 3-0. Turners dominated from whistle to whistle. The third game was the closest, but even with Turners playing several subs, they still managed to win the final game by 10 points.

Madi Liimatainen, Janelle Massey, and Maddie Dietz each served multiple aces, and Taylor Greene gave 14 assists.

That same night, Franklin Tech Ladybirds swept Greenfield 3-zip. Jenna Petrowicz led Franklin in aces with seven, followed by Skylei LaPan with four. Lea Chapman used her six-foot frame to make 10 kills and block three shots, while Shelby O’Leary led the team with five assists.

Tech then traveled down to Springfield on Friday and dropped a match against the Pioneer Christians 3-1. The second game seemed to be pivotal as Tech lost by a mere 2 points

to go down 2-0. They took the third game, but dropped the deciding match 25 to 21.

Tech’s defense kept them in the contest as they spent much of the match playing down on their haunches, saving points. Kristine Given led the Eagles with five digs, followed by Hannah Hackett (5), Abby Carlo (3), and LaPan (1).

The Pioneer Panthers came to town on Monday, and were swept by the Birds 3-0. The Thunder, meanwhile, braved the Hurricanes of Amherst, losing their first match of the season 3-1.

On Tuesday, Powertown took out their frustrations on the Green Wave over in Greenfield, holding Green to only 6 points in the first game. Keira Richardson-Meattey led Turners in aces, Liimatainen made eight kills, and Greene gave 12 assists.

And on Wednesday, Franklin swept Hampden Charter School of Science West. The first game was a rout as Tech more than quadrupled West’s output, 25-6. The next two games were more competitive, but the Eagles still outclassed them.

Chapman dominated both from the line and at the net, registering nine aces and nine kills, while Emma Little led Tech in assists with six.

**GREENFIELD
FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639


**Local
Farmer-Owned**

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!


www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

**NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA**




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

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



**THE LADY
KILLIGREW:**

Awesome Beer
Amazing Food



Awesome, Amazing
Employees!

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


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

**French King
Restaurant & Motel**

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

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

CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328



**Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair**

Stay
tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com



Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

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



ERVING from page A1

The town's residential tax rate, \$8.00 per \$1,000 in assessed value, is far below the limit of \$25 per \$1,000 set by Proposition 2½, but because the law also limits the total amount by which the taxes the town collects on existing property may increase from one year to the next, the only way to increase the revenue is a voter-approved override.

However, the board and fin com decided not to ask for an override at the annual town meeting, instead asking department heads to find ways to reduce their requests. While most departments did, the school committee's final budget reflected 16% growth, driven by mandatory special education costs.

The balanced FY'24 budget was approved by town meeting in May, but in June, given that the school's requested growth had been funded, the selectboard, fin com, and capital planning committee began considering the impacts of the budget reductions on the other town departments, and on the town's plans for capital improvements.

Throughout July and August they continued meeting jointly, questioning department heads and reviewing the current year's budget. By September 6, the board and fin com had settled on holding an override vote in the amount of \$1.831 million.

Most of this total is comprised of \$955,000 for the

capital improvement stabilization fund and capital projects, \$355,000 for employee benefits, \$145,000 for the assessors, \$92,000 for the highway department, and \$75,000 for the police department. The balance would go to the fire department, wastewater department, grant-matching, library staffing, and senior center.

Principal assessor Jacquelyn Boyden estimated that if the override passes, the tax increase for residential property would be approximately \$1.42 per \$1,000 of property value. For an "average" residential property valued at \$238,352, she said, the real estate tax will increase by \$50 this year without the override, and by \$339 if it passes.

Special Town Meeting

The board also discussed the warrant for the October 18 special town meeting. Several articles would amend the FY'24 town budget, contingent on the results of the override vote the following week.

Others would pay bills of prior years, amend compensation for several elected officials, establish a special education stabilization fund, deposit payments from a national opioid settlement into another stabilization fund, and deposit funds from the Massachusetts Library Building Commission into general stabilization.

The selectboard plans to finalize the warrant at its next meeting on Monday, October 2.



MOSQUITOES from page A1

all people who contract the disease will die from it, and most survivors suffer with lingering neurological issues due to swelling of the brain. Early symptoms include a high fever, muscle pain, altered mental status, headache, light sensitivity, and seizures.

Last Friday, after testing found EEE-positive mosquitoes in Brimfield, the DPH announced there was a "high" risk of humans contracting the disease in that town as well as, Sturbridge, Holland, Douglas, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Sutton, and Webster. The department warned of a "moderate" risk in Auburn, Charlton, Grafton, Millbury, Northbridge, Wales and Uxbridge.

"While EEE is a rare disease, it can cause severe disease resulting in hospitalization and death," state public health commissioner Robert Goldstein said in the press release. "Risk is high enough in several towns that we recommend rescheduling outdoor events."

EEE outbreaks often occur in two- to three-year cycles, according to the DPH, and 2019 is believed to have been the peak of a cycle. Twelve human cases were discovered in Massachusetts that year, and half of the patients died. In 2020 there were five human cases with one death, and no human cases have been reported in the state since then.

Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have also detected mosquitoes positive for EEE this year, and have placed some communities under high alert. Other mammals are also prone to infection; earlier this month a horse in northern Vermont was found to have died of the disease, and a Rhode Island donkey tested positive and was euthanized.

Joining the Club

The risk levels issued by DPH are based on data collected by capturing mosquitoes, sorting them by species, and testing them for infectious diseases. The state tests for EEE and West Nile virus (WNV), and supplements its data with results submitted by regional mosquito control districts.

"The placement of surveillance traps are often dictated by first identifying potential vector habitat and its proximity to outdoor recreational areas, neighborhoods, and at-risk populations," Briggs said. "The data are extremely valuable in assessing

mosquito population abundance, determining the prevalence of arbovirus, and identifying specific areas with elevated risk levels."

The PVMCD is one of Massachusetts' 11 mosquito control districts, which are overseen by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board. Established in 2017, it currently includes 23 towns in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties. Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield, Shutesbury, and Sunderland are among the dozen Franklin County towns that have joined.

In other local towns – including Montague, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett – the state sets traps.

"In areas without [control district] coverage, DPH conducts strategic surveillance trapping to identify WNV or EEE activity and adjusts trapping locations based on testing results in order to better define the extent and spread of any virus activity," DPH spokesperson Omar Cabrera told the Reporter. "Trapping in areas generally occurs once per week, but that can increase or decrease based on the surveillance needs."

Montague public health director Ryan Paxton told the Reporter his town is considering joining the PVMCD for the next fiscal year. The town's board of health voted last month to recommend joining the district, and next spring town meeting members will be asked to appropriate the \$5,000 necessary to join.

"I would say the overall primary reason we are looking at joining is that the PVMCD provides a lot of additional surveillance data on the local level for mosquito-borne illness," Paxton told the Reporter. "This involves capturing and testing mosquitoes, and represents a much larger amount of information on the local level than is available through the state arbovirus surveillance."

Paxton also said that the increased heat and precipitation in the northeastern US anticipated in the coming years is motivating Montague officials to look for ways to better monitor mosquito-borne illnesses.

On Monday, Shutesbury board of health chair Catherine Hilton shared information about the recent Central Massachusetts detections over the Wendell town listserv. EEE is appearing later in the season than usual, she wrote, and is being found in species that are not typically carriers of the virus.

"We are very fortunate to be a member of the Pioneer Valley Mos-

quito Control District," she told the Reporter. "It's reassuring to know that the mosquito population is being sampled and tested for diseases that can affect humans."

Some communities, however, have decided that joining the district is cost-prohibitive.

"Wendell is not part of the [PVMCD] because it costs \$5,000 a year, and we can't afford it," said Wendell board of health chair Barbara Craddock.

According to the DPH website, "municipalities are required to appropriate a minimum of \$5,000 to the PVMCD" in order to join, but the site does not clarify whether this is an annual fee. The district's operating revenue also includes multiple state grants.

Aerial Spraying

Beyond testing, mosquito control districts are authorized to spray insecticides from specialized trucks to try to manage mosquito populations. If the state declares a "public health hazard," it may spray from planes, as it did in 2006, 2010, 2012, 2019, and 2020 to manage the risk of EEE.

The aerial spraying program is managed separately from the local districts, and municipalities are given the opportunity to opt out, but must submit for approval an alternate local plan for mosquito control and public education. A number of local towns, including Montague and Wendell, have taken this route.

This year, in response to constituents' concerns with aerial spraying and confusion over the process by which towns are granted exemptions, state senator Jo Comerford introduced a bill that would overhaul the state's mosquito control policies, which were originally written in 1918. In May she testified before the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment in favor of the bill.

"Aerial spraying is hazardous to humans, fish, bees and other pollinators, and it isn't effective at controlling mosquitoes. If we aerial spray, we have failed," Comerford said. "In 2020, in response to a pretty significant call for change, the legislature passed a temporary bill which made some improvements, but largely maintained some outdated approaches to mosquito control."

Comerford's bill, S.445, would discontinue aerial spraying and give municipalities tools to eradicate mosquito populations earlier in the

WENDELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Wendell Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40 and the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw, will hold a virtual Public Meeting via Zoom at 6 p.m. on October 10, 2023 to discuss a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Adam Porter and Elizabeth Jakob for a driveway repair on their property at 217 Wendell Depot Road.

The public is welcome to participate using the following link:
us02web.zoom.us/j/89329494849?pwd=Vys0Y3hlcUpVQjE2b04ySXV3Sk1Sdz09

Ward Smith, chair; Trevor Kearns; Rowan Gay

MONTAGUE CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS FOR LOCAL ARTS, CULTURAL, SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES PROJECTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY VISIT THE CULTURAL COUNCIL PAGE ON THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE WEBSITE

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL OCT 17

MONTAGUE CULTURAL COUNCIL

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

WWW.MONTAGUE-MA.GOV AND SEARCH MCC GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES 2024
 EMAIL: CULTURALCOUNCIL@MONTAGUE-MA.GOV

Tip of the week ...

Home Systems Protection is an extension of your homeowners insurance policy that covers items such as your furnace, central air unit, and garage door systems. Reach out to us today to find out more about this additional coverage option.

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

PARTRIDGE ZSCHAU INSURANCE

25 Millers Falls Road
 (413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com
 auto | home | business

insect's life cycle. (It would also ban PFAS-containing pesticides; in 2020, the state's aerial mosquito spray was discovered to have been tainted by PFAS-lined barrels.)

There are currently no plans to spray this year, according to the state website.

"Around mid-July," Briggs told the Reporter, "a lot of residents in the Pioneer Valley region experienced intolerable levels of mosquitoes, where normal daily activities such as walking the dog, gardening, or even taking out the trash were disrupted by the abundant amount of voracious mosquitoes."

While the PVMCD found most of these "floodwater" mosquitoes were not species considered vectors for the diseases, Briggs said, the wet weather creates an additional risk down the road, as it may increase

the winter habitat for two species of particular concern, *Culiseta melanura* and *Coquillettidia perturbans*, to survive in their larval stage.

Briggs said he will continue setting traps until the fall frost. A single trap can catch between 5 and 5,000 mosquitoes, which must then be identified and sorted for testing; 53 different species of mosquitoes are currently found in the state.

"I am currently an operation of one, so I don't have much time outside of work and sleep," he wrote.

To protect yourself from EEE, experts recommend removing any containers of standing water from around your home, as mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Using bug spray, wearing loose-fitting clothing, and avoiding outdoor activities at dusk and dawn are also ways to stay safe.



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

OrigamiUSA

Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

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

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

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
 Fermented & raw
 100% organic

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

FEST from page A1

parking lot next to the Rendezvous, the Discovery Center, and either at or in front of the Shea Theater, as well as a possible poetry reading at the new bookstore in the former Hubie's Tavern.

"I got involved entirely by accident," Kelley said. "I just wanted to make sure the libraries, and the children's programming, were well-represented... We have great businesses downtown, and we want to showcase them."

Falls Fest, as organizers are calling it, is the progeny of the Great Falls Festival, originally named the Franklin County Pumpkinfest. The event began in 2010 at the initiative of Michael Nelson, who served on the board of health and organized the spring parade on the Hill.

That festival was wildly popular, often attracting up to 10,000 people. It featured music and a wide range of food vendors along Avenue A, which was closed from First Street to Seventh Street each year, and participants were encouraged to bring pumpkins to turn into jack-o'-lanterns on the model of similar pumpkin festivals in other small urban locales. A large percentage of attendees and vendors were visitors from out of town.

In 2012, Nelson and his fellow organizers incorporated a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Franklin County Pumpkinfest & Parade, Inc., to "provide events to the public to promote economic growth." Nelson himself would go on to serve from 2013 to 2021 on the town selectboard.

There were some bumps along the road. In 2014 a resident of Avenue A sued Pumpkinfest for \$1.2 million for allowing a vendor to set up a smoky barbeque beneath his third-floor apartment three years earlier; the fumes, he attested, had aggravated his respiratory and heart condition.

While that lawsuit was dismissed by the courts in 2016, it turned out that a more formidable problem was a perennial shortage of pumpkins, which eventually caused organizers to change the festival's name and branding.

The group explained the decision on its Facebook page in 2017: "As Pumpkinfest has grown over the past eight years, one major component of the event has always come up a bit short – the quantity of pumpkins. Despite our greatest attempts, it has proven difficult to encourage visitors to bring pumpkins."

"The number of pumpkins never matched the first year," this newspaper reported at the time. "Festival organizers attempted to solve the problem by collecting pumpkins for festival-goers to decorate on site. (Carving was eliminated last year due to insurers' concerns over liability, as was the use of lit candles.) But the crowd was more interested in the beer, music, and fried dough. Nelson estimates that event organizers had to 'throw out' 200 pumpkins last year for composting."

Thus was born the "Great Falls Festival," and the name change did not diminish attendance. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but came roaring back in 2021 and 2022, attracting large numbers of vendors and crowds.

Then as the 2022 festival approached, Nelson abruptly announced on the Facebook page that it would be the event's last year. He emphasized the amount of work organizing the festival had required,

and described organizers' experiences of burnout. "An event of this magnitude," he wrote, "takes an unfathomable amount of planning and execution and my team of volunteers is beyond exhausted."

Almost immediately, town officials began to discuss the idea of sponsoring a new version of the festival as a town event. Gatherings sponsored by the RiverCulture public arts program downtown and by the parks and recreation department at Unity Park were cited as possible models.

At one selectboard meeting a month after the final Great Falls Festival, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz said that when he had first heard the event was ending, his first thought was to have no part of it: "People are going to come to Parks and Recreation wanting us to take over the event, [but] it's not going to happen, and if anybody calls the office, we're not going to go there," he said. "There is no way we can do it."

But the very next day, Dobosz told the board, his thinking was dramatically transformed, and he told his assistant Jennifer Peterson that "if we get the right people involved... I think we can probably pull this off, but on a much much smaller scale."

Perhaps to Dobosz's relief, a festival at Unity Park did not end up in the cards. The vision that has emerged gradually over the past year is to stage a scaled-down version of the Great Falls Festival on Avenue A, with the word "Great" removed from the title, a few entertainment venues involved in hosting events, no out-of-town vendors, and no street closures. The selectboard agreed to allocated \$12,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to the effort.

In late July Chris Janke, a co-owner of the Rendezvous restaurant and a member of the Falls Fest organizing committee, sent an email addressed to every "Turners Merchant, Concerned Citizen and/or Hard Working Non-profit Representative" soliciting help in shaping the event.

"Our vision is to continue the festival but to shift the emphasis from out of town vendors to the residents, merchants, musicians, workers, and artists of Turners Falls," Janke wrote. At that time, he said, his fellow organizers included Koehler, Kelley, town administrator Steve Ellis, musician Kip Dresser, "and others."

By that point, the plan included live music and a beer tent in the afternoon at Peskeompskut Park, as well as "children's activities at the park." Organizers told the *Reporter* this week that the children's activities will take place at the Great Falls Discovery Center, music is now also planned for Spinner Park and the Third Street parking lot, and the lineup at the Peskeompskut bandshell may include esteemed blues musician James Montgomery.

At this week's selectboard meeting, Ellis reported that next Monday the "Falls Fest organizing committee, I guess I'll call it" would come before the board to share the updated vision for the October 21 event and request any necessary permits.

"We want to showcase the vibrant and beautiful village we live and work in," Janke explained in the group's July email. "No one will set up in front of your store – except, we hope: YOU."



SORT from page A1

and says that like Kaleb, she has felt a passion for the work since a young age.

"I would go to the transfer station with my dad every Saturday and sort the glass into green, brown, and clear," Donovan says. As she grew older, she incorporated recycling into the rest of her life. She started recycling programs in her workplaces, and set up recycling and reuse stations backstage at theaters where she danced.

Eventually, Donovan became the chair of the recycling committee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her newsletter about recycling, *The Monthly Bale*, was distributed to everyone in the campus community.

"At that point I was in my mid-30s, and I had really spent 20 years doing recycling in different ways," Donovan says. "I think my passion has always spoken for me." It was this passion that led to her position at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, where one of her first projects was introducing recycling to the Franklin County Fair.

"I started with 25 recycling bins and three volunteers," she remembers. "Just bags of recyclables that I went through and brought to the Greenfield transfer station."

The program has grown since



Thirty stations set up by the Solid Waste District invite waste from fairgoers, but volunteers and staff must still collect all the recyclables and sort them.

then, and even during a rainy weekend like this year's, it makes an impact. According to Donovan, volunteers collected 18 95-gallon totes of recycling this year, amounting to roughly 8.4 cubic yards of material; in a typical year they collect about 17 cubic yards.

The group also collected 55 five-gallon pails of compost directly from the fair's food vendors, and much more – "just over a ton" – from attendees.

Donovan emphasizes the importance that volunteers, especial-

ly young people like Kaleb, have on the recycling and composting efforts.

"I learn a lot from him," she says. "On Sunday we had a big group from Northfield Mount Hermon [School], and he was just directing them like a pro."

"They were asking me every second," says Kaleb.

Donovan praised the effort that the Reipolds contributed to the fair program. "Kaleb is such a hard worker," she says. "They come to work for like 10 to 2, and then they just end up staying 'til 6!"

For Donovan and the Reipolds, recycling is not only a part of the fair, but should be incorporated into daily life.

"Try your best to recycle all that you can, even if it's something big," Kaleb says.

"Think before you throw it out," adds Faith.

The recycling tools used at the fair are available to others planning events, Donovan explains. "The Franklin County Solid Waste District loans these same bins and signs to events across the county," she says. "If you could go to an event and there are recycle and compost bins, stop and read the signage, and try your best to do some sorting!"



Some of the container recycling captured at this year's Franklin County Fair. Enough recycling was collected to fill three large dumpsters – half a typical year.

GMRSD from page A1

"You don't have to sign in," Mahaney replied uncertainly.

The full process took 20 minutes. Two candidates, Clifford Spatcher and Lori-lee Adams, were present at the meeting; the third, former Montague selectboard member Edward Voudren, was not. Spatcher was voted in on the first ballot, and Adams on the second.

Spatcher introduced himself in his letter of interest as a Montague Center firefighter, Precinct 1 town meeting member, and district parent.

At a committee meeting last month packed by members of the Gill-Montague Education Association (GMEA), the union representing district teachers who have been working without a contract for over a year, Spatcher said he felt "we need to come up with something to keep the teachers in the district, which will keep the students in the district."

Adams, a Turners Falls High School graduate and a onetime Gill-Montague employee, currently works as a speech pathologist in a different district. "The decisions of the School Committee will impact our community," she wrote. "Initially the impact is seen in the reaction of the children, and later it is in growth sparked by those decisions."

After Spatcher and Adams are

sworn in, the committee will have its full complement of nine members. Despite the two vacancies, the minimum quorum for a legal meeting remained at five. Members have commented several times, in response to criticism over the group's continued preference for online meetings by video conference, that the virtual format helped to guarantee a quorum.

"If all the necessary personnel can be here, we certainly will make it our aim to meet in person whenever possible," said chair Jane Oakes. "If people still are traveling, or for other reasons – now that COVID is active again in this area, there may be times when people need to stay home because of exposure, or because of illness. I hope that doesn't become a problem, but fortunately we do have options if there are issues, so that we can still carry on and do the business of the district." The committee's next meetings are on October 10 and 24.

"We will need to make certain that we have an alternative space prepared for future meetings when we might have larger crowds of attendees," superintendent Brian Beck commented. On August 22, when the committee met in person for the first time, many GMEA members and supporters were forced to stand or to wait in the hallway.

At the public comment sec-

tion beginning Tuesday's meeting, GMEA member Joseph Katz urged the committee to "hold informal forums during the school year, to provide more time for casual conversations." "I saw this listed on the school committee's website, but I'm not aware of it happening recently," he said. "I know our union members are eager for the opportunity to share with school committee members their experiences."

Katz described a recent day working at the middle and high school building under conditions of excessive heat, and asserted that the majority of air-conditioned spaces in the building are administrative offices, which he called a "stark inequity." One special education classroom, Katz said, reached a temperature above the legal limit set by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Later, student representative Syna Katsoulis reported that the heat that day was "pretty intense," but that she was "really happy with how the school dealt with it," holding classes in the air-conditioned cafeteria, library, and theater.

Business manager Joanne Blier said air conditioning components had been on back order all summer, but "should be coming in."



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

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

FEDERAL STREET BOOKS

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

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

MONTAGUE from page A1

When the *Reporter* spoke with Skrypek, who now lives in Connecticut, the next day, he said that assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey had informed him that the land on which the tree originated is owned by a condominium association on Fairway Avenue. A review of a 1985 deed for Atrium Condominiums indicates that the condo property does indeed run along the Skrypeks' property.

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron said he had contacted tree warden Mark Stevens about the fallen tree, even though it was not on town property. Concerning the water runoff from the town pipe, Bergeron told us that "we're trying to get to that," but he expressed skepticism that it was the cause of the tree toppling, pointing to recent heavy rains as the cause.

Ruth Skrypek, who lives on the property, declined to comment on the fallen tree.

Floods Resist Mitigation

In related news, Ramsey announced at Monday's meeting that the project to mitigate perennial flooding just down the hill from Dell Street, along Montague City Road, has been delayed due to flooding caused by recent rains.

Ramsey said contractor Clayton D. Davenport Trucking of Greenfield is "interested, willing, and engaged, but the conditions have not allowed for them to mobilize... There was no dry season this year, unfortunately,"

According to engineering firm Wright-Pierce, which developed the design, the project consists of "removing sediment from existing culverts, flushing sediment and debris from existing storm drain lines, adding two (2) catch basins within the roadway, removal of sediment from the stream and two drainage channels, and removal of all previously deposited material from the adjacent wetlands..."

Ramsey said that despite this delay, the public works department will clean out a backed-up culvert on nearby Turnpike Road to "free up the stream to move the water along." "We're hoping that will help the cause a little bit," he said.

Historic Roof Leaks

Ramsey also reported that despite "a few wet days," the company repairing the masonry on the old town hall in Montague Center had made significant progress over the past week, and hoped to be finished this week, which would "clear the way for the roofers to come in" to repair the building's slate roof.

The "news of the day," Ramsey

said, is that "we found a new leak on the roof which is dripping water on the second-floor basketball court." He requested the roofers address this issue "sooner rather than later," and the town has placed buckets on the gym floor to catch the water.

Ramsey also told the selectboard that the masonry workers had noticed that the attic window, which he believed was "original," was in "terrible condition" and might fall out. He said the town had gotten a quote from a local restorer to fix the window for \$1,100 and requested permission to proceed with the repair. The selectboard agreed.

Many Old Buildings

Town administrator Steve Ellis told the board that the contractor renovating the roofs of the town-owned Shea Theater and Colle Opera House had nearly completed the Shea roof, and would be moving on to the Colle this week.

He also reported that the work to secure several buildings in the Strathmore mill complex from entry had been completed.

Possibility of New Ones

Ramsey announced that Habitat For Humanity will hold a community meeting Saturday, September 30 at the town hall annex about its project to build six two-story affordable homes on First Street.

One key issue to be discussed, he said, will be how to address the condition of the alley behind the project, where cars and dumpsters are currently parked.

Warrant Posted

The selectboard approved the warrant for the October 10 special town meeting, and recommended specific motions on the agenda that contain funding. Chair Rich Kulewicz quickly read all 16 articles and the board agreed to post the document.

The board also approved all proposed motions except Article 8, an appropriation of \$500,000 to allow Montague to apply for a state grant that would reimburse most of the cost of renovations at the Montague Center park. A section of the motion, as required by the state, would pledge Montague to use the land for park and recreational purposes "in perpetuity."

Member Matt Lord asked if making this pledge in advance would undermine the town's chances of receiving the reimbursement.

Ellis pointed out that this wording was in the warrant the board had just approved, which needed to be posted soon for legal reasons, but that the board could hold off until a future meeting to decide whether to recommend the article.

Lord also objected to the funding mechanism for Article 14, which would appropriate \$99,900 from the Clean Water Facility's retained earnings - positive balances in sewer user revenue from previous years, generally used to fund capital projects - to hire a consultant to help the town with sewer system regulations.

He noted that a number of pricy articles had already been funded using the retained earnings, and argued that sewer system compliance related to broader town policies and should be addressed by all taxpayers, not just sewer users. He recommended using free cash to fund Article 14, and the other members agreed.

Aging Supports

Turners Falls resident Colleen Doherty and Council on Aging director Roberta Potter discussed the highlights of a report recently issued by the town's Mass in Motion steering committee. Mass in Motion, Doherty explained, is a program of the state Department of Public Health that Montague is using to "enhance the status of seniors, or as we now call us, 'older adults.'"

The local effort, which included a survey of seniors, is funded through a grant obtained by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Doherty said that 32% of adults in Montague are over the age of 60, compared with 17% who are over the age of 65 nationally. "We're all getting older and we're a force to be reckoned with," she said.

The main concerns of the 88 Montague residents who responded to the survey were a desire to remain in their homes, the need for better public transportation and better information about local services, and feelings of isolation from the broader community.

Potter said that the Gill-Montague senior center has needed an outreach worker to help individual seniors deal with issues like Social Security and fuel assistance, and will soon will be sharing a worker with Bernadston, which has received a grant to fund outreach.

Eileen Mariani of Montague Center, who also served on the Mass in Motion steering committee, discussed a new private non-profit organization called Montague Villages.

Based on a similar organization created several decades ago in Boston that has grown into a nationwide network, the group intends to help "adults over 60... age in place with dignity and independence by offering volunteer services, access to better information, and community connections." (See article, Page B2.)

Other Business

The board approved the use of Peskeompskut Park for a music festival featuring Turners Falls High School students from 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 28. Music teacher Alyssa Comeau, who presented the request, said the request originated with a well-attended event at the park "in the middle of the pandemic."

"I've had a lot of parents contact me and ask, 'When are you going to do that again?'" Comeau said, explaining that the festival will feature a series of small performances with students playing music they have written. "At some point I will bring out ukuleles, and we will do a ukulele circle for anyone who is there," she said.

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard appointed Mackenzie Salls as administrative assistant in the health department, replacing Anne Stuart, and accepted the resignation effective October 26 of Stuart, who has been serving on a temporary basis.

The board officially executed a federal community development block grant (CDBG) of \$3,325,682, which it has discussed at several previous meetings, and accepted a \$3,323 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency to fund safety equipment for work in confined spaces.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25.



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

Here's the way it was on September 19, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**VY Closing Muddies
FirstLight Relicensing**

As the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant is now scheduled to stop warming the Connecticut River next year, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is holding off on 18 aquatic impact studies submitted by FirstLight Power Resources in its bid to relicense its Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls facilities.

FirstLight's licenses to operate its 1,119-mW pumped-storage facility at Northfield Mountain and generate 68 mW at five locations along the Power Canal expire in 2018. Studies on shad, eel, sturgeon and lamprey passage and

spawning, mussel habitat, and water quality are put in limbo.

Since the elevated temperature affects the river's ecology even 20 miles south in Turners, studies "may produce unusable data if conducted during 2014 while Vermont Yankee is still operating," according to the 75-page federal document.

Teachers' Contract Ratified

At the September 10 school committee meeting, Joyce Phillips announced the contract between the Gill-Montague school district and the Gill-Montague Education Association representing district teachers, had been ratified. The teachers voted unanimously for the contract, which gives an increase of \$1,000 over three years to the top-tier teachers and a 2% across-the-board increase at all other levels.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 18, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

West Nile Comes to Town

Laboratory tests confirmed that a dead blue jay found in Montague Center was infected with west nile virus (WNV). So far this year, 396 birds have tested positive for WNV in Massachusetts, with two confirmed human cases, both in the eastern part of the state.

To reduce the number of mosquitoes, residents are advised to fix screens, eliminate stagnant water, change water in birdbaths and pet dishes regularly, and clean leaves

out of gutters so they drain.

Electric Car Head-Scratching

At the Monday Montague selectboard meeting, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz asked permission to receive a free gift from the Gill Montague schools of an electric car for his department's use.

Not wishing to look too far under the hood of a gift car, the board still had questions about long-term maintenance issues for electric vehicles: How do they get recharged, how much does the recharging cost, and can the cars be used, legally, on public roads?

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 17, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

A heavy white frost Monday morning.

Black bass seem to take any bait readily now, and a great many are caught every day.

That mud hole at the foot of L street, on First street, should be filled up, or something done to remove the nuisance it has become from the drains on the side of L street next the ferry. It is impossible to drive to or from the ferry without getting completely covered with the filth. To foot passengers it is fast becoming impossible.

The Keith Mill gong, which was broken, is sound again, and does its best to make itself heard.

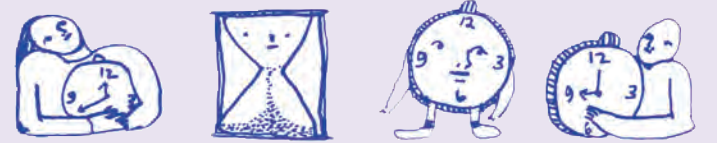
Next spring, the Keith Paper Company will build another tenement block of the same size and description as the one they now occupy.

Some of our exchanges say the *Reporter* is a standing advertisement for the beautiful paper made at the Montague Mill. Our town boasts of "its paper" as well as its

paper mills.

One of the most successful enterprises at the Falls is the Turners Falls Lumber Co. Mr. Holmes came here when only half a dozen shanties were on either side of the river, at a time when prospects were everything but encouraging, and was the first to use the water power as a motor for machinery. Then came Mr. Wood, and Mr. Perry followed, and now the company is one of the most prominent interests of the place. The new Gillespie Force Pump is in working order, a hydrant has been placed in the vicinity of the mill, and with three hundred feet of hose, the risk of fire to the mill, lumber and adjoining residences, is very small. The mill is very complete in its equipment, lath and shingle machines being among the latest acquisitions. Forty hands are employed, and 30,000 feet of lumber, besides 8000 feet of laths, are sawed daily.

John Lewis says that the tablet bearing the inscription, "In memoriam, John Lewis departed this life very suddenly - for him - about this time," etc., which was erected in the rear of the Farren House, was no funeral of his.



GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET
Every Saturday

September 23:
Big Foot Food Forest
Stout Pigeon Coffee
PK Industries

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Peskeompskut Park
Turners Falls

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

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

SUZEE'S THIRD STREET LAUNDRY
TURNERS FALLS
SUZEE'S THIRD ST. LAUNDRY
240 01376

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

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL
certified - bonded - insured
863-2471
28 Montague St
Turners Falls, MA
Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of locks & entry devices for business & homes
- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

MONTAGUE REPORTER...

1. Readers Susan Campbell and Todd Fuller brought our June 22 edition with them on a trip. "In July we spent about 10 days in Haida Gwaii, formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, off the coast of British Columbia," they wrote. "It is remote and a rich area in marine life, ancient culture, and post-contact environmental history. It was and still is the ancestral home of the Haida Nation, which is slowly rebounding after devastating consequences from white contact, especially in the 19th century."



2. Greenfield readers Haley Morgan and Eric Hnatow, a.k.a. Home Body, carefully re-read our August 10 edition for clues during a research expedition to Juneau, Alaska.

3. Another copy of the very same edition traveled in the opposite direction. "I'm at Asteria Beach in Ermoupolis, Greece, on the island of Syros," Wendell resident and MR contributor Brian Zayatz wrote. "Behind me is the church of Agios Nikolaos, patron saint of sailors in the Greek Orthodox tradition."



ON

THE

4. The next one we published, August 24, landed nearby in the same place. Molly Mooney and Gordon Spencer-Blaetz of Turners Falls wrote: "We wanted to share our picture with the Reporter on the Greek island of Spetses!"



5. And finally, we traveled south. "Catching up with the news in a relaxing sunset in Caye Caulker, Belize," Montague finance committee member Franca Wisniewski explained, reclining in a hammock with the September 7 paper.



ROAD

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

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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

**Abby Graseck
Zen Shiatsu**
Turners Falls & Gill

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

DIEMAND FARM WENDELL, MA

WE CATER
your special events

GRADUATIONS
BIRTHDAYS
MEETINGS
WEDDINGS
ANNIVERSARIES
FUNERALS

[THEDIEMANDFARM.COM](https://www.thediemandfarm.com) (978) 544-3806

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

**WE'RE FALLING
IN LOVE WITH
LOCAL FLAVORS**

- Local fresh produce
- Local & humanely raised meats
- From scratch bakery
- Made to order catering

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

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

Erik Doolittle
landscape maintenance

Erik Doolittle
owner

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

Reil CLEANING SERVICES LLC

Improve Air Quality
& Heating/Cooling
Efficiency

DUCT CLEANING

Free Video Inspections
Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning
Log on to see our Rotobrush video
Ed Terault, Owner

Call 413.223.5494 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Reid's Window Washing

Brayden Reid (603) 254-1037
braydenreid05@gmail.com

Greenfield Savings Bank uChoose Rewards
Debit Card Rewards Program

Earn Rewards
Every Time You Use Your Debit Card!

Redeem Rewards
You Choose How To Redeem Your Points!

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

888-324-3191
greenfieldsavings.com **Greenfield Savings Bank**
Member FDIC/Member DIF

MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST

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

178A N Pleasant
413-253-4776

**Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink**

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Above: The Turners Falls power canal last Wednesday, beginning to fill again after its annual maintenance draining.

Adventures With Artie!

By DONNA PETERSEN

MONTAGUE – Forget about Rin Tin Tin and Lassie, those television rescue dog heroes. And who needs the cartoon hound McGruff to take a bite out of crime? We have our own rescue hero and crime-solving canine: Artie, a 10-year-old dog who, along with partner Jim Ruddock, are the Montague Police Department K9 team that can be called on to help the community.

I met Artie and Officer Ruddock a few years ago at a memorial service for a Montague Center resident who had donated to Artie's training and upkeep. Then, last spring while buying Girl Scout cookies – Thin Mints, of course – in front of Food City in Turners, I heard barking as Officer Ruddock and Artie pulled up in their cruiser to pick up their cookies.

Reading this paper's Montague Police Logs, I sometimes see that the K9 team had been called in to use Artie's super canine senses to locate someone or something. Thinking there was a story there, I contacted Officer Ruddock, and we met for a conversation.

Artie, a German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois mix, arrived here in early 2014 with a Slovakian canine passport at the age of 14 months. He had spent time in Slovakia being evaluated for aptitude and behavior, and was given basic training, but came as a "green dog" and trained here in police work.

"K9 dogs are trained to be 'locating tools' – to patrol and locate and follow any human scent they are

given to find," Ruddock explained to me. "So Artie may be tracking a person or an article that has fresh human scent on it... Artie does a search for that person, or finds evidence in a suspected crime or finds the scent of narcotic drugs. When the target is found, Artie will give an alert signal."

Artie is also part of the first generation of K9s not see **ARTIE** page B4



PETERSEN PHOTO

Artie, with Officer Ruddock, in the team's K9 cruiser.



A road trip through Canada's 'Picture Province.'

SOUTH DEERFIELD – New Brunswick, Canada is an eight-and-a-half hour drive from Montague, and this year we were surprised that two immediate family members had both separately made the long drive to this province just over the Maine border. My daughter visited some of the same places that we did, and my partner Mary's brother and family did the same, showing us photos from some of the southern sights along the coast.

I'm not sure why we all went to New Brunswick this year, but we all had great fun, with memorable stops, delicious seafood, and friendly people.



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Mictou Island, at the tip of New Brunswick.

How friendly? We were in an elevator in Moncton at the same time as a large convention of retired nurses were in the hotel. Nobody talks in elevators, at least where I come from. But these friendly nurses talked us up in the elevator, asking where we were visiting from and what we'd seen up here.

Again and again the traveling Canadians, often from Ontario or Manitoba, would end up chatting with us on tours, in elevators, and even while we waited for dinner.

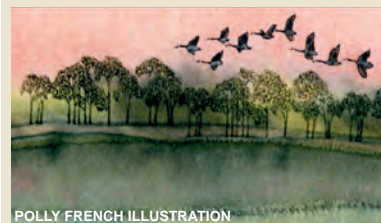
On our 2016 visit to New Brunswick – once called the "Picture Province" – we drove up through Lubec, Maine and visited Campobello Island, and then bicycled on the seafloor near the famous Hopewell Rocks and spent a few days on the charming little island Grand Manan.

For our trip this September we flew up from Boston via Toronto, and 30 minutes after landing we were pulling up to the Hôtel Shediac in the town of the same name.

Lobster Tales

Shediac calls itself the "Lobster Capital of Canada," and on the first night dining at the hotel's restaurant, La Gare, we enjoyed twin lobster tails and seafood risotto as some local musicians played American folk songs. It was a great way to welcome us to a week that would have a lot to do with lobster, the Acadians, and road tripping up and around the coast.

I wanted to learn more about lobsters, and I got all see **TRAVELS** page B5



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

AUTUMNAL PRELUDE

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – Who can say when the end of summer first slips in, so quietly that sometimes you don't even notice? I, for one, do take note out here, keeping the weather company.

The calendar keeps track in its artificial way, the *Old Farmer's Almanac* says the length of day has already diminished by an hour since September 1, but my girl hummingbird companion is still here, so how can it be autumn already? Her bumblebee rivals have a clue, waking up only slowly in the morning cool. Sometimes they fall asleep and stay there all night nectar-dreaming in the puffy cushions of the rose-colored sedum, awakening, yawning and stretching only when the first rays of the chill day reach them.

At 50 degrees on the porch, the coffee steams just like the neighbor's garage rooftop in the sun, which angles into the backyard from the low eastern horizon.

I've already pulled on my black sheep Irish handknit, an early fall ritual. This sweater is almost 30 years old now, bought in Dingle, County Kerry so long ago. It looks its age. Several generations of Siberian huskies have cuddled in it, playing and pulling at loose threads, the lovely smelling lanolin threads reminding them that the sweater used to be an Irish sheep. The cuffs are frayed by their constant pulling and teasing, the elbows worn thin from too much rubbing against my heirloom Adirondack chair.

This chair was built to last, made in the 1980s by my father's neighbor and good friend Babe Fritz. He sold it to me back then for \$10. Just enough, he said, to pay for the wood and screws.

So dogs and wooden chair have worn this sweater into its cur-

rent tattered shape. But still out it comes from the drawer upstairs when the season turns, another annual sign of approaching autumn.

Another clue that maybe summer has indeed slipped away is that the clouds of mosquitoes seem to have thinned out. The wet summer enabled population boom times for them, breeding in every water-filled tin can, birdbath, even the couple of wheelbarrows we have around the place. We systematically dump those little breeding pools out, along with the mosquito wrigglers.

This morning a numbed mosquito probes the thick threads of my sweater. She can't find her way to any exposed skin. Another one rides briefly on the thumb of my writing hand as the hand moves over the page, leading my pen, firm between thumb and forefinger in its squiggling hieroglyphics. I swat that bugger, stiff with cold and slow to bite.

We can't say much about the foliage that gives no autumnal clue. Great-grandfather's bower of lilacs, planted in the late 1880s, is not much more than a cluster of unseasonably bare branches with a few withered leaves. Lilacs are the same all over town: there has been way too much rain, leaving branches threadbare where just this past spring there were luxurious, sweet-smelling blooms, wafting in from the turn of the 19th century.

The rhododendrons, on the other hand, are in seventh heaven. Mountains of happy leaves, lush and green, they love the rain-forest summer we've had.

Our grandfather oaks, which have lined our floodplain ridge-line since before our 1870s homestead was built on the edge of the west-flowing river, have not fared so well. The gypsy moths devoured all the oak leaves down see **WEST ALONG** page B8



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

A four-toothed mason wasp, *Monobia quadridens*, alights in the author's foliage.

Pet of the Week



“MORTY”

Morty, a charming one-year-old male cat, is ready to find his new home. He has spent some time living with another cat, which has helped him develop social skills, but he can be a bit shy when meeting new people or being introduced to new environments.

Despite his initial shyness, Morty is an incredibly playful and loving feline companion who has a lot to offer to the right family. He is a bundle of energy, and his playful nature will keep you entertained for hours. Whether chasing feather toys, bat-

ting at dangling strings, or pouncing on crinkly balls, Morty loves interactive playtime and will quickly become your favorite playmate.

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.

(Want your pet featured? Email a photo and information about them to jae@montaguereporter.org.)



By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – My mother liked to say, “If you want something done, ask a busy person.” That certainly holds true for Helen Gibson-Ugucioni, the newly elected first president of Montague Villages. The other officers are Susan Dorais as treasurer and me, Lee Wicks, as clerk. Eileen Mariani and Terry Eaklor are members of the board. Other members of the community are helping in vital ways, but have not joined the board.

You may have already heard about Montague Villages. The organization is dedicated to helping elders in the town of Montague stay in their homes by matching volunteers with people needing a little assistance, a ride, or some companionship.

Recruiting board members and volunteers, educating the public, developing the infrastructure and technology, and sequencing all the tasks necessary is a big job for which Helen is ideal as president. She’s already demonstrated an impressive level of community spirit and the ability to juggle many tasks.

“Passion for living gives me energy,” Helen says. “I have had a vegetable garden all my life. I am energized to grow food for my friends and family. I enjoy sewing. One of the first things I did when I retired was buy myself a good quality sewing machine. I love to make quilts and all kinds of creations... I enjoy making the quilts, and I also get a great deal of pleasure giving away my creations to the people whom I care about.”

Helen is also a Meals on Wheels driver and a grandmother who provides childcare for her granddaughter during school vacations. She came to an informational meeting about neighboring towns that have joined the national Village to Village Network ready to pitch in to develop one for Montague.

“I knew about this organization, and had been thinking of trying to help start a network in Montague,” she says. “When I read the article in the *Montague Reporter* back in March 2023 which talked about other neighborhood networks, and learned about the meeting at the library, I knew it was time for me to get involved to help make this happen here.”

Community service is something Helen learned from her family and from her inspirational reading. Her father and older brother both delivered Meal on Wheels for many years.

She says, “I read the book *The Good Life: Lessons from the World’s Longest Scientific Study of Happiness* by Waldinger and Schulz, which affirmed my feelings that good relationships with others keeps us healthier and happier. I discovered that the time and attention we give to others is the key to happiness.”

Helen has lived in Montague for 37 years. Prior to moving here, she lived in Belchertown. She has served on the planning boards of both towns, and she started a Girl



Helen Gibson-Ugucioni, president of Montague Villages, brings dynamic energy and a variety of skills to the new organization.

Scout troop with her friend Martha Edwards. “Our daughters Robin and Kate both attended the Montague Center School, which no longer exists,” she says. “We had a Girl Scout troop in Montague that met at the Montague Center Church from 1988 to 1993.”

From the first tentative meetings about the organization that would ultimately be named Montague Villages, Helen has devoted enormous energy to the project. Need a logo? She might know someone, or she might spend hours searching online. Want to make sure all the villages are included? Helen organized local meetings in public places to inform and answer questions.

The Montague Villages board of directors decided to create a website and needed software called “Run My Village,” which is designed to help recruit members and link volunteers with people in need, but which is not free. Helen met with Roberta Potter, director of the Montague Council on Aging, and found that she had some money in her budget to help.

Helen is on a mission to involve as many people as possible from diverse backgrounds. Though Montague Center leads in the membership numbers so far, she’d like that to change so that the board and membership represent all the villages equally.

Helen is a collaborator at heart, and loves working with people. “I enjoy meeting new people and look forward to forming new relationships with others in Montague,” she says. “Being involved in the process of forming Montague Villages is invigorating! I am energized by all the different people I have already had the pleasure of meeting in all the five villages of Montague and can hardly wait to meet more people who live in my community. The isolation from others during the COVID pandemic was extremely difficult for me. I need to spend time with others to revive myself.”

Her career in education put Helen in constant contact with students,

teachers, administrators, and families. She earned a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from UMass Amherst and worked as a research assistant for a few years in the biochemistry department. During this time, she decided to go back to college to become a science teacher. After earning her teaching certification, she taught science at the Greenfield middle school for ten years, and then went back to school to earn her master’s degree.

That would have been plenty for most people, but Helen decided to continue her education, and earned her doctoral degree in science education from UMass Amherst in 1998. After that she worked for the Holyoke public schools as the K-12 science coordinator and director until she retired in 2014. In 2017 she began delivering Meals on Wheels, with the help of her husband Jim.

Now, she says, “I have passion for helping create the Montague Villages network. I have seen the need that many seniors have for connections to others. I am very excited about working with others to help create a network of volunteers who support and care for seniors in our community.”

She adds, “Montague Villages is an all-volunteer organization that is open to suggestions from the community. We need people who can help us set up our website, we need people who know how to design pamphlets to help spread the word, we need people who know how to raise money, and we need people to help us find people with the skills needed for the formation of our organization....”

“Together we can make great things happen! Please consider getting involved and helping make our organization something we can all be proud of.”

To learn more about how you can get involved in Montague Villages, contact Helen at helenmonvill@gmail.com or Lee at wickswords@yahoo.com.

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH 29

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.

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. Covid test kits are available. You can pick a kit up any time during open hours. Lunch available Tuesday through Thursday. Coffee and tea available all the time. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 9/25

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

Tuesday 9/26

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/27

9:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 9/28

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
by subscription
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 9/29

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

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 9/25

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

Tuesday 9/26

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

Wednesday 9/27

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

Thursday 9/28

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

Friday 9/29

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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!

MASSIVE BOOKSHOP
EST. 2020
YOUR LOCAL RNTI-PRIME BOOK SERVICE
VISIT US AT: MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM

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

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

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Intervals*, mixed-media prints about time on handmade paper, by Karen Axtell.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Megan Sward*, guest artist, showing ceramics in September and October.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *A. D. Tinkham Retrospective*, paintings. Through September 30. Reception this Saturday, September 23 at 3 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Shifting*, oil paintings reflecting on the pandemic with themes of isolation, rest, healing, and community, by Annaleah Moon Gregoire. Closing reception next Friday, September 29, at 5 p.m.

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.

South Gallery, Greenfield Community College: *Faculty Art Exhibit*, works by Chenda Cope, Nick Meyer, Noah Paessel, Kelly Popoff, Joan O'Beirne, and Jen Simms. Through September 29.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Tuesday-verse: Sorcerer Central*, paintings by Olivia Hamilton. Through September 29.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *The Poetry of Puddles*, photography by Dave Madeloni. Through September.

The Gallery, Northfield Mount Hermon School, Gill: *Paintings*

by *Mwanga William*, a Ugandan-born painter and sculptor from Brattleboro. Through October 6.

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.

Art in the Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Totz*, Christin Couture's portraits of children play on Victorian conventions. By appointment at redtidebluefire@gmail.com.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Silver Anniversary Show*. Members' exhibit celebrating the Coop's 25th anniversary. Through September.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *New Nocturnal Paintings*, by Chris Hill, and *Artful Harvest*, photography by Laurie Miles. Through October.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Piecing, Connecting, Re-calling*, work by Rochelle Schicoff and Marianne Connolly. Through September 30.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *E. Joseph McCarthy*, retrospective of paintings from 50 years in the studio. Additional exhibits by Jonathan Stark, Kevin Bouricius, Steven Robaire, and Sunita Mudgett. Through September.

Club George, Northampton: *Resurfacing: A Graphic Designer Explores Textiles*, work by Linda Florio. Through September 30.

Northampton Senior Center: *Jeanne Weintraub*, Montague artist showing her wildlife and plant prints. Through September.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Flower Killer; Turtle in a Bin; Screamers and Stompers; Dogs, Human Lost and Found, Including Greenfield K-9

Monday, 9/11

9:16 a.m. Caller states that someone sprayed the flowers that she sells with weed killer and ruined them. Services rendered.

11:55 a.m. Caller concerned about a dog in a black SUV at Food City. Advised of complaint.

12:14 p.m. Landscape truck on Montague City Road parked too far in the road; safety hazard.

3:21 p.m. Walk-in requests an officer to look at damage to her vehicle that happened the previous day on Third Street.

4:35 p.m. Caller reports a suspicious person on Seventh Street. Someone was sitting on her porch 20 minutes ago, and when she asked him what he was doing, he apologized and said he was in the area taking a survey in the neighborhood. He then went down to T Street and she lost sight of him. No police services necessary.

9:52 p.m. Fourth Street caller says someone keeps knocking on the window of her apartment and she is nervous because her child is sleeping. Area search negative.

11:23 p.m. Caller on Wendell Road reports a vehicle going by his house too fast, judging by the sound of

the car. He does not have a description but says it has gone by six times already. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 9/12

1:39 a.m. Open door spotted by an officer at a Strathmore building. Checked, no one inside.

8:38 a.m. Multiple calls from N Street about big dogs attacking a small dog. Report taken.

8:58 a.m. Walk-in reports someone rear-ended her truck, doing a little damage, and did not want to make a report and left the scene. Investigated.

5:43 p.m. Larceny reported on Third Street by a caller who stated her neighbor stole her Amazon package and she has it on video. Officer advised.

6:09 p.m. Caller from G Street has a snapping turtle in her yard and wants it removed. ACO not on duty today. Officer arrived and found the party had caught the turtle in a bin and was going down to the riverbank to release it.

7:48 p.m. Caller says there are two males in Unity Park drinking alcohol. Called again to say young kids are running in the road and playing with the men. Male party there with his children and no alcohol. Advised of park hours.

9:45 p.m. Caller states a male party is standing in the road by the town hall, screaming. Area checked, nothing found.

Wednesday, 9/13

11:28 a.m. Property manager at Moltenbrey Apartments requesting officers to respond due to male party standing outside and screaming for people to go outside and meet him. Area checked, male not found.

11:46 a.m. Caller states she abandoned her car in the middle of the road and went home. Advised to return to her car. Rau's Towing en route.

1:13 p.m. Report of one car cutting another off turning onto the Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

5:34 p.m. Caller states he was hit by a car near Cumberland Farms while riding his scooter on September 4. A woman got out of her car to check on him, but then drove off. Advised to fill out a statement at the station.

6:05 p.m. Turners Falls Road caller states her neighbor is shooting guns, or setting off a cannon, and it's really loud; she would like it to stop. Officer advised homeowner of complaint.

7:34 p.m. Dunton Street caller concerned about the whereabouts of his 24-year-old son. Last seen sitting on his bed at 7 a.m. His overnight bag is missing, calls go straight to voicemail, and no one has heard from him. Advised of options. Will fill out a

missing person report in the morning.

8:55 p.m. Caller reports harassment from his ex-fiancée, and his ex threatening him. They are still living together. Advised of options.

9:01 p.m. Fight reported outside Millers Pub. Officers attempted to speak to a few people, but no one wanted to report anything.

Thursday, 9/14

12:14 a.m. East Main Street caller says there was a loud bang on the floor 30 minutes ago from the apartment above him.

7:21 a.m. Walk-in to file missing person report for his son.

8:20 a.m. Caller wants to make a report stating he was assaulted last night at the Millers Pub. Officer advised. Call back unsuccessful; voicemail full.

10:50 a.m. North Park Street caller reports her bloodhound - Greenfield police K-9 Ellie-May - had gone missing from her kennel. No collar or tags. Caller called back to say her fiancé found the dog.

5:05 p.m. Caller reports missing son was found at a recovery center in Canton. Advised to let son know to come into the station when he is released so that he can be verified and taken out of the system.

5:26 p.m. Report of wires down in the area of the bridge on Greenfield Road, not in the roadway. Officer searched both sides of the roadway and could not find any.

6:25 p.m. Bridge Street caller stated that there was someone stomping around and they put a cooler in front of the door, blocking it. Officer spoke to tenants who said the party causes a lot of issues in the building, but the landlord is currently trying to kick him out. Peace restored.

Friday, 9/15

7:10 a.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about an assault that occurred at the Millers Pub two nights ago.

11:24 a.m. Caller states he would like it on record that the upstairs neighbor continues to make harassing statements about him and tells the landlord lies about him. Advised of options.

12:15 p.m. Chestnut Hill Road caller saw two German shepherds running loose and chasing after a deer. Dogs running loose in the area recently, owners unknown. Information left for ACO.

1:35 p.m. Walk-in reports that a large piece of metal is in the road near the Farren lot. Hazard removed.

5:12 p.m. 911 call for an accident in the Turners Falls High School parking lot. Officer advised there was minor paint transfer; parties are handling it among

themselves. 9:30 p.m. Report of a loose black dog in the Turners Falls Road area. Owner called in to see if anyone had picked up a black Lab. Advised of the location where it was spotted.

Saturday, 9/16

12:22 a.m. Caller concerned there have been big work trucks up and down Swamp Road, and something may have happened in the area. Officer advises trucks are painting lines on Turners Falls Road.

2:16 p.m. Call about a large tree limb hanging over Griswold Street. Investigated; branch hanging over a yard, not the road.

2:22 p.m. Report of a white dog with an orange collar running loose around G and Eleventh streets. Unable to locate.

8:42 p.m. Caller says there are people on the back porch of a Fourth Street building, screaming at each other. Officer found small group of people dispersing as he arrived. Peace restored.

9:43 p.m. Montague City Road caller states there is loud music and instruments and she is trying to go to bed. Called back to say the noise is gone.

11:38 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reports loud noise outside of a neighbor's house due to a party of some sort. Small gathering located, advised to quiet down.

Sunday, 9/17

1:12 p.m. Walk-in reports harassing phone calls. Advised of options.

1:23 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout on Turners Falls Road.

1:44 p.m. L Street caller says a female is banging on the door of a neighboring apartment screaming to be let in. Not as reported: door handle is broken, resident was knocking to be let in.

2:40 p.m. Caller wants it on record that she backed into a parked car when leaving her driveway and left a note on the car with her information. Minor damage.

3:49 p.m. Officer flagged down to assist with a loose white pitbull on Turnpike Road. Party will take the dog in until the owner is located. Owner located, dog returned.

5:37 p.m. Caller on High Street reported that their dog Tilley, a medium-sized mix, got loose and she is fast and hard to catch. Dog returned home.

5:44 p.m. Dry Hill Road caller says he heard gunshots close to his home and he is nervous. Advised.

8:53 p.m. Caller with a noise complaint of a live band playing at a South Prospect Street address. Officer took noise readings ranging from 50 to 55 dB from caller's neighborhood. Music has since stopped.

EXHIBIT

Abigail Rorer at the Wendell Library

WENDELL - The Wendell Free Library is exhibiting the work of internationally known wood engraver and illustrator Abigail Rorer during the months of September and October. Rorer is exhibiting a selection of her engravings along with a few drawings, including a silverpoint drawing.

Rorer was drawn to wood and relief engraving many years ago, mainly through the graphic work of the German Expressionists and the engravings of Leonard Baskin and Barry Moser. She has a passion for drawing and for detail, which translate well into engraving. Rorer says she considers the act of engraving as very sculptural and a form of meditation, finding it very peaceful and refreshing to block out the world and encase herself in the solitude of engraving.

Wood engraving has endless possibilities for images and experimentation. For the past few years, Rorer has been experimenting with multi-block color printing and transparent inks, using the synthetic material Corian for her blocks. The process used on Corian is exactly the same as it would be on a wood block, and she uses a Vandercook #4 proof press to print her engravings. She also works with various other media including silverpoint, pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor.

Rorer grew up outside Philadelphia and attended the Rhode Island School of Design, gradu-



Eye of the Rhino, by Abigail Rorer.

ating with a BFA in printmaking. She's illustrated more than 50 books with pen and ink drawings. In 1989 she established The Lone Oak Press to publish limited-edition fine art books featuring her engravings and etchings. In addition, she has been commissioned to do engravings for other fine presses and the Folio Society. The press is located in her home on a farm in Petersham and online at theloneoakpress.com.

The Wendell Free Library is open Tuesdays 2 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A reception will be held Saturday, October 7 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. During the reception Rorer will demonstrate her techniques of wood engraving and silverpoint drawing. This event is free and open to the public.

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

ROOT YOGA STUDIO
51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM

NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$30

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner

PRECISION REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

Lic #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSURED **FREE CONSULTATION**

ARTIE from page B1

to be trained to search out marijuana; it's strictly narcotics that he seeks.

Artie isn't the Montague department's first K9. Previously there was Satan in the 1970s, then Kyra, and then Sunny who served. There is also Mack, the MPD comfort dog; he visits those who perhaps have experienced trauma, and he serves as an ambassador to the community.

Officer Ruddock estimates that in Artie's nine years on the job, he "has helped locate over 50 people; some crime suspects, some of them lost or despondent folks who have wandered off. And Artie has also sniffed out over a kilo of narcotics."

The team helped find a mom and her son who had gotten a bit lost on Mount Sugarloaf in South Deerfield. When the pair were finally located and the boy saw Artie, he yelled out "Artie!" Somehow the kid knew Artie, Ruddock recalled with a smile.

An initially baffling narcotics search involving Artie occurred when a suspect's vehicle was stopped and Artie alerted officers to a sealed 18-pack of Pepsi. Was this a mistake? But when officers opened the seal and shook each can, sure enough, one can rattled; opening it exposed a false bottom holding 30 grams of crack cocaine.

Most calls for the team are in Franklin County, but they sometimes go to other counties as well. Ruddock said, "I drive around Franklin and the other counties and think, I've been *there*, and *there*, and *there*!"

And Artie's nose is pretty powerful. Once, as officers went into dense growth to



Service awards earned by Artie and Officer Ruddock for their teamwork.

find two people who had run into the woods, one with a warrant, an officer lost his cruiser keys. Artie found them in dense brush and vines. Problem solved!

In 2018, the team of Officer Ruddock and Artie was honored with the Massachusetts Elks' Enrique Camarena Award. Camarena, a US Marine and an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration agent, was murdered by a Mexican cartel in 1985; the Elks grant the award "to a member of law enforcement who best exemplifies the qualities and principles for which Camarena gave his life." Artie and Ruddock were also runners-up in the national awards. Quite an honor.

I asked Ruddock how he ended up as a K9 officer. He told me he grew up in South Deerfield, played sports, and after a move or two, ended up back in the area. In his 20s

he had a German Shepherd named Kendall, and together they did some search-and-rescue and canine obedience work. After that he wanted, "more than anything, to work with a dog on a K9 team."

That came to pass in 2014, when Ruddock and the newly-arrived Artie were appointed to the team. "The best thing about working together with Artie is the bond and the loyalty" the two share, Ruddock told me somewhat emotionally. He described Artie as "very sociable and good tempered, and he is establishing a great relationship in the community."

Ruddock also said he had never realized how it would affect his own relationship with the community; he has made a lot of friends and he is part of the community – although now, he joked, people want to see Artie and not so much him anymore!

At 10 years old, Artie is at what is often K9 retirement age. "Artie doesn't act his age!" Ruddock laughed. "He's still healthy and works as hard as he ever has and is still excited to jump into the cruiser to get to work!" Ruddock said he does keep an eye on Artie for any signs of the limiting effects of aging, which is easy to do, as Artie lives at home with him.

The Montague police department has no K9 budget; all of Artie's upkeep and veterinarian bills are paid through donations. The community has been generous, it seems; the Elks Club, the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club, local residents, and other anonymous donors have all contributed. This has allowed the purchase of a special K9 cruiser with safety and other features. These include a heat alarm that alerts Ruddock remotely if the cruiser gets too hot, and opens the windows and starts a fan to cool things down. Nice ride!

Talking to Ruddock and witnessing Artie's energy and doggie smiles, it is obvious that this is a happy and successful partnership. And no, they haven't had to rescue Timmy who fell into the well (go get help, Lassie!) but after nine years together, Ruddock said, "It's exciting and rewarding, when I look back."

Donations to support Artie's care can be made by sending a check made out to "Montague PD K9 Artie" to the Montague PD at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. Officer Ruddock can be contacted at jruddock@montague.net or (413) 863-8911. MPD has a K9 page on its website at montague-ma.gov/p/28/Police-Department, as well as a Facebook page.



PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Dan the Pirate Man



Fire and bubbles from the Pirate Man at this month's Franklin County Fair.

By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

GREENFIELD – I have found quite a few things at the Franklin County Fair to write about for the *Montague Reporter*. This time I found Daniel Jolley, the Pirate Man.

Jolley is an interactive comedian who dresses up and acts like a pirate in his show. His website, *piratemandan.com*, says he has been performing since 2006 in Vermont at age 15. He also juggles in the show, and he has a working sailboat, which I believe he and any kid could drive around in like a car.

I asked him about that, and about some of the other things I saw in his act at the fair. He mentioned the boat took "about six months to make."

His website says he used to be a clown in his act, but started being a pirate in 2016. The tricks in his show have apparently changed since he became the Pirate Man, though he did already know how to juggle.

At the time we talked, he said this year would be "the first time [he'd] be doing the Big E." The Franklin County Fair has had him for 10 years.

He changed from a clown to a pirate because, in his words, "Peo-

ple were afraid of clowns." He considers his show as being popular with people.

As for my opinion of the show, I saw him juggle three torches that were on fire. He did that while making jokes. Some of the interactive part consisted of a kid from the audience helping him with a magic trick. I found the juggling to be cool.

Other people were involved in the interactive part, which came up when he rode a huge, tall unicycle. He made a bit of a gag out of trying to get on it. He then rode the unicycle while trying to make a balloon animal. He was able to do that well – he made a little dog.

He did one more trick with a huge balloon, which another audience member helped him with. This was very funny. He puts the balloon on his whole head, which is why it is funny. He runs around like that. He, in fact, has his whole body in the balloon at one point. He ended up turning it into a gag.

I enjoyed watching Dan the Pirate Man. He was a good comedian. After the show, he drove the ship around and made bubbles with it for people to enjoy. I saw him doing it with my own eyes, and got a photo of it.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Chaps, Turtle in Road; Piglet, Puppy Loose; Weeds Too High

- Thursday, 8/3**
10:53 a.m. Stray dog captured at Main Road residence.
11:24 a.m. Caller advises she found an injured bird on Route 2 and has it at the campground.
- Saturday, 8/5**
10:03 a.m. Caller from Lamplighter Way wants to file lost passport report.
- Sunday, 8/6**
11:10 a.m. Assisted another agency with a vehicle parked at Cumberland Farms in Turners Falls since 6 a.m., blocking the air pumps.
8:22 p.m. Caller reported visiting someone whose dog bit them, breaking skin. ACO advised.
- Monday, 8/7**
10:26 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with an unwanted person on Lillians Way.
- Tuesday, 8/8**
7:57 a.m. French King Highway caller advises tour bus has been parked over fill pad since yesterday.
4:05 p.m. Caller found a piglet running in West Gill Road. Caller has the pig, is standing by.
4:30 p.m. Chappell Drive caller requesting a call about a neighbor issue.
8:04 p.m. Lines down and power out, West Gill Road.
- Wednesday, 8/9**
1:24 p.m. Removed a pair of chaps from the travel lane on Main Road.
7:03 p.m. Summons service, Oak Street.
- Thursday, 8/10**
10:39 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with threat.
6:07 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported, Munn's Ferry Road.
8:05 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on L Street.
- Friday, 8/11**
4:55 p.m. Caller from Riverview Drive found a ballard cover in the road.
5:12 p.m. Caller from French King Highway states a package was stolen from the mailbox today.
6:49 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on Fourth Street.
- Saturday, 8/12**
11:39 a.m. Assisted Erving PD, French King Highway.
4:03 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reports two-car accident. Car smoking, possible injury.
- Sunday, 8/13**
8:26 a.m. Tree fell on primary wires and transformer, West Gill Road.
7:52 p.m. Accident, French King Highway. No injury.
7:58 p.m. Possible chimney fire on West Gill Road.
- Tuesday, 8/15**
5:38 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports an employee driving in a company van without permission.
- Wednesday, 8/16**
1:42 p.m. Mountain Road caller reports a bobcat running after her ducks.
6:09 p.m. Brownish black Lab mix loose on Mountain Road.
- Thursday, 8/17**
2:51 p.m. Fighting reported in a back room on Main Road.
- Friday, 8/18**
9:54 a.m. Parties have a flat tire on the Highway, are waiting for AAA.
1:21 p.m. Caller reports a chocolate Lab puppy out for an unattended walk on Mountain Road.
- Sunday, 8/20**
11:46 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with a suspicious person.
- Tuesday, 8/22**
11:03 a.m. Walk-in advising he believes a pavement scam company came to his Main Road house.
11:08 p.m. Party reports he is behind a vehicle swerving all over the French King Highway.
- Wednesday, 8/23**
11:55 a.m. Assisted Montague PD on Eleventh Street.
1:47 p.m. Welfare check, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.
5:32 p.m. Caller advises an older-model white Dodge pickup and small blue Chevy pickup just went up and down Mountain Road at a very high speed.
- Thursday, 8/24**
9:17 a.m. Tall weeds causing obstruction for traffic exiting Barton Cove Road.
10:04 a.m. Minor accident, French King Highway. Parties lost after taking wrong exit.
1:21 p.m. Greenfield PD dispatcher requesting address be checked for a UHaul kept past rental date.
- Friday, 8/25**
5:30 a.m. Line down on Myrtle Street. Phone line from pole to house ripped off; limb is on the lawn.
1:37 p.m. Automatic 911 notification of accident, Main Road. Operator transported to Franklin Medical Center.
- Saturday, 8/26**
4:59 a.m. Tree blocking Main Road. No wires involved.
1:44 p.m. Report of suspicious activity, Center Road. Possibly trying to break into a garage.
4:06 p.m. Montague dispatch asks Gill to be on the lookout for a red motorcycle, operator in a black jacket, that failed to stop on Avenue A.
8:19 p.m. Caller reports fireworks on West Gill Road.
- Sunday, 8/27**
5 p.m. Caller reports people using metal detectors in the field across from the bus company, West Gill and Main roads.
- Tuesday, 8/29**
8:37 a.m. 911 mis-dial, Walnut Street. Caller states they have a phone with a broken screen, and were trying to shut off the alarm when the phone dialed.
1 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with search on Eleventh Street.
8:24 p.m. Montague PD requests officer on Gill side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Report of somebody down the embankment.
- Wednesday, 8/30**
2:35 p.m. Minor accident, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.
3:18 p.m. Assisted citizen removing a snapping turtle from the French King Highway travel lane.
3:29 p.m. Car vs. phone pole, Main Road. No wires down; operator says he is not injured.
5:31 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with accident, Main Street. No injuries.
6:21 p.m. Caller advises her son crashed a motorcycle, Boyle Road. No injuries.
- Thursday, 8/31**
4:43 p.m. Welfare check on Walnut Street.
7:16 p.m. Welfare check on Main Road. Person pulled over appeared to be vomiting from a car onto the road. Determined to be a subject brushing her teeth.
8:48 p.m. Center Road caller advises a small SUV stopped in front of her house and it sounded like a male and female were arguing. Advised the vehicle left toward Main Road.

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

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

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

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316

RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

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

WOODCAT CONSTRUCTION LLC

SERVING FRANKLIN & MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

SLOW RENOVATIONS OF ODD STRUCTURES

info@woodcat.co / ig: woodcat_builds / 508 306 1822

BONDED/INSURED/MA CSL & HIC

TRAVELS from page B1

I could possibly remember when I took a tour the next morning of the Homarus Eco-Centre, just outside of Shediac. You'll know you're there when you see a big red building and a gigantic lobster statue. Homarus provides a deep dive into the lives of lobsters and the marine ecosystem of the Northumberland Strait, the body of water that separates New Brunswick from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

When we met Ron Corbiel, a former lobster boat captain who runs dinner tours, he told us a lot about how the fishermen of the region banded together several years ago to push the conservation measures that have expanded the fishery and kept it sustainable. The fishermen set the limits and restrictive rules themselves to preserve the lobsters... and it worked.

A big part of the success story is what happens at Homarus. They take the eggs found on female lobsters, and separate them to be raised in tanks at fisheries. When these millions of stronger baby lobsters are released into the water column, they have a 40% chance of surviving, versus a 1% shot in the natural order of things. This has meant more lobster for everyone, as long as no fishermen keep the little ones or the pregnant females.

Exploring Nature

We took a walk one night, through a very dark wood, to a spectacle called Akadi Lumina. We started out in a crowd of people, all ticketed for specific start times. Nobody knew what to expect.

The path we walked, lit by little lanterns, featured nine different and stunning light shows, some with LEDs strewn into patterns on the forest floor, and others with giant hologram images of dancers... It was an epic show, a 60-minute ramble through the woods to be startled by each stop.

Akadi Lumina is so popular it's sold out for three more weeks, amazing tourists and locals alike – nothing like this has ever been created in the Maritimes.

One of New Brunswick's most enduring qualities is that it's so big and there are so few people there. The province is about the size of Maine, but has only 775,000 residents compared to Maine's roughly 1.37 million. This means that even in the most impressive natural places, such as the beaches and hiking trails, you don't ever feel the crush of the crowd.

The beaches are sparkling, uncrowded, and the water gets a lot warmer here than on the chilly coast of Maine. One of the most pristine and impressive of these beaches was at the Kouchibouguac National Park, near the town of Saint-Louis de Kent. A half-mile long wooden boardwalk extends out a long way to Kelly Beach, and along the way you can see tiny piping plovers and other birds in their native habitat.

We met a couple from the Netherlands who run a cozy and comfortable inn called L'Ancre Bed & Breakfast. Liane Greter and Kores Wouters have created a successful restaurant and inn here, encouraged partly because there was no place that offered seafood that wasn't fried. They came here ten years ago from Europe, and have built a restaurant called Captain's Resto with a large new dining area and kitchen, but they are still figuring out the many challenges of getting staff and having it all work out.

"We bought a pontoon boat a few years ago," Kores explained, "because we wanted to give our guests

something additional to do when they were here and they had already seen the Kouchibouguac park. Our tours take guests all the way around to the other side where seals congregate, and they have a chance to see other birdlife close up."

While most of the nights we stayed in New Brunswick were at small inns and hotels, we also got a chance to sleep in a pretty cool alternative: Cielo Glamping Maritime, a series of luxury camping domes on the beach in Shippagan. And indeed it was luxurious. Inside our private dome – they have four available – was a full kitchen, a very fancy bathroom, and a cozy bed that afforded a killer view. Outside was a Big Green Egg barbecue and our own private hot tub.

For meals at Cielo Maritime, we repaired to the cozy little bar called The Hub. Here we created our own *charcuterie* board picking ingredients from their freezer and cooler and enjoyed some of their specialty cocktails. A very fun atmosphere, and truly glamping.

A Deep History

Our trip also had a history angle, as we included a visit to the Acadian Village in Bertrand, and took in a joyous Acadian songfest and full-on musical spectacular on the last day of the season at Pays de la Sagouine in Bouctouche.

The jolly songs, with keyboard, fiddle, and plenty of boot-tapping, tell the history of the Acadians, who were Catholic and French, and were forced to leave New Brunswick in 1755 when the British wanted to take over their houses, dominate the land, and keep the lucrative fur trade going. In that dark year more than 10,000 Acadians living in Nova Scotia were sent to other parts of colonial America like Cape Breton, Louisiana. But many of them moved back, and they brought their music with them.

We explored the Acadian Village one morning. When you enter the main building here, up on the wall are dozens of familiar family names, like Hebert, LeBlanc, and Cormier, of Acadian families who once lived nearby. The village has about 40 historic wooden buildings, and inside each one, a re-enactor or two is cooking lunch, spinning wool, or carving the stays for a barrel.

It was fun to watch them working, and explaining what they were doing in both French and English, the way everything in New Brunswick is done – twice. The houses range from the early 1800s to 1942.

One of the principles of the tourism boards of Canada is not to forget the original inhabitants of the big country. In New Brunswick that would be the Mi'kmaq people, who have a reserve here called Elsipogtog First Nation.

We met with three women members of the tribe, who took us out into the woods and shared about many of the healing properties of common items found in forests. They also took us inside a replica of a longhouse and a wigwam and told about their history here.

Being in the woods and hearing their age-old passed-down wisdom was a fascinating experience, for First Nation, Canadians, and Americans alike.

Local travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel and hosts the short-form GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, which you can hear at anchor.fm/max-hartshorne. Find out more about New Brunswick at explorenb.com.



The Acadian Village in Bertrand, New Brunswick features a series of preserved houses with re-enactors who portray Acadian characters in different periods of history.



A Mi'kmaq longhouse at Elsipogtog First Nation.



Inside the glamor dome at Cielo Glamping Maritime in Shippagan.

HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

Montague Community Television News

Solace In Reruns

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – If you, too, are sad about the recent race cancellation and need a dose of soapbox, check the MCTV archives for footage of past derby events!

This week we have footage from Montague selectboard, finance committee, and board of assessors meetings, a Gill selectboard meeting, as well as "Vera for Love" performing at the Woolman Hill Retreat Center in Deerfield, and the "Honoring Our Elders" event with Susan and Jonathan von Ranson at the Wendell Meetinghouse.

There's always something new to watch on MCTV, and we are always up to something. We are currently looking for businesses to participate in our *Local Busi-*

ness Spotlight. If you are interested in having your business featured, please reach out to *infomontaguestv@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.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark Saturday's Equinox at the Sunwheel

AMHERST – The public is invited to join UMass Amherst astronomer Stephen Schneider among the standing stones of the campus Sunwheel to observe sunrise and sunset this Saturday, September 23 – the autumnal equinox. These events mark the astronomical change of seasons with presentations explaining how the Sunwheel marks the changing position of the sun and moon as seen from Earth. The gatherings will be held in person at 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Observers standing at the center of the Sunwheel can see the sun rise and set over particular stones placed to mark the equinoxes.

Schneider will explain the Sunwheel's design and compare it to ancient sites around the world. He will discuss the astronomical cause of the sun's changing position during the approximately hour-long gatherings. He will explain why days and nights are nearly equal on the equinox (*equi* means "equal" in Latin, and *nox* means "night"), and answer other questions about astronomy.

The exact minute of the autumnal equinox this year is 2:50 a.m. on September 23. This marks the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south, ushering in fall in the northern hemisphere. People on the equator see the sun pass directly overhead at noon on the

equinox. Six months of daylight begin at the South Pole, six months of nighttime at the North Pole.

On any other day, either the northern or southern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun. For anyone not at the North or South Pole, on the equinox the sun rises due east, stays up for 12 hours, and sets due west.

If the skies in Amherst are clear, a telescope will be set up before the morning session, beginning about 6 a.m., to view Venus in its crescent phase and possibly Jupiter and its moons. During the evening session a solar telescope will be set up before sunset to safely view the sun's surface. Afterward there will be an opportunity to look at the waxing gibbous moon.

The UMass Amherst Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road (Amity Street), about a quarter mile south of University Drive. Visitors should be prepared for wet footing, and mosquito repellent is highly recommended (*see article, Page A1*). Heavy rain cancels the events, but the talks will be given if there are clouds or light rain.

For last-minute changes because of weather or other problems, please check the UMass Sunwheel website at www.umass.edu/sunwheel.

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

STONEDWORK
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —

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

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

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

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

NATURE BINGO GAME!

<p>FIND A BUTTERFLY</p> 	<p>LOCATE AN INVASIVE OR OPPORTUNISTIC PLANT</p>	<p>SPOT A GRASSHOPPER</p> 	<p>HEAR A BIRD SONG</p> 	<p>FIND A FERN</p> 
<p>SPOT AN ANIMAL HOME</p> 	<p>LOCATE A PLANT GOING TO SEED</p> 	<p>FIND AN EDIBLE PLANT</p>	<p>FIND A SPIDER WEB</p> 	<p>FIND A 4 LEAF CLOVER</p> 
<p>IDENTIFY A MAPLE TREE</p> 	<p>FIND A BEE</p> 	<p>FREE SPACE</p> 	<p>CLEAN UP SOME LITTER</p>	<p>FIND A PINK FLOWER</p>
<p>FIND A MUSHROOM</p> 	<p>RECYCLE SOME LITTER</p> 	<p>IDENTIFY AN OAK TREE</p> 	<p>SPOT A BIRD</p> 	<p>FIND A COLORED LEAF</p> 
<p>LOCATE A NATIVE PLANT</p>	<p>FIND A YELLOW FLOWER</p> 	<p>FIND A PLANT BEARING FRUIT</p> 	<p>IDENTIFY AN ASH TREE</p> 	<p>SPOT A FAIRY</p> 

BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

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

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



Gerijohnson & Associates REALTY
 WWW.GJAR.COM
 GERI JOHNSON, 45 Years of Experience

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

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

SCSC

Complete Masonry Supply
 Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more.

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



looking forward...

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Vimana*. Free. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Edd, Purple Dawn*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Murphy's Law, Grade 2, Tired of Trying*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Winter-pills, Original Cowards, Fancy Trash*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Sierra Ferrell, The Devil Makes Three, Allison Russell*, more. \$ See www.massmoca.org for info.

Montague Mill Haus: *Rong, Sink, Halo Bite, Corrode*. \$ 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Don Lacey*. No cover. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Butch Vs. Femme Olympics*. \$ 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Green Sisters*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *She Said*. \$ 8 p.m.

Red Cross, Northampton: *Pat-*

ter, Bubble Scary, Sleep Destroyer. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Allysen Callery, Andrew Victor*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Dropkick Murphys (Acoustic), Bombino, Aoife O'Donovan, Alison Brown*, many more. \$ See www.massmoca.org for info.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wendell Country Store 30th Anniversary Celebration with Eric Love, 2 Car Garage*, more. Free. 4 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Schenectavoidz, Cheap Heat, Ground Sweat, Main Breaker*. \$ 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. No cover. 6:30 p.m.

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pamela Means* performs *Abbey Road*. \$ 7 p.m.

Everything But Comics, Northampton: *Mal Devisa, Thus Love, Film & Gender, Letters of Marque*. Benefit for Liyang Network. \$ 7 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Anne-F Jacques, Gudinni Cortina & Gabriel Drolet, Ananya Ganesh, Kat Mazur & Stella Silbert*. \$ 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Keith Murphy & Becky Tra-*

cy. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls, Vermont: *Chris Smither, The Suitcase Junket*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Af-terglo*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Lost Film, Laveda, Shriill Pill*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Space Camp, Distend, Ashen Veil, Holy Taker*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Lukas Nelson, Rhiannon Giddens, Mighty Poplar, many more*. \$ See www.massmoca.org for info.

Red Cross, Northampton: *Jyons-son Tsu Band, Phrøeggs, Grass Path, Jenn Taiga*. \$ 3 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Ka-onashi, Wisdom & War, Hard Cash*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Valley Moonstompers Society*, ska. \$ 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Satisfaction, Rolling Stones tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Palladium, Worcester: *Cannibal Corpse, Mayhem, Gorguts, Blood Incantation*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Slobdrop, Voidbearer, Chiburi, Mars Hendrick, Streselbee, Slow Pony*. \$ 6 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Two Step and Karaoke Night*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Red Guitar* film screening with *John Sheldon*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Reed Foehl, Workman Song*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Jonathan Coulton*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Thalia Zedek, All Feels*. No cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Sandy Bailey* CD release, *Cloud-belly, Luna Dawn*. \$ 7 p.m.

Everything But Comics, Northampton: *Zebu, Blahsum, Chris Wardlaw, Sleep Destroyer*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Retreat Farm, Brattleboro: *Orchard Aid* benefit feat. *Zara Bode & Stefan Amidon, Slow Pony, Pete Bernhard, Hazelnuts*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kabaka Pyramid*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Ruth Garbus, Locate S,1*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Damon & Naomi, Wet Tuna, Dredd Foole*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Mirah*. No cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

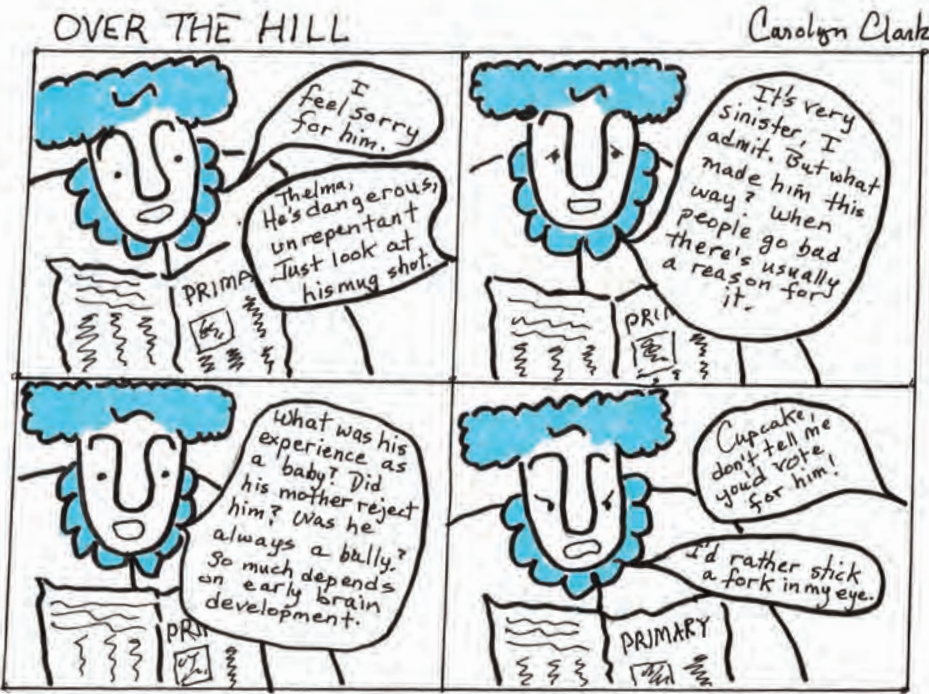
The Drake, Amherst: *Lightning Bolt*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Palladium, Worcester: *Fish-bone, GZA*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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



Submit your comics (and puzzles) to editor @montaguereporter.org.

Original & local creations only, please!



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

HCJ JI ELF FUZCATU EUROIEDIRZI
LH CZKIZ FC ZINGTHLYI FUI
BACFRFLCHE. - CZECH JIMMIE

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG

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

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

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

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

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

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

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

GREENFIELD
Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank

BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

WEST ALONG from page B1

here on the Flat, stripping branches bare by the Fourth of July. The trees have only slightly leafed out in a second growth, leaving the sky visible through the unnatural and unseasonal lacework of their highest branches.

Nighttime katydids still rasp out their scratchy love songs, but are much slower between syllables, probably due to the cooler nights. They may persist on through to Halloween, depending on the caprices of the season.

The bird population has shifted: the last nighthawks winged down from northern New England. They were last seen on September 7, heading south ahead of the first frosts. These birds live primarily on the wing, catching insects, and like the chimney swifts that used to race through the skies over our village, they can't afford to be caught by an early frost.

Even bushes and trees are empty, save for the titmouse clan – and the local jays, who never seem to leave.

I'm a cold weather person at heart. Most of my summer rituals involve some sort of preparation for winter. These days, I catch myself looking fondly at my woodpile. It's carefully and artfully stacked in a five-foot-tall drying circle, looking a lot like a beehive hut constructed by Irish monks. It was a summer castle for chipmunks, and for the families of garter snakes who love sunning on its warm wood.

We have brought up to the woodshed all the sapling poles that serve as kindling, too. We use up every bit of the tree: small treetop branches are good for fire-starters. I cut the poles into foot-long lengths to toss into the fire with the twigs, to accompany the bigger chunks of oak and ash. Nothing goes to waste; even the bark is used to give the fire a boost when necessary.

In our woods, the maples are so plentiful their sapling offspring grow like weeds. When those sapling poles reach a skinny height of 12 or 14 feet, I thin them out, letting sunshine better filter down to the woodland floor to encourage the spring trout lilies and lady slippers.

I do like the thought of firing up the cast iron 1912 Glenwood C cookstove, clicking contentedly as it warms the house. All is ready: the chimney sweep visited in July, so the chimney and stove pipe are clean and clear; the stove's six-lid stovetop has been polished and burnished.

How much longer will we resist the temptation to light the fire against the evening chill? Lighting the stove for the first time always deserves special mention in the journal of house happenings, the list of firsts and lasts.

At least there's no longer a need to put up the wooden, 1930s-era storm windows. All the windows of the old house have been replaced with modern thermal glass units. I do sort of miss getting up on the ladder and wrestling those storm windows into place, forcing in tight the eyebolt screws. It was a good way to refresh acquaintance with the high reaches of this house, up on the second-floor porch roof where I never went except two times a year, when I used to put storms up and take them down.

Nowadays those antique windows sit in the backyard garden shed in their well-deserved retirement. Like a lot of old stuff around here, I don't have the heart to throw them away.

But all that belongs to the last century, as do I! Who knows what the new season holds as the year begins to wind down. I hope you will step through that door as I do, excited about what the world outside will offer up next.





ERVING FALL FESTIVAL

VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD, MOORE ST, ERVING MA

SAT
SEP
23

GAMES-VENDORS-FOOD
11 AM - 3 PM (FOOD UNTIL 8 PM)

BEER GARDEN (21+)
11 AM - 8 PM

HAMMOCK PARK DEDICATION*
3:30PM [AT] *PARK & CENTRAL

DJ GREG STEWART
4 - 8 PM

BON FIRE
6:30 PM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.ERVING-MA.GOV/RECREATION-COMMISSION



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Square Dance at Gill Town Hall

GILL – This Saturday, September 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. there will be a square dance with live music and a caller at the Gill town hall. This free event will help kick off the annual Gill Fall Festival occurring the following day, Sunday, on the common in front of the town hall.

The band for the square dance will be the Falltown String Band, with renowned square dance caller Doug Wilkins teaching and calling the dances.

Beginners are welcome. There will be a 20-minute introductory lesson, starting promptly at 7 p.m.

This free and handicap-accessible event is organized by the Gill recreation committee, and is funded with a grant from the Gill Cultural Council. It coincides with the Fall Festival, which is organized each year by the town's agricultural commission. Committee, council, and commission are collaborating in hopes of a fun-filled weekend!

TRULY EXCELLENT BREAKING NEWS

Pothole Pictures!

SHELBURNE FALLS – In March 2020, Pothole Pictures was on the verge of celebrating 25 years as a volunteer-run community movie theater, days before opening night of its spring season, when the COVID lockdown shuttered movie theaters. After a three-year "pandemic pause," the historic 400-seat Memorial Hall Theater, located on the second floor above Shelburne Town Hall at 51 Bridge Street, is open again, with many of the same films in the fall-winter lineup.

The season opener is a special one-night showing on Saturday, October 7: the 1916 silent film *Snow White*, with an original score performed live by harpist-composer Leslie McMichael and her sister Barbara McMichael on viola. A half hour of free music – eclectic folk tunes by Eveline MacDougal, John Clark, and Rob Adams – starts at 7 p.m. Admission for this special event is \$15 at the door.

The regular season follows two weeks later, October 20 and 21, with the 2018 documentary *The Biggest Little Farm*. The Saturday screening will be followed by a panel of local farmers and farm advocates connecting the film to climate-change impacts on local farms. The seven-film series continues with *Dr. Strangelove*, *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, *The Lady Eve*, and *Mystery Train*, and concludes February 16 and 17 with the children's classic *Mary Poppins*.

The full schedule, including pre-movie musical acts, will soon be available at shelburnefallsmemorialhall.org.

Regular tickets at Pothole Pictures remain only \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under... and the popcorn still sells for the 1995 price of \$1 per bag!




COMMUNITY MEETING

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Learn about Pioneer Valley Habitat's previous builds and what to expect for the six affordable homes coming to First Street.

WHO WE ARE

Working with our many partners, PVHH builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

SATURDAY, SEP 30TH | 10AM

Location:
MONTAGUE TOWN HALL, 1 AVENUE A
Annex Meeting Room – free parking available behind Town Hall

Questions? contact megan@pvhabitat.org or call (413)586-5430 x106

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



Harriet Paine
REALTOR®

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

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301





Turners Falls Pizza House

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

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

www.turnersfallspizza.com

119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000



Local Solar PV Installers
for over 16 years
in western Massachusetts

GREENFIELD SOLAR

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

Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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



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

NEW FOOD!



THE VOO

78 3rd St. TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS ORDER ONLINE:
thevoo.net

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement



GSB Wealth Management & Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com

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

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls **Tile Lino Carpet**

Member
 The Flooring Network.

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2023 • Our 123rd Year

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

- ★ Commercial
- ★ Residential
- ★ Industrial

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