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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 5, 2023

Neighbors Praise Habitat, But Decry Loss of Parking



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Above: Eight cars and a dumpster, parked on town land off a downtown alley. Last year, when town meeting voted to rezone the First Street municipal lot to encourage housing and town hall issued an RFP to develop it, there was no discussion of the nearby residents who have come accustomed to this usage over several decades.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “I’m all for it,” Second Street resident Charles Emery said at the meeting last Saturday when Habitat For Humanity Pioneer Valley unveiled its proposal for six affordable homes on First Street, across from town hall in Turners Falls. “I just want parking, and don’t think it’s fair to kick us in the teeth so they can have it.”

Kathy Emery said the couple would need to tear up their backyard to provide more parking. She complained that the project’s design had been developed without sufficient neighborhood input,

and called the proposal a “slap in the face.”

Another Second Street critic of the proposal, giving public input, said he had been parking in the First Street alley for over 50 years. “It’s not fair, and I do not agree with the way it is being handled,” he said.

Emma Golden, who currently lives in the Patch neighborhood of Turners, said she was “proud” to live in a town that was developing affordable housing but that there was a “disconnect” with residents of the neighborhood where the proposed project is located.

The barrage of negative comments came as Habitat executive see **PARKING** page A5

Owner of Two North Quabbin Hospitals Files For Bankruptcy

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GARDNER – The owner of Athol Memorial Hospital, Heywood Hospital in Gardner, and several other medical practices serving central Massachusetts filed for bankruptcy on Monday. No closures have been announced as the non-profit Heywood Healthcare network works to establish a plan to meet its debt obligations and preserve healthcare services in the region.

“Though our health system has stood the test of time, we are not impervious to financial challenges,” Heywood Healthcare co-CEO Tom Sullivan said in a written statement on Monday. “Heywood Hospital has stood independently for 116 years, while navigating national and local challenges, which include Heywood being one of the lowest commercially reimbursed hospitals in [the] Commonwealth.”

Other reasons the network shared for its bankruptcy filing include aging infrastructure, economic constraints associated with the pandemic, a cumbersome transition to a new online medical record system, and the stalled construction of a new surgical wing at the Gardner hospital.

In a joint statement issued the same day, state representatives Susannah Whipps and Jon Zlotnik, senator Jo Comerford, Gardner mayor Michael Nicholson, and Athol town manager Shaun Suhoski assured their constituents that the hospital system will remain open during the “reorganization.”

“We are committed to working see **HOSPITALS** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Electeds Chart Informational Strategy Ahead Of Override

By KEITH WATERS

The town of Erving has a number of big events coming up this month. The first is a public information session, planned for next Wednesday, October 11, about the proposed budget override, also referred to as a Proposition 2½ override. The second is a special town meeting (STM) on October 18, and the third is the vote on the budget override on Monday, October 23.

On Monday the selectboard held a joint meeting with the finance and capital planning committees to work on some of the last details they need to get in order for these upcoming events. This included approving the final warrant for the STM as well as discussing how the

see **ERVING** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Avenue A Will Shut Down For Downtown Fest After All

By JEFF SINGLETON

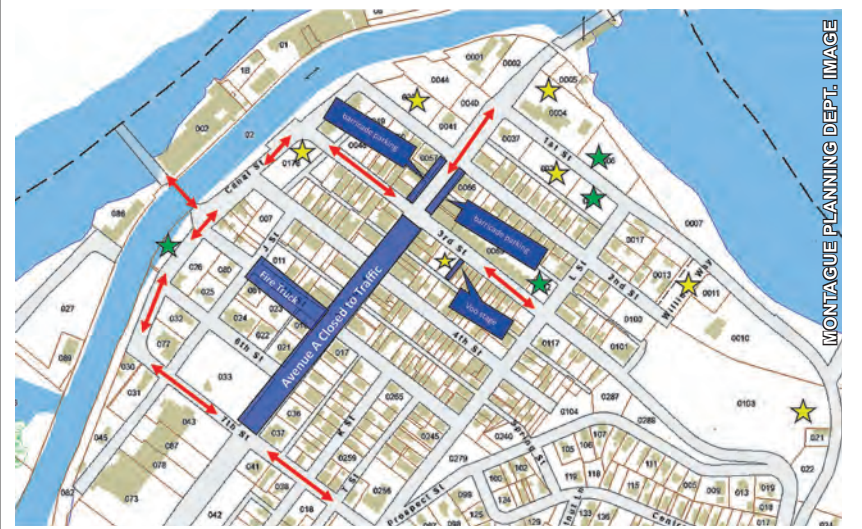
TURNERS FALLS – “Consider Avenue A Street Closure Options And Amendment to Falls Fest Use of Public Space Permit For 2023 Falls Fest.”

This item appeared in red late last week on an “amended” agenda posted for the October 2 Montague selectboard meeting. It may have come as a surprise to those who follow local news. During previous meetings, organizers of the October 21 event – the successor to the Great Falls Festival, and the Franklin County Pumpkinfest

before it – had emphasized that the re-envisioned festival would distinguish itself from those events by focusing on local businesses, and by leaving Avenue A open.

At Monday’s meeting local musician, audio technician, and event organizer Klon Koehler presented the board with a map that showed Avenue A barricaded from Third to Seventh streets, with traffic directed to flow down Third Street to a variety of public and private parking lots. The map also showed that parking spaces between Third and Second Street would be eliminated

see **MONTAGUE** page A7



MONTAGUE PLANNING DEPT. IMAGE

A map prepared by the Montague planning department showed the new traffic and parking plan worked out by festival organizers and the police and fire departments.

High School Sports Week: Strong Squads Gain Speed

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – We’re far enough through the fall sports season that it’s time to start thinking about the playoffs.

Two teams in town stand out. Turners Falls High School’s volleyball team enjoys an undefeated Northern Conference record, with another eight games to go in the regular season. And the Franklin County Tech field hockey team is

undefeated overall, having outscored their opponents by 50 goals and counting.

Both teams extended their win streaks this week, and can be expected to make it into the postseason. The Turners golf team and the co-op girls’ soccer team are also dominating their conference rankings, and we’ll check in with those sports in the coming weeks.

Also this week, the Tech football see **SPORTS** page A6

Last Math Teacher Departs On Eve of New Contract

By JULIA WALKOWICZ with MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “I’d describe the situation at hand as difficult, and even frustrating,” Turners Falls High School junior Zane Niedzielski told the *Montague Reporter* this week. “I’ve personally struggled with the math department’s loss of teachers, as I can’t ask questions or get answers.”

Teacher turnover has been a topic of concern at the high school, and has been cited by the district union, the Gill Montague Education Association (GMEA), as a factor as it negotiates for staff raises. While a

new contract for teachers is reportedly close to approval, the issue continues; three of the 23 teachers at the high school have resigned or put in notice since the beginning of the current school year.

Sophomore Jackson Cogswell, whose Honors Algebra 2 teacher announced recently that she is leaving, discussed the ways the teacher shortage have affected him.

“We had another math teacher leave in September,” Cogswell said. “Our Science teacher has also informed us that she will be leaving as well.... Unless the administration hires a math teacher before

see **MATH** page A6



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Both Turners Falls High School math teachers tendered resignations this fall.

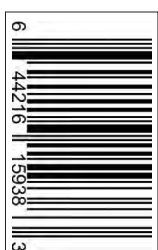


DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Madi Liimatainen made an impressive 16 kills against the Ludlow Lions last Friday as the Thunder earned a home win in four sets.

We’ll Weather the Weather Whether We Like It Or Not

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Non-Player Characters

"If in the first act you have hung a pistol on the wall," Russian playwright Anton Chekov used to tell his followers, "then in the following one it should be fired."

Whether events in the human universe are forewritten is a topic too large to tackle in this small gray box, but they can certainly feel remarkably random and arbitrary. Modern life shows us an endless chain of these pistols, hung and not yet fired, so many that stopping to count them can be a recipe for paralyzing anxiety.

At the beginning of the year the country was treated to a remarkable and entertaining show in Congress, as a small cadre of far-right operators experimented with the institutional rules of the House of Representatives in order to flex their collective bicep and bare their collective bicuspid in the direction of their own party's grey-suited leadership.

It took 15 ballots, in that wild January week, to place Kevin McCarthy (R-California)'s rear end into the Speaker seat it had waited all its life to fill, and along the way the *Joker* (2019 film) caucus managed to gouge out a set of desired concessions – including certain procedural tweaks that have hung on the wall, fully loaded, for the past nine months.

Traditional political science only goes so far when it comes to Matt Gaetz (R-Florida) and his allies – more to the point, it would not predict he will get very far. The Amer-

ican system simply does not offer much leeway to the party-within-a-party strategy. It's much easier to disrupt the Congressional machinery than to gain its powers and operate it, and the disconnect leaves many paid commenters spinning in disapproving little circles.

All of these developments can only really be understood in light of a fairly new factor: direct, immediate, online fundraising. To at least hundreds of thousands of Americans, Gaetz is a tiny man who lives in their phone, setting up scenarios and exacting vengeance on the very people they most hate.

"Thank you for the flowers," the new refrain on TikTok goes. Users of the platform can reward live-streamers with a range of animated treats, which correspond ultimately to monetary earnings; the latest trend is for streamers to pretend to be "non-player characters" found in video games, interacting with these rewards in mindlessly grateful repetition. Most often the streamers are working in the confines of their own homes, but more and more are venturing out in public, the awkward exposure of their behavior only garnering them greater audience and reward.

It's a very dark spectacle, but it's also instructive. Operators, directly connected to a diffuse system of funders, are venturing out in public and performing for their own audiences. We are at the very beginning of the age of political fundraising cults. It's only going to get weirder.

Letter to the Editors Sees Trump's Hand

"A government shutdown is the last chance to defund these political prosecutions against me and other patriots." – Donald Trump

Though the government shutdown was averted at the last minute (literally), not only was it an attempt to "burn it all down" by the MAGA extremists, it was yet another obstruction-of-justice "Hail Mary pass" attempted by the four-time-felony-indicted former President Donald J. Trump.

This travesty must stop. The

country has been damaged enough by Trump's nefarious ways and his pact with the extremist MAGA members of Congress.

If the end game is to eventually shut down and knee-cap our Constitutional democracy by attempting to destroy its governmental structures, the bad guys seem to be gaining ground.

**Genevieve Harris-Fraser
Orange**



Jeff Dubay stands next to a bronze mermaid at his Freight House Antiques business on Route 2 in Erving. Dubay, who bought the building in 1993, has an encyclopedic knowledge of Erving landmarks and history due to his curiosity, willingness to be involved, and having lived in town since he was three years old.

The secret to maintaining his long, silky white beard – only shaved off in 1970 and 1982 – is cream rinse, he says.

OPED

Time for a Cease Fire, and Negotiations

By MARTIN HALPERN

MONTAGUE – Between September 30 and October 8, peace activists from over 30 countries are coming together to support "an immediate ceasefire and peace negotiations" to end the Ukraine war. In joining these advocates, I continue on a path I began over 60 years ago.

In October 1962, as the Cuban missile crisis was about to unfold, I wrote an op ed for my high school newspaper calling for compromise in negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union to achieve a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere. As it happened, my essay appeared only after the public – including my fellow students and I – became aware that nuclear war between our two countries might be imminent.

Despite the danger, I was alone in my views when members of the Arista honor society chatted about the crisis in an after-school meeting. The dominant anti-Soviet cold war narrative made advocacy of compromise and negotiations, even in the face of a nuclear Armageddon, unthinkable to most. Thankfully, President John Kennedy and Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev reached a negotiated compromise of their disagreement and averted nuclear war.

Most residents of the US, and of nations allied with the US in Europe and elsewhere, are once again trapped in a cold war narrative about the Ukraine war; negotiations are, once again, unthinkable.

As during the first cold war, the mainstream media and one's neighbors, friends, and family members all seem to be on the same page. Although we in the United States tend to think of ourselves as independent, even individualistic people, most of us tend to conform to societal expectations. Media workers follow the lead of the government, and the rest of us are not so different from those in Japan who believe the proverb that "the nail that sticks out gets hammered down."

How can I convince you to join in advocating a ceasefire and negotiations to end the Ukraine war?

In 1963 I was among the few calling for an end to US intervention in Vietnam; eventually the majority saw this was the sane course.

In 1982, in response to President Reagan's opposition to negotiations with the Soviet Union over nuclear weapons, I was in New York with over a million others to call for a nuclear freeze. President Reagan soon reversed course and joined the Soviet Union in removing intermediate nuclear missiles from Europe.

In February 2003, I was among ten million people

throughout the world joining demonstrations to oppose the impending US invasion of Iraq. A month later I spoke before the city council in my small Arkansas town and asked it to join in calling for negotiations rather than war against Iraq. The war was not prevented, but by 2006 most Americans agreed the war was wrong.

Just because events have proved peace advocates right again and again over the last 60 years doesn't mean we are right today. But consider these points:

- Escalation of the Ukraine war makes the risk of nuclear war more likely. The *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* reports that "The Doomsday Clock now stands at 90 seconds to midnight – the closest to global catastrophe it has ever been."

- As the International Summit for Peace in Ukraine notes: "Hundreds of thousands have been killed and wounded and millions have been displaced and traumatized. Cities and villages across Ukraine and the natural environment have been shattered."

- The war has had a serious negative economic impact on many countries, and particularly on poor people.

- The billions spent by the US on the war makes addressing social and economic problems at home more difficult.

- Leaders of countries not allied with the US, particularly those in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, have spoken out for a negotiated end to the conflict.

- Although little reported in the US media, the United Nations declared that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on January 22, 2021. Thus far 93 nations have signed the treaty. There is an urgent need for the nuclear states to join this treaty and to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The continuing conflict in Ukraine distracts from that goal.

- The war empowers the fossil fuel and armaments industries, and diverts the world from the need to take immediate action to end the impending catastrophic effects of global warming.

Please look critically at the circumstances we face today and join us in taking action to produce a ceasefire and negotiation to end the war in Ukraine.

Martin Halpern is a resident of Montague, a member of Massachusetts Peace Action, and a Professor Emeritus of History at Henderson State University. He is the author of UAW Politics in the Cold War Era and Unions, Radicals and Democratic Presidents: Seeking Social Change in the Twentieth Century. He can be reached at halpern@hsu.edu.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Julie Shively presents on “**The Evolution of the Leverett Co-op**” today, Thursday, October 5, at the Moores Corner Schoolhouse, 230 North Leverett Road in Leverett. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. after the annual Leverett Historical Society meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome to both the meeting and the presentation, and there is no charge.

Tom Goldscheider’s talk at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls had to be rescheduled from last Saturday until Sunday, October 22. “At Sword’s Point: A History of Trade Unions in the Machine Tool Industry in Franklin County” will start at 2 p.m. that day in the Great Hall.

Carnegie Library will hold a **used book sale** this Saturday, October 7. There will be fiction, paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, and audio-books for sale from, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Carrie Ferguson will perform original music for children and their parents at the New Salem Public Library this Saturday, October 7 at 11 a.m. “Shifting between piano, guitar and ukulele, Ferguson creates interactive live shows that are often jubilant sing-along dance parties,” reads the description.

The **New England Peace Pagoda** is holding a 38th anniversary ceremony this Sunday, October 8.

The event starts at 11 a.m. with a Nipponzan Myohoji sacred ceremony, followed by interfaith prayers for world peace. A memorial stone for Slow Turtle, the Supreme Medicine Man of the Wampanoag Nation, will be unveiled at 12:30 p.m. to mark the occasion of the 27th commemoration of his passing. There will be lunch for all. The Peace Pagoda is at 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett.

This Sunday, October 8 at 1 p.m. a presentation on **Migratory Bird Conservation in Panama** will be given at the Discovery Center in

Turners Falls. Learn about Greenfield non-profit Conservación Panamá and what it is doing to conserve migratory birds from New England in Panama, including promoting science education, training rural bird guides, purchasing land, and working with an international community of conservationists.

The talk will be about 45 minutes long with plenty of time for comments, questions, and conversation. There will also be lots of pictures, so “bring your binoculars!”

Next Tuesday, October 10 at 1 p.m. the Gill-Montague senior center will host a 45-minute **Narcan training course**. Attendees will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, how to provide the appropriate emergency care based on a person’s breathing and responsiveness, and how to give naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

The trainer is FRCOG community health nurse Robin Neipp, and this training is free and open to the public, but attendance is limited. Please call the senior center at (413) 863-9357 to sign up.

Parents and caregivers in Leverett and Shutesbury are invited to the Leverett Library for a series of discussion groups on the book *Parenting 4 Social Justice*. Meetings will be monthly on second Tuesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Copies of the book are available from Leverett Elementary School and through the libraries, or can be purchased at talkpoints.com. You do not need a book before the first meeting on October 10, but organizers want to know if you will attend; email ashfieldtutor@gmail.org.

There will be a free **COVID and Flu vaccine clinic** next Wednesday, October 11 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls. Registration at home.color.com is required; if you do not use a computer, call Roberta at the senior center at (413) 863-4500.

The next **free concert at the Montague Center library** will be with singer-songwriter Jenny Burtis at 6 p.m., rain or shine, next Wednesday, October 11.

The Charlemont Forum will hold a special fall event over Zoom next Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m. Jesse Freidin will present his photo exhibit *Are You OK?*, which documents the **experiences and stories of trans and non-binary youth**.

“Through images, audio interviews, and moving personal narratives Freidin starts a thoughtful and emotional dialogue about trans rights, who is most at risk, and how communities can become more welcoming and effective allies,” reads the event description. There will also be an overview of current anti-trans legislation, and time for questions and answers. Visit charlemontforum.org for the link.

Enjoy **bird watching with ornithologist Zeke Jakub** at several local sites next week: Mount Sugarloaf on October 12; the Canalside Rail Trail on October 13, Migratory Way on October 14, and Barton Cove in Gill on October 15.

On these hour-long adventures, participants will learn about migratory birds along the Connecticut River, some of whom travel all the way to Panama. Bring binoculars and a bird field guide if you have them, dress for the weather, and wear sturdy shoes. Call (413) 863-3221 to register.

A **Hot Chocolate Social** will be held at the Millers Falls branch library from 3 to 4 p.m. next Thursday, October 12. Meet your village neighbors!

The next **Honoring Our Local Elders** event at the Wendell Meetinghouse, at 7 p.m. next Thursday, October 12, will honor resident Dorthie Thompson, officially Wendell’s oldest citizen as of last December.

According to organizers, Thompson was among a group of lesbian feminists who came to Wendell over 30 years ago; she initially lived in a tent and trailer, but later worked alongside other women on work crews learning to build their own homes.

Dorthie has made many important contributions to the town and region, including her work helping to found Access Ability Alternative and

the Women’s Needs Fund and the Wendell Freebox clothing exchange, and many other volunteer activities.

All are welcome to this free event, with donations accepted to support ongoing renovations and programming at the Meetinghouse on the town common.

The **JCA Klezmer Band** will perform traditional Eastern European Jewish folk music next Friday, October 13 at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Coffeehouse in Turners Falls. Refreshments are available; sliding-scale donations at the door will support educational programming at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Meet in the Great Hall at the Center.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield has put out a **call for submissions** for its fourth annual Community Art Show. Artists may submit work to be displayed this November and December. The theme, “Reclamation,” can be interpreted in a variety of ways – the use of reclaimed materials, or reclaimed words or emotions – but all work must be able to hang on a wall.

To submit, email your full name, the title, and a JPEG or PNG file of the piece to art@thelavacenter.org. The **due date is next Friday, October 13**. For more details or to see the archive of past exhibits, visit thelavacenter.org.

The seventh annual **Migrations Festival** at the Discovery Center starts off with an offering of traditionally prepared Central American food on Saturday, October 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. Original art and crafts from Indigenous Mayan villages around Lake Atitlan in Guatemala will be on view and for sale. At 2:30 p.m. the MarKamusik will perform “pan-Andean World Beat” music, and there will be kids’ crafts and a Day of the Dead Altar.

The United Church of Bernardston’s **Second Saturday Roast Beef Supper** is up and running again, with the first supper of the season taking place Saturday, October 14, with seatings at 5 and 6:15 p.m. “A delicious roast beef meal” is advertised “complete with fresh mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, rolls, and freshly baked pie for dessert for only \$15.” Call (413) 648-9306 to reserve a seat or for takeout.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES
 Saturday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m.
SNOW WHITE (1916)
“Spellbinding” silent film, with a live original score by harpist Leslie McMichael and violist Barbara McMichael. Special event to open the season!
 Music at 7 p.m.: Rob Adams, John Clark, and Eveline McDougall play eclectic music
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OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT

Falls Fest Celebrates Turners’ Business and Arts Community

TURNERS FALLS – In the spirit of the long-standing Great Falls Festival, Falls Fest seeks to highlight Turners Falls’ rich local business and arts community. Join the fun Saturday, October 21 from 1 to 6 p.m. on Avenue A and Third Street. Enjoy downtown shops, restaurants, breweries, and entertainment at five downtown venues including Peskeompskut Park, Spinner Park, the Rendezvous, the Shea Theater, and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Avenue A will be closed from Third to Seventh Street for the event.

Falls Fest is *free*, made possible with the financial support of the town of Montague, 253 Farmacy, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

The featured headliner, the James Montgomery Band, will perform at the Peskeompskut Park bandshell, Avenue A and Seventh Street, at 4:45 p.m. An iconic figure in Blues

music for more than 40 years, Montgomery has toured with Aerosmith, the J. Geils Band, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, the Allman Brothers, the Steve Miller Band, the Johnny Winter Band, and many others.

Curly Fingers DuPree will start entertainment at 1:15 p.m., followed by Valley favorites Trailer Park. Enjoy libations from Pioneer Valley Brewing Company, Berkshire Brewing Company, Honest Weight, Element, and Headwater Cider in the adjoining beer garden from 1 to 6 p.m.

Entertainment along Avenue A continues at Spinner Park, at the corner of Fourth Street. The pocket park will showcase a wide variety of acoustic music by Tommy Filaault, Jenny Burtis, Jim McRae, Adelaide Fay, Burrie Jenkins, and duo Kevin McCarthy & Bruce Richardson.

The Rendezvous at 78 Third Street will

showcase “its own damn self.” Order the drink special at the original 1934 bar or take a seat in the outdoor patio featuring a 2 p.m. performance by the internationally renowned Wes Brown Jazz Trio. At 6 p.m. Turners Falls’ own Stella Kola will bring their dreamy folk stylings to the Voo stage. The *after party*, surrounded with underwater images by award-winning photographer Lisa Beskin, starts at 9:30 p.m.

Feeling crafty? Stop by the Shea Theater Arts Center Makers Market for a selection of locally handcrafted items for sale, “fast fashion” with Sydney Greenly-Kois, and build-your-own-jewelry with the Curious Thimble. Musician and storyteller Ashley Kramer will recount myths from the classical canon at 5 p.m., followed by a BYO-instrument improv session at 6 p.m. Karaoke with DJ Kouch and dancing with SpookAround fill out a full day of activities.

More of the outdoors type? Don’t miss the opportunity to learn how to navigate with a map and compass from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Drop in for a short tutorial or complete an orienteering course with Zeke Jakub of Conservación Panamá. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will also have free books for kids, and the students of Awesome Art in Motion will perform a choreographed dance piece from 2 to 3 p.m.

Falls Fest is made possible with funding from the town of Montague, Greenfield Savings Bank, 253 Farmacy, and considerable volunteer support from downtown businesses, Montague Public Libraries, Klondike Resources LLC, the Shea Theater, Nova Motorcycles, DCR, and RiverCulture. For more information, maps, and a full event schedule, visit www.fallsfestturners.com.

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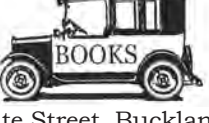
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OP ED Pushback Over Moody Cabins Expected

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Call it what you want – a glampground, a campground, or a plain old housing development – but what may or may not happen on Pierson Road next month will be another chapter in the ongoing saga involving the D.L. Moody Center.

The people who live on the quiet half-mile stretch that connects Winchester Road and Route 63 near the state line have endured the looming threat that dozens of cabins and tent sites will be built on the former NMH athletic fields across from their homes.

When architect Christian Arnold of Clockwork Architecture in Kansas City presented “Idyllwood” to the Northfield planning board five years ago, the rendering showed a handsome A-frame structure in the shade of a manicured pine grove with a walking path to a scenic overlook.

The problem as always with the Moody Center’s plans is that they are grandiose and unrealistic. The accompanying photo shows what Idyllwood looks like today and the cost and effort it would take to transform it from a desolate field

surrounded by woods, dense undergrowth, and dead timber into something idyllic.

Here’s where the worm turns. Now that the D.L. Moody Center has its special permit, who says it has to be idyllic? Late last month planning board chair Steve Serebinski said flatbed trucks will begin hauling prefab cabins onto the field in November.

Opponents are telling me off the record that they plan to push back on the project when building inspector Jim Hawkins shows up at town hall this week.

Their argument will be that the planning board signed off on a campground, not a manufactured housing community. No one is holding out much hope, however, because developers do what they want once they get their special building permits.

“The water system, board of health, and building issues are all happening way too fast,” said one longtime Pierson Road resident. “They’ll do it first and ask for forgiveness later.”

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



SUBMITTED IMAGE



AINSWORTH PHOTO

Above: This image of an A-frame was circulated by the Moody Center five years ago. Below: The center plans to drop dozens of pre-fabricated cabins here next month.

HOSPITALS from page A1

with Heywood Healthcare leadership to assist in whatever way we can to work towards the best possible outcome,” the statement shared on Monday read. “The critical healthcare services it provides are essential to maintaining the quality of life in and around this city, North Central, and North Quabbin areas.”

Kim Fuller, a Heywood Hospital nurse, Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) member, and co-chair of the union’s bargaining committee at the hospital told the *Reporter* that maintaining the hospital’s full operation is a top priority for the union.

“MNA nurses at Heywood Hospital are dedicated to our patients and ensuring our community retains a full-service hospital,” Fuller said. “We are reviewing the decision by Heywood’s executives to enter bankruptcy and will use all means at our disposal to protect nurses and healthcare access for our patients.”

Heywood Healthcare filed voluntarily for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a process which gives firms the opportunity to propose plans to reorganize, stay in business, and pay their debts, often with help from another entity. The hospital’s creditors will be able to vote on whether to approve the reorganization plan, which must also receive court approval.

“This path enables us to continue to provide essential healthcare services to our community, while restructuring historical financial obligations,” Sullivan said.

Dismantling Services

The filing comes amidst a tumultuous year for the Heywood Healthcare network. In January, discussions of a potential merger with the UMass Memorial Health fell through, with officials citing “bad timing” and financial factors. In April, Heywood Hospital announced it was discontinuing its pulmonary outpatient services.

In early June longtime Heywood CEO Win Brown was suddenly ousted and replaced by two co-CEOs, Sullivan and Rozanna Penney. A week later an emergency room nurse in Gardner was stabbed in the neck by a patient, prompting an overhaul of the hospital’s safety protocols. Construction of the building’s new surgical wing, a project championed by Brown while he was CEO, was halted later that month due to financial difficulties.

In July the hospital’s pediatric sub-unit was of-

ficially shut down after three years of inactivity. Last month a longtime physical therapy contractor, Quartulli & Associates, ended its contract with Heywood Healthcare, resulting in the unexpected cancellation of some patients’ appointments.

Dawn Casavant, Heywood’s vice president of external affairs and philanthropy, did not return a request for comment about this week’s bankruptcy announcement. As of press time, communications director Kelly Cacciolfi did not answer follow-up questions by email and telephone about the hospital’s Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates, electronic filing system, or stalled construction project, or what Heywood means when it describes itself as a “community-owned” hospital.

Prior to the tumult, Heywood Healthcare saw several years of significant growth. In 2013 it acquired Athol Memorial Hospital and its affiliated healthcare offices and began planning for the construction of a new emergency room, now complete. Construction of Heywood Hospital’s ambitious new surgical wing began in the summer of 2022, but was paused after the former CEO’s forced departure.

In the MNA’s view, Heywood Healthcare’s focus on growth has come at the expense of the hospital’s core services and bedside care.

“Heywood nurses have been concerned for years about the dismantling of the hospital’s services, especially pediatric and mental health beds,” Fuller said. “We have fought back against unsafe staffing, [emergency department] overcrowding, and a lack of staff and public input into decision-making.”

All staff members and community stakeholders should have a say in Heywood’s future plans, Fuller said, and the plans should prioritize giving staff the resources they need to maintain high-quality patient care.

Critical Access

“It is no secret that community hospitals across the United States are and have been facing increasing challenges and that many have closed their doors. Including many in more populated, more affluent locations,” the state and city officials wrote in Monday’s statement on Heywood’s bankruptcy filing. “An examination of the list of community hospitals that existed at the start of the century would find some closed, and many consolidated.”

In 2014, North Adams Regional Hospital was

considering a merger with the Pittsfield-based Berkshire Health Systems, WAMC reported, but filed for bankruptcy and abruptly shut down before a deal was finalized. Nearly a decade later, Berkshire runs an emergency room at the North Adams facility, and has announced plans to reopen 25 beds next year for inpatient care.

Earning the federal designation of a “critical access hospital” is central to Berkshire Health’s plans to reopen the North Adams hospital. The designation, which applies to rural hospitals more than 35 miles from the next-closest hospital with 25 or fewer acute-care beds, comes with additional “cost-based reimbursement” for Medicare and Medicaid services. This additional revenue from the federal government can be essential for keeping the doors open.

While Athol Hospital is a critical access facility, Heywood Hospital is not. Both hospitals operate 24-hour emergency rooms, but Heywood has 153 inpatient beds, compared with 25 beds in Athol.

In Franklin County, this year has brought slightly better news for health services. After four years of threatening to close the mental health wing of its Baystate Franklin hospital in Greenfield, the Springfield-based network Baystate Health announced it would reverse course and keep it open.

Baystate Health also recently sold a disused medical office in Montague City to the Community Health Center of Franklin County, which intends to expand primary-care services overflowing from its facility in downtown Greenfield.

UMass Memorial Health, a Worcester-based hospital network with locations in Leominster, Fitchburg, Marlborough, and Clinton announced last week that it is exploring a potential merger with two regional healthcare networks headquartered in Milford, the *Boston Globe* reported.

Earlier this year UMass Memorial announced its intent to close a birthing center at one of its Leominster facilities, prompting a four-hour, emotionally charged public hearing last July before the state Department of Public Health.

If it closes, the Gardner hospital’s maternity care center will find itself serving a larger region.

“[T]he closure of Leominster Hospital’s Birthing Center makes it even more important that Heywood preserve its essential services,” Fuller said.

“Nurses and other staff should be truly respected and given the resources they need so that Heywood can improve its staffing and provide quality patient care.”




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PARKING from page A1

director Megan McDonough had barely begun her initial presentation on the project. Several large poster boards displayed at the meeting, held Saturday morning in the town hall annex room, showed an architect's conception of six affordable homes where a town parking lot now sits on First Street.

The house at the southwest end of the project, next to open land owned by Chris Couture, would only be one story, and parking would be included on its lot.

The other five would be two-story, single-family homes, and as the lots climb an incline to the First Street alley, each would have a rear entrance on the second floor, and parking behind it. A row of trees at the rear of the lots would be cut down, and a strip of town land along the alley long used for parking by Second Street residents would be designated for the First Street homeowners.

The plan is the result of a bidding process that began last December, after town meeting approved rezoning the vacant town lot and the adjacent Couture land to encourage affordable housing.

Habitat was the only entity that responded to a request for proposals. Their six-unit proposal was approved by both the planning board and selectboard in late February, though both boards will need to approve a final design in the coming weeks, according to town planner Maureen Pollock.

Habitat For Humanity International, as it is now called, grew out of Koinonia Farm, an interracial Christian community founded in 1942 in rural Georgia. The farm, a product of the early Civil Rights era, survived the extreme violence of "massive resistance" to integration in the 1950s and early '60s. As the violence subsided in the late 1960s the farm turned to a social-service model, building affordable homes with volunteer labor. Koinonia became Habitat For Humanity in

1976, and formally incorporated as an international organization the following year.

In 1984 Habitat was joined by former President Jimmy Carter, who had initiated a similar program in New York City the previous year, and the publicity for its projects attracted numerous celebrity volunteers and helped the organization thrive. (The perception that Carter founded Habitat is called a "myth" on the Pioneer Valley Habitat website.)

The Pioneer Valley affiliate of the national organization, created in 1989, serves communities in Franklin and Hampshire counties. Since that time it has completed 48 homes, according to McDonough, including three in Montague: two around the corner on L Street and one on Warner Street in Montague City.

The Habitat model keeps the cost of homeownership low with subsidies, financed in part through fundraising and volunteer labor. Applicants are required to commit to a specific number of volunteer hours to help to construct their homes.

McDonough told the *Reporter* the Pioneer Valley affiliate seeks to limit home prices to \$200,000, and annual mortgage payments to 30% of a family's income. The minimum income requirement for applicants is \$30,000 per year and the maximum is targeted at \$50,000, she said, but depends on family size and other factors. On the last project completed by her organization, the maximum income allowed for a family of four was \$56,000.

The six-unit proposal presented at Saturday's meeting is prominently posted on the organization's website, www.pvhabitat.org. This publicity – and McDonough's very abbreviated initial presentation at the meeting – may have created the impression that the elimination of public parking in the First Street alley was a done deal.

There seemed to be no room for parking on individual lots in the proposed design, and parking in a shared lot, condominium-style, was portrayed by Habitat officials

as contradicting the plan for individual homeownership.

Several speakers, including Charles Emery, said that the First Street alley was the only alley in Turners Falls where public parking is allowed.

Residents asked whether the number of homes in the proposal could be reduced to five, leaving enough space for parking in each individual lots, as was being proposed for the home on the southeast end of the project. At the meeting it was not clear whether this proposal would be seriously considered.

Pollock told the *Reporter* that the original request for proposals for affordable housing would have also allowed five residential units, and McDonough indicated to us that such a modification might be considered by Habitat.

"Last week's community meeting, held by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, provided an opportunity to engage neighbors about the proposed affordable housing project on First St.," Pollock wrote, "and to discuss any concerns, before they finalize the site plan for Planning Board review. I believe Habitat is considering if and how to modify their site plan to address neighbors' concerns about parking.

"Once Habitat submits its application, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the review and approval of the site plan. A legal ad will be published in the *Montague Reporter* and owners of properties within 300 feet of the project site will be notified by regular mail about the public hearing date, time, and location."

Jen Audley, who lives in downtown Turners Falls and is the former chair of the town finance committee, said at Saturday's meeting that she believed that the town is responsive to public input, and that she felt a potential "compromise" on the parking issue was possible.

"Now is the time to make suggestions," Audley said.



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TOWN OF GILL – Board of Health

A Public Hearing will be held by the Gill Board of Health at the Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA, on **October 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM** to consider adopting "Regulations for Body Art Establishments and Practitioners."

Among its provisions the regulations, if adopted, establish sanitation and sterilization requirements for Body Art Establishments and minimum health standards to which Body Art Practitioners must comply. Eighteen (18) is proposed as the minimum age to receive a Tattoo, and Mobile Body Art Establishments would be prohibited. The regulations require Body Art Establishments and Practitioners to be permitted annually by Board of Health and also provide for twice yearly compliance inspections of Body Art Establishments and penalties for violating the regulations.

The proposed regulations are available for inspection on the Town's website www.gillmass.org and at the Town Hall offices during business hours.

TOWN OF LEVERETT
COUNCIL ON AGING MEALSITE MANAGER

The Town of Leverett is seeking a responsible person to serve as the Council on Aging Mealsite Manager, who is responsible for management of the Leverett weekly meals program. Duties include: Preparing weekly meals; coordinating, supervising and training mealsite volunteers; submitting required reports; coordinating special events, such as picnics, volunteer lunches, speakers and activities; coordinating nutrition and needed inspections.

Qualifications include Food Safe Certification or the ability to get certified within two months of hire; knowledge of food preparation, serving and cleaning procedures and equipment; self-motivation; good organizational and communication skills; and empathetic and cheerful personality.

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) background check required.
Annual Salary is \$4,049 per year.
Expected hours required is 5 hours per week.

Applications are due to the Council on Aging by October 16, 2023. Questions should be directed to Judi Fonsh at judifonsh@gmail.com.
Leverett is an AA/EOE.

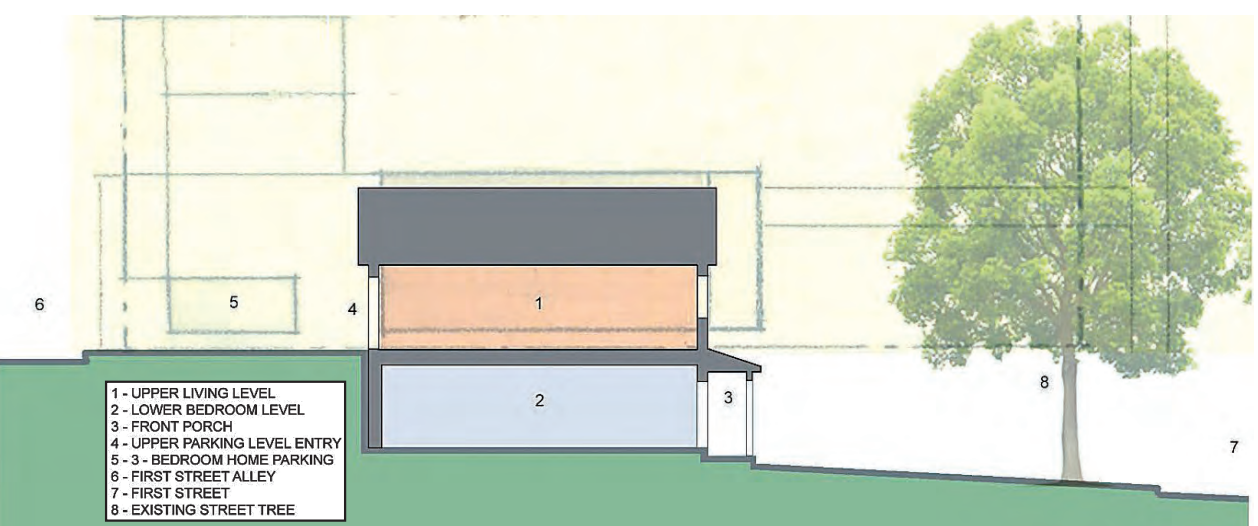
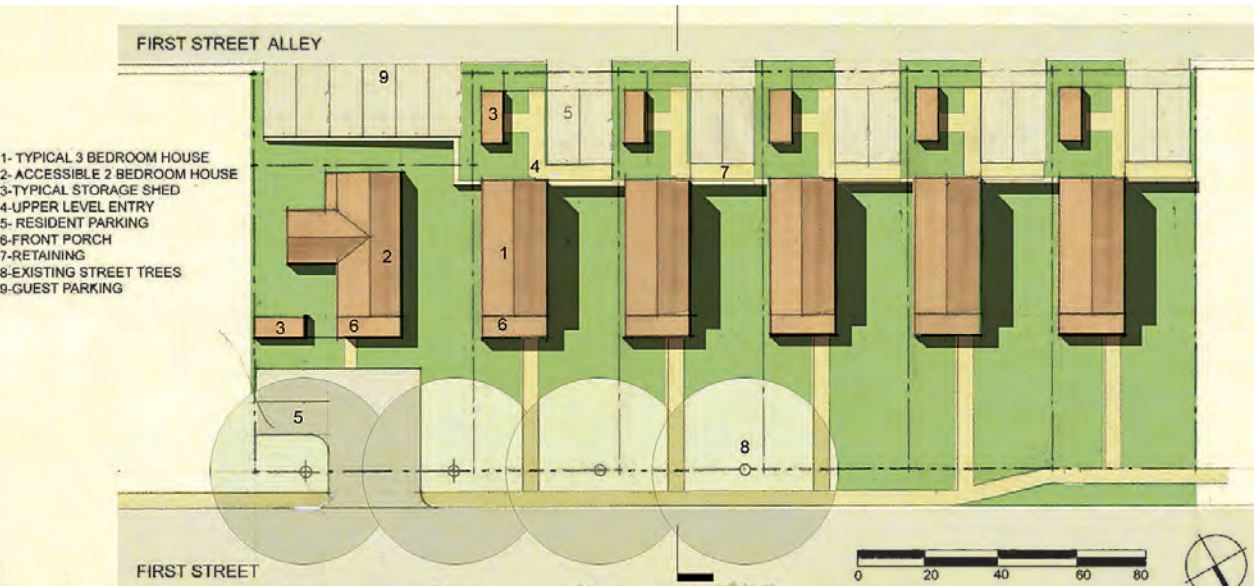
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Narcan Training!

TURNERS FALLS – Do you know how to help someone you suspect has overdosed on opiates? Come to the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, for a free Narcan training next Tuesday, October 10 at 1 p.m.

This 45-minute training course will provide you with the knowledge and confidence you need to respond to a known or suspected opioid overdose emergency. You will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, how to provide the appropriate emergency care based on the person's breathing and responsiveness and how to give naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Our trainer is FRCOG community health nurse Robin Neipp. This training is free and open to the public, but attendance is limited; call the Senior Center at (413) 863-9357 to sign up.



Drawings by Kuhn Riddle Architects in the proposal submitted last winter by Habitat for Humanity show the plan to use the full lot offered by the town, giving each of the five families in the two-story homes a storage shed and two parking spaces at the edge of the public alley. These would provide elevated rear entrances. Habitat heard criticism this week from residents who park on the lot.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

and a portion of Fifth Street, northwest of Avenue A, would be blocked by a fire truck.

"The subtitle for this meeting could be 'Klon Closes Streets,'" joked Koehler.

Koehler went on to say that after meeting with Montague police lieutenant Chris Bonnett and Turners Falls fire chief Todd Brunelle, the organizers came to the conclusion that "it makes a whole lot more sense to close Avenue A at least between Third and Seventh... It's a big improvement for public safety, and it also gives us a little more room to play with in terms of added programming on the street."

"Still no vendors on the street," he added. "It's still all Avenue A businesses."

Koehler said parking would also be eliminated between Third and Second street to "grant the sidewalks a little more breathing room," and that he was investigating renting bike racks to block the parking spaces.

Public health director Ryan Paxton said his department had not received applications for permits from any vendors. He pointed to the food vendor in Peskempuskut Park, noting that alcohol is considered a food according to Massachusetts law. Koehler said he would work with Linda Tardif, managing director of the Shea Theater Arts Center which is handling the permitting for the event, to obtain a health permit for the beer tent at the park

Koehler also requested that the town provide more sawhorses than the public works department appears to have on hand to block Avenue A. Town administrator Steve Ellis said this was a "budgetary decision" by the DPW.

The board approved an amendment to the original "use of property" permit voted the previous week.

An entertainment license for the Rendezvous restaurant, for a portion of the Third Street parking lot on the afternoon of the festival, was also approved. Rendezvous co-owner Mark Wisniewski told the board it would be for the part of the lot abutting the restaurant which the business was allowed to use for food and alcohol service during the pandemic shutdown.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto requested a letter of support of her application for training sessions in public art sponsored by the New England Foundation for the Arts. LoManto said the six virtual sessions, in which up to three town employees could participate, would qualify Montague for a \$15,000 grant for a work of public art. The board approved the letter.

The board also approved a request from libraries director Caitlin Kelley for the use of the steps of the Montague Center branch library for an evening concert next Wednesday, October 11 from 4:30 to 7:45 p.m. The concert, which begins at 6, will feature Conway resident Jenny Burtis, who performed last June at the Montague Center Common Hall. Center Street will be closed to traffic in front of the building during the event.

Road Safety

During public participation time Ken Morin, who resides on Kimberly Lane, made the case for the need for sidewalk repairs on Montague City Road between Walnut Street and Turnpike Road. Armed

with photographs, which he presented to the board, he said that some portions of the sidewalk in question were "impassable" and dangerous for handicapped residents in wheelchairs. In another location, he said, "someone just needs to just scrape four inches of mud off the sidewalk."

The selectboard alerted public works superintendent Tom Bergeron, who was attending the meeting, to the problem.

On the downside, Ellis announced that an earmark to the town for sewer system improvements proposed by Senator Markey had not passed muster in Congress.

Bergeron had previously requested \$10,000 from the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to install two flashing blue "beacons" on Avenue A to warn of an impending "snow emergency," which requires residents to move cars off of downtown streets for plowing. Bergeron said there had been poor communication of such emergencies last year after the all-winter parking ban, which applies to other sections of Montague, was eliminated in downtown Turners.

Bergeron noted that "a lot of other towns" in the region used flashing blue lights to alert residents of snow emergencies. He said he had contacted the company that Amherst uses and received a quote of \$7,860 for two lights and a five-year service plan, but no installation.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey noted that \$4,242 still remained in the budget from an earlier appropriation for snow emergency signage.

Kuklewicz asked Bergeron whether he could finance the balance from his own budget, given the unfilled staff openings at the DPW. Bergeron said he could do so, but that if he "got lucky" and hired staff to the positions, "I would see you guys in May with a budget request." The selectboard did not take a vote on the matter.

Grants Out the Wazoo

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority came before the board with a long list of requests involving federal community development block grants, which his agency administers.

With regard to the block grant from FY'21, the board approved a payment to the engineering firm Berkshire Design for construction oversight of the Avenue A streetscape project, and transfers of unspent money from two projects into a fund that may be used for infrastructure projects under future block grants.

The board then approved three requests involving the combined FY'22/'23 block grant: to sign an agreement with McHugh's organization to administer the grants; to sign similar agreements with five social service agencies funded under the grants; and to award a contract for bidding and construction oversight for the new Hillcrest Elementary playground to Berkshire Design.

Ramsey announced that Montague had received a \$71,400 Green Communities grant from the state, which will be used for LED lighting upgrades in Montague Center and part of the cost of an electric vehicle for town inspectional services.

At Ellis's request, the board authorized a \$11,400 state grant for municipal recycling.

Fair and Green

Ellis briefly discussed the impact of the state distribution of Fair Share, or "Millionaires' Tax," money, as covered in the last issue of the *Montague Reporter* (September 28, *Millionaires' Money Is Here*, Page A1). He emphasized that significant increases are expected in aid for road and bridge repair, in part due to the fact that half of the state's total allocation will be distributed according to a formula emphasizing road mileage, which benefits rural communities.

On the downside, he announced that an earmark to the town for sewer collection system improvements proposed by Senator Markey had not passed muster in Congress.

Ramsey reviewed an administrative order from the Wetlands division of the state Department of Environmental Protection requiring that the town upgrade the system for mitigating stormwater runoff from the recently capped former burn dump on Sandy Lane.

The town, he said, now has an approved design for the mitigation and 30 days to commence construction, and could cover the \$20,000 cost of the design, which it is responsible for, from balances within an "unexpected engineering" account.

The selectboard approved a contract with Alliance Clean Energy to construct a solar photovoltaic system on the town hall annex roof.

Other Business

The board appointed Robert Bessette to the position of heavy equipment operator in the public works department, and endorsed a phone stipend for Kyle Bessette, the new collection system lead operator. They appointed Elena Pepe-Salutric as a substitute library assistant.

Jeffrey Bache was appointed as the town's alternate gas and plumbing inspector, and Todd Weed as the alternate electrical inspector.

Ellis reviewed the process for a study of town staff's job classifications and pay. He portrayed it as a collaboration between staff and the organization hired to create a comparative policy analysis, the UMass Collins Center.

Elli asked whether the selectboard, which would eventually vote on the study's recommendations, wished to play a more active role. Member Matt Lord agreed to be a conduit for "feedback" if it was deemed necessary.

The town administrator also briefly touched on next year's budget process, asking if the board would like to see a presentation of projected revenues and expenses in October before he sends guidelines to department heads next month. After a long silence, followed by scattered statements of concern, the board informally agreed to an early budget presentation.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, as October 9 is a holiday.

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

Here's the way it was on October 3, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Erving Money Matters

The Erving selectboard reviewed a draft warrant for the November town meeting. It includes requests for \$40,000 for a new police cruiser, \$5,000 for a recreation administrative clerk, and \$3,000 for the historical commission to reopen the Pearl B. Care building. It would also transfer \$20,000 to buy new wastewater pumps.

Compost from Sludge

The Montague Water Pollution Control Facility has begun a one-to-three-year experiment to gener-

ate compost from sewage sludge cake and wood chips. Its two goals are to reduce the facility's solids disposal costs and to improve its environmental impact.

More is Still MoRe!

From the Managing Editor:

Since May 2012 we have been a two-section paper, but we went right on pretending it was just one section that accidentally came apart. Since that other thing is here to stay, we've decided to give it a name.

We don't know how long we'll stick with "MoRe" (get it?), but we do like the idea of having an A and a B section. We figure B can be where we'll quarantine a lot of the culture and enjoyment.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 2, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Downtown Upgrades

More than 30 residents attended a MassHighway hearing for the Millers Falls Streetscape Improvement project. Chief landscape architect Johannes Wagner said the design is meant to improve pedestrian access, add parking, improve traffic flow and safety, and improve the aesthetic appeal of the downtown area.

"The residents of Millers Falls deserve any upgrade that we can do for the community," said selectwoman Pat Allen.

Downtown Beautification

They came from around the corner and up on the Hill, across

the river and out of state. Bearing gloves, garden tools and trash bags, about three dozen people spanning three generations spent three hours of energetic activity, sprucing up Spinner Park at the main crossroads of Turners Falls. Several visitors were later heard to say what potential this charming town has.

Downtown Betterment

The Erving town meeting approved funding new park equipment for Zilinski Field, Veterans Field, and Church Street. The specific needs are for ground cover for playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, grills, swings, and baseball infield rehabilitation. \$37,000 will be spent on renovations to the historical society building, including electrical upgrades, roof repairs, siding and trim, windows, a fire escape, and a new well.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on October 1, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

The new steam fire engine has arrived.

Over 400 hands are at work in the Cutlery. They are now running a quarter extra time in the trip hammer shop.

The Town Meeting on Saturday should be largely attended.

The roof of Father Quaille's residence is ready for the sheathing. The building shows off Seventh street to better advantage.

The heavy rain of Monday night made the rivermen feel good. The work of sorting the logs at the upper booms goes along rapidly.

Miss Sophia Parshow, daughter of Joseph Parshow, died in this town on Tuesday evening, from tetanus (lock) jaw resulting from accidentally piercing her foot with a rusty nail on Tuesday. She was a fine girl, and generally liked among her acquaintances.

The German Sunday School will hold their concert on Sunday evening next at 7 o'clock, in the upper room of the old school house. A good programme of recitations and singing in both the German and English languages has been prepared, and it is hoped that as many of their friends as can will favor them with their presence.

The loss of our splendid schoolhouse by fire is the sorest blow ever inflicted upon the town of Montague. We do not now propose to say who is to blame, or attempt to correct the thousand and one idle stories and positive lies afloat. That 200 children are upon the streets as the result is too painfully apparent. As the policy of the town, for all time, has been to avoid insuring its property, it must bear the loss without striving to lay the responsibility where it does not belong. The total loss is about \$15,000.

The beautiful moonlight nights are here, and lovers can wander forth to whisper soft nothings and pick their steps through the mud.



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- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

MONTAGUE REPORTER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ON THE ROAD

Our August 24 edition traveled to Québec... "Here is a shot of me with the Reporter at the St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal," writes Turners Falls reader Luke Beeson. "Thanks for letting me get involved with the paper too!"

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Student Performance And Concert At Sheffield

TURNERS FALLS – Join Música Franklin next Thursday, October 12, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., for a student performance and family-friendly concert with Banda K-ri-B.

Banda K-ri-B is a band from New England that was formed in the summer of 2023 by four talented and dynamic musicians from three different Caribbean origins, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. These musicians currently work together for several different national and international artists, and they decided to unite their talents for a new project focused on Caribbean music.

The members are William "Wilo" Rodriguez, voice and percussion; Rene González, voice and bass; Ahmed González, voice and flute; and Abraham "Abe" Sanchez, voice and keyboards.

This concert will take place at Sheffield Elementary School, 43 Crocker Ave in Turners Falls, and is free and open to the public. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Gill and Montague Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

MONTAGUE Fall Festival

Saturday, October 7th

10:00 AM to 3:00PM
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ERVING from page A1

information session planned for October 11 should go.

The officials agreed that a "statement of facts" about the override proposal would be prepared by selectboard chair Jacob Smith, and the other two committees would sign it.

An information packet will then be prepared for the public for the October 11 session which will include this statement, in addition to a sheet showing what the extra money the town was requesting was for, and one showing how much it would cost taxpayers.

The sheet showing how much it would cost will be laid out with the intention of making it easy for taxpayers to figure out what the impact of the override would be on their specific bills. A glossary would also be included, as a bunch of language used in this discussion is uncommon.

Jacquelyn Boyden of the planning board reminded all present that they should be prepared to explain what Proposition 2½ is, what overriding it means, and what the town's "levy ceiling" is.

Town planner Mariah Kurtz had already prepared a slideshow that included most of this material, and agreed to prepare the rest of the packet, with the help of Boyden and selectboard member Scott Bastarache.

The joint meeting also discussed a proposal to repair the Farley Road bridge. Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory explained that he and the crew from the town of Wendell can do short-term maintenance which needs to be done, but that there is more work they will not be able to do that the state will have to be involved with.

Given that one side of the bridge

is in Erving and the other side is in Wendell, the town of Wendell will have to be involved in further discussions about long-term repairs.

Bastarache joked that the town could gift the bridge to Wendell.

In the brief selectboard-only meeting preceding the joint session, the board appointed Holly Fitzpatrick, Robert Holst, and Laura Bezio to the cemetery commission, filling that commission, and approved hiring Jaime Wells as a new custodian.

A public event will be held to commemorate the safety work done to the French King Bridge at 11 a.m. next Thursday, October 12 at the French King Restaurant. The selectboard's newest member, James Loynd, said he plans to be there, and the other members said they will attend it if they can.

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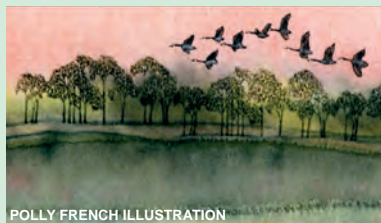
HANNAH BROOKMAN IMAGE

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

OCTOBER 5, 2023

Above: Wedding celebrants make their way from K Street to the Elks Lodge on Saturday.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

OCTOBER MIST AND FOG

POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – I sat out in the morning mist the other day, wondering if I could coax out a story from my pen. In spite of having my October writing hat on, not much was coming to the page.

Then out of the fog and just over the opening in the damp woods flew a great, blue heron.

He was there, then he wasn't.

Now, for some of us tuned in to signs brought by birds, they don't just come along, just to appear and disappear. Usually they've got a reason, maybe even a message. But this one, taking seriously his silent role as the Old Man of the River, just winged through the fog, not noticing me below, cleared the roof peak ridgeline of this old house, and seemed to row through the fog, off on his heron business.

Of course, that got me to thinking about other mists and fogs I used to know.

One of my earliest fogs had me on the river long ago, in our old wooden rowboat on September a day or two before school started. I was probably about 12 at the time, and maybe headed for the first day of grammar school over on Crocker Avenue.

The Connecticut was blanketed in wreaths of bright mist.

Dog and I were out there saying good-bye to the summer of 1957 by taking the boat out early in the morning and drifting through the fog at the Narrows. We kept a boat tied there, chained to some alder saplings just below the house on Carlisle Avenue that overlooked the Narrows.

Dog, perched in the bow of the boat where she always kept watch, peered through the mist ready to jump onto dry land and explore some new secret place that we were surely about to discover. She quiv-

ered with excitement and intensity.

I rowed slowly, trying to keep the oars from creaking in their oar locks. If they did creak, all you had to do was dip the coffee can kept for bailing, catch some water, and pour a bit between the oar lock and oar pin. That'd do the trick. We liked to float silently close to ducks not suspecting to meet us as we slipped up on them in all the whiteness of the fog. Startled, they'd paddle off quickly, then leap into the air and be gone.

Floating through the Narrows, we left a faint trail of circles on the surface of the waters where I dipped the oars slowly, not needing much to push the rowboat along. Shipping the oars to glide, I watched the drops falling from the paddles make faint quiet circles on the surface, soon to disappear.

Looking back, I guess my 12-year-old self was saying good-bye to that innocent period of adolescence, good-bye to that summer of bike rides with my best friend, baseball games over at the Housing Project, sleeping over at my grandparents' house where I now live. But a 12-year-old doesn't think about things like that, not until much, much later.

Other fogs have caught me off guard.

Ocean fog can turn up quickly, even if you're not out to sea, just plain standing on the shore, feet barely wet. Out on a stretch of beach at Plum Island the fog moved in one warm morning, and suddenly I found myself completely alone. The dunes behind me had disappeared, the silent waves spreading up to me over the sand flats, now invisible.

In whatever direction I looked or turned, there was a sudden wall of white mist. For one like me who thrives on being alone and solitary, this was quite a gift. The world had

see **WEST ALONG** page B4



BOOKS

Listening, Outward ... and inward



By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Christian McEwen says part of the genesis of her new book, *In Praise of Listening*, was in her experience of listening and eliciting stories while preparing material for two previ-

ous projects, a book titled *World Enough & Time: On Creativity and Slowing Down* and *Legal Tender*, a play about women's relationship to money.

"I have come to feel that in schools there are debating societies, and people are taught to

their thoughts in logical order," the Williamsburg, Massachusetts-based writer and educator explains to me in a recent interview, "and they can make arguments, but they aren't encouraged to *listen well*."

In her new book, which comes out on October 10 from Bauhan Publishing, she has gathered stories from a variety of expert listeners who describe their practice of paying deep attention. These are ornithologists, musicians, doctors, writers, spiritual practitioners, naturalists, and others who she says "know more about listening than I do."

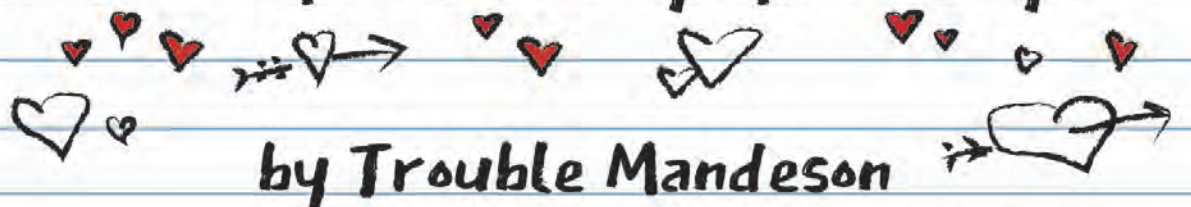
McEwen writes in praise of "the pause" that a good listener will employ. Letting a conversation pool out into silence, she writes, allows the mind to "perform some of its most vital work: both maintaining

see **LISTENING** page B8



Christian McEwen holds a copy of her latest book, *In Praise of Listening*.

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE



GREENFIELD – I am knee deep in tomatoes this week, and it's the juiciest time ever. I know that recent flooding affected some area crops, including tomatoes, but those that did survive seem to be incredibly sweet this year. I've been cooking them down into sauce and paste for the past week, and I can still taste their sweet tartness on my tongue.

I've also been steadily making lasagnas for people in the community, so it's great to be able to run down the cellar stairs to grab a jar of canned tomatoes when I get the call. With just a pinch of salt added in, the tomatoes are a blank canvas with which to create spaghetti or pizza sauce.

I add tomato paste and a handful of garden herbs to my sauces, and salt and fresh-ground black pepper to taste, and then I let it simmer on the stove as I do other tasks. If the sauce tastes a little too sour I might toss in a pinch of sugar to try to balance it out. If it's too sweet, stirring in a squeeze of lemon juice or vinegar can help.



A simple dish to prepare: Sliced tomatoes are delicious layered with fresh mozzarella cheese and basil, drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with salt. Sometimes they never make it to a plate but are individually dressed and devoured while standing over the sink.

Tomato paste is super concentrated. It adds the *umami* flavor to the pot; *umami* is one of the five basic tastes and is in the savory category. The paste is rich and salty and only a small amount is needed. I began making my own years ago when I got tired of throwing out the remainder of every can of tomato paste I ever opened. They're small cans, but

still too big to use up in a single recipe. Now I can freeze it, and use as little or as much as I need.

The consumption of tomatoes goes back to the Aztecs in 700 AD Mesoamerica. Their name for it in the Nahuatl language was *tomatl*. A member of the nightshade family, tomato seeds traveled with Spanish

see **HEARTFELT** page B5



KEVIN BRULE PHOTO

Great blue heron, *Ardea herodias*.

Pet of the Week



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you how joyful life can be with a cat friend – adopt him today and make heartwarming memories together!

Interested? 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.)

EVENT PREVIEW

Fantasy and Science Fiction Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

DEERFIELD – This Sunday, October 8 there will be a Fantasy and Science Fiction Festival featuring local authors at the Deerfield community center. It's a benefit for the Tilton Library renovation fund. I decided it would be a cool topic to cover.

I thought I could only get a hold of someone at the Tilton Library to talk about it. However, I was put in touch with one of the authors who is going to be at the event, who also turned out to be behind it. His name is James Cambias, and his books include *A Darkling Sea* and the *Billion Worlds* stories.

The other authors that will be there are Holly Black (*Book of Night*, *The Stolen Heir*, and the *Spiderwick* series), Andrea Hairston (*Will Do Magic For Small Change*, *Redwood and Wildfire*), and Allen Steele, author of the *Coyote* series and the new *Captain Future* series.

Getting a hold of an author who is going to be there to talk makes this even cooler. I also have some familiarity with the *Spiderwick* series.

As to how James Cambias made this event happen, he told me he got a hold of each author himself. “I know a lot of the authors myself,” he said. “I contacted all of them directly by email in connection with doing the event. Several other writers were interested in participating, but couldn't make the date it was going to be on.”

Cambias is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tilton Library, which this event is raising funds for. He has actually written six books, and in his words, “I am working on the seventh.” His novels have been translated into four languages other than English. His website at www.JamesCambias.com has links to his published and unpublished work.

The plan for the event is a discussion panel, with James as the moderator. That will be the first half of the event. “There will also be some readings for our current works, or whatever people want to read. After the readings, there will be book signings and a chance to say hello to the writers

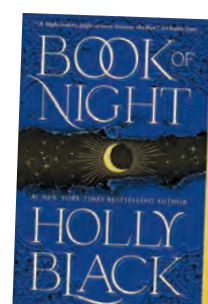
they like,” James added.

Cambias said he knows a couple of the other authors pretty well. He has known Allen Steele since the early 2000s when he moved to Deerfield. “Holly Black and I were both doing role-playing writing in the '90s,” he told me. “I remember running into her at GENCON, the big role-playing convention. It's the biggest role-playing convention in the country. It has been going on since the '70s.”

As to why he writes what he writes: “I have been a fan of science fiction since I was 8,” he said, “and have wanted to write science fiction since I was 14.... I seem to have a small but very devoted fan base when it comes to my books.”

Cambias told me he hopes a lot of people will show up on Sunday. He also told me: “If it's successful, we will do this again.”

The benefit takes place from 3 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, October 8 at the Deerfield Community Center, 16 Memorial Street, (Old) Deerfield. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$10 for ages 12 and under, cash only, and the event is first come, first served.



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Working Weavers Studio Trail

FLORENCE – The Working Weavers organization will host its fifth Studio Trail tour on the weekend of October 14 and 15, with eight weavers in Florence, Conway, and Shelburne Falls opening their studios to the public for demonstrations and sales from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

“We are weavers dedicated to bringing handwoven textiles into the future,” said Paula Veleta, one of two founding members of Working Weavers. “Our mission is to make cloth visible again by producing and selling high-quality textiles as well as by presenting the process and the people who make weaving their livelihood. We picked October for the Studio Trail because it's fall foliage season – a nice time of year to drive from one end of the Valley to the other.”

The organization's website, workingweavers.com, has suggested routes for traveling to the various studios, with suggested stops at restaurants, pubs, inns and local attractions along the way. The tour typically generates about 1,000 visitors.

- *Tonya Grant, 8 South Cooper Lane, Shelburne Falls:* New this year, Grant specializes in drawloom weaving, creating complex patterns and images within a damask fabric.

- *Emily Gwynn and guest weaver Lisa Bertoldi, 124 North Street, Shelburne Falls:* Gwynn's business, Hands to Work Textiles, focuses on heirloom-quality table linens and other household textiles and is influenced by both traditional and mid-century Scandinavian design. Bertoldi specializes in durable, absorbent kitchen towels in cotton and linen.

- *Lisa Hill, 156 Elmer Road, Conway:* Hill, the master weaver behind the business Plain Weave, is a teacher, designer, and writer who works out of her 1840s barn in Conway.

- *Scott Norris, 20 Wilder Place, Florence:* Norris, of Elam's Widow, weaves exclusively hand-dyed fine linen for table and kitchen use.

- *Chris Hammel, 221 Pine Street, Studio #315, Florence:* Hammel is a scholar, teacher, and master weaver who directs the Hill Institute and operates her studio, Ekphrasis Defined Designs, where she creates exquisite textiles for use in the home or to wear.

- *Veleta and her guest Megan Karlen, 221 Pine Street, Studio #338, Florence:* Veleta, of Studio 338 Handwoven, produces woven fabrics in her studio at the Arts & Industry Building in Florence, using her intricately designed textiles to create adornments for the home and body. Karlen's work is in direct relation to her desire to see more beauty in the world.



Weaver Megan Karlen at her loom.

Veleta said most of the professionals in the group are handweavers who use traditional wooden looms with no mechanization. “Weavers open their studios, often inside their own homes, and welcome the public to see how cloth is made,” she said. “They invite you to touch, explore and experience hand-woven cloth and are happy to speak with you at length about their tools, materials and processes.”

Visitors can purchase high-quality handwoven goods directly from the weavers.

“It's something all of us use, but we take it for granted and don't realize how it's produced,” Veleta explained. “During the tour, we offer information on the history of woven cloth. It's connected to human existence, and has a very old history. We like to bring it to people's attention again.”

One optional tour feature is the Trail Pass. This \$2 pass is stamped by each weaver along the route and turned in at the last studio as an entry into a drawing; the winner may choose from a selection of handwoven items or a \$100 gift certificate that can be redeemed with any of this year's Working Weavers.

For more information, contact paulaerk@comcast.net or (413) 320-0808, or visit workingweavers.com. The Studio Trail tour may be printed out as a PDF.

Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 9 THROUGH 13

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 at (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 10/9

- 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
- 11 a.m. Chair Exercise
- 12 p.m. Pot Luck

Tuesday 10/10

- 9 a.m. Zumba Lite
- 1 p.m. Narcan Training
- 3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 10/11

- 9 a.m. Foot Clinic
- 9:15 a.m. Aerobics
- 11 a.m. Chair Exercise
- 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
- 3 p.m. Flu and Covid Clinic (pre-registration required)

Thursday 10/12

- 9 a.m. Chair Yoga

- 1 p.m. Cards & Games
- Friday 10/13**
- 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.

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Monday 10/9

- 9 a.m. Interval
- 10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion
- Tuesday 10/10**
- 9 a.m. Good For U
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- Wednesday 10/11**
- 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
- 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
- 11:30 a.m. Bingo
- Thursday 10/12**
- 9 a.m. Core & Balance
- 10 a.m. Barre Fusion
- Friday 10/13**
- 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly.

For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

fallen away, and taken with it most of reality. Off went minor worries, gone were plans for the rest of the day with imaginary schedules and anticipations of lunch. I was lost in the fog, suspended in time, nowhere to go, just to stand there and wonder.

That was *some* fog, and short-lived.

The curtain lifted just as quickly as it had come. Back were the dunes, back were the sandpipers, and back was the picnic basket – being raided and emptied by the vigilant gulls!

This first week of October has been thus: bright sunshine early, then the next day back to bright fog, heavy dew and mist. Change is almost always good, but being yanked around by this climate that grows more weird every day can drive you crazy.

Last week we broke a house rule by starting our first fire in the fireplace, not being able to wait until October 1. The continual rains kept the indoors damp, and a fire warmed our bones and the house.

And now we're being told that we will likely break heat records for this date, with temperatures getting up into the 80s.

Mother Nature seems puzzled. Even

though the magenta-colored chokeberries are doing what they should, growing great clusters of tempting fruit meant only for lingering catbirds, other shrubs are not so sure. Our holy bushes have begun putting out faint white blossoms, and old friend Joe Williams tells me that up at the old Williams homestead in Gill, his lilacs are even blooming! Go figure.

With only one week of promised good weather ahead, many of us are scrambling to take care of summer chores delayed because of rain. We bring more dried wood up from the lower pasture, and wonder if we will get around to putting a fresh coat of red trim on the old piazza, or just let it go another year. No more apples to bring in – they began dropping too early. But they sit in sacks in the front hall, bringing the ancient autumn scent indoors while they wait to be turned into applesauce by the woman of the house.

This morning fog will lift; bright sunshine is a promise. The fog and mist mark the pause in the season, though nature has yet to really stand still to take stock of the passing year.

We will make our proverbial hay while the elusive October sun shines.



MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profile #1

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Edition, to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full-color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists chosen from the dozens of entries we received.

We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special issue, which will go to press in the third week of November!

Sarah Adam's winning design is a vibrant painting of birds in the branches of a blue tree. We asked each artist to answer the same three questions:



MR: What would you want your wrapping paper to say, and feel like, for the person it is being gifted to?

SA: This wrapping paper was created by a local artist, who is also reaching out to wish you all the happiness on this special day. Enjoy your gift!

MR: What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?

SA: Local art and handmade crafts! And books. So many books.

MR: What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?

SA: Newspapers gave me my first job out of college, setting me on my career path in graphic design. I've also received several birthday gifts wrapped in the funny pages, and it always made me happy.

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN



#LXIII: Charles Dube of The Dispossessed

Interview by J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – A year or so ago we interviewed Leigh Gregory, who was the singer in a band I liked a lot as a kid, The Dispossessed. They were a Connecticut-based band with a “goth rock” kind of sound.

It was so fun talking to Leigh and going back in time that at some point I started talking to the drummer, too. Charles Dube has a better memory about some things, so he helped fill in some gaps from the last interview.

So! Fasten your seatbelts and get ready to jump into the written-word time machine... We are headed to mid-'80s Connecticut, when the Dispossessed, Chronic Disorder, and Jack Tragic were playing around the state....

MMM: Hi Charles! What are some early memories of the Dispossessed? You did 30 or so shows, right? And almost all were in CT?

CD: I recall that we played mostly in CT – the New Haven and Hartford area. Places like 36 Lewis Street, the Grotto, Pentangle Pub. We were doing shows about once every week or two during 1986.

In MA we played one show at the Zone in Springfield, when Leigh was in California recovering from an illness. It's funny – I work right across the street from that building now. It wasn't our best show, and sadly I think it was Jeremy's last, that I know of, before he passed away.

MMM: I'll have to research that venue. I just saw you guys at UConn, and heard you play live on WHUS. I heard you would do rock covers – do you remember any of the songs you

did? I guess the Doors song on the LP came from that?

CD: We mostly did original music. Our first single, however, was “Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite.” The Doors cover came from a mutual admiration of the band. “Ghosts of Princes in Towers” by the Rich Kids was another cover we did, at least for practices. But we focused on Leigh and Jeremy's compositions, for the most part. I think any lawyers that would try to sue us for money made off of those recordings would end up owing us.

MMM: You said you have some solo Leigh recordings. Did you help him record? Did he do many solo shows? I remember he played at Populous Pudding...

CD: I loved that venue. If I recall correctly, Leigh's first solo recordings were done in his living room with my Tascam four-track. We had very little for equipment, and in fact we brought the first demos to a studio just to get some reverb added!

At this point I had sold my drums and was playing a Roland Alpha Juno 2 for strings and piano-ish tones. I played that keyboard at the Populous Pudding show. Honestly, we didn't think that one went over very well and both dove out of the place to grab a drink in my car as fast as we could. But apparently most were pretty pleased with it.

Leigh played some other shows around without me, such as at the Cool Moose, which was formerly the 270 West. I enjoyed sitting those out in the audience, which I think was better for him. Leigh later had heard about Jim Chapdelaine's Multi-Music studio in West Hart-

ford, and that led to a series of sessions circa 1990 we did along with Jim, the late Drew Glackin on bass, Michael O'Rourke on drums, and Grasshopper from Mercury Rev on additional guitar. I helped with engineering and keyboards.

Those recordings, I think, set the tone for Leigh's subsequent music to this day – he had found his post-Dispossessed sound. I'm really proud of that period and was glad to be involved in those sessions. Leigh wrote some great material, and we were really getting to learn the studio.

MMM: What's the story behind Chronic Disorder? What were you guys inspired by?

CD: The Chronic Disorder story is a long one, and continues to this day. I can only speak about my time, which was for the first “official” gigs and two EPs. Jason Nottingham, the songwriter, singer and guitarist, was from my home town and was heavily into the Clash and Heartbreakers, which was our starting point. God – how fresh that stuff was!

We played some gigs at Trinity College, and a few area clubs. There was a scene growing along with bands like the Target Cells, October Days, Bell System, Motiv-8, 76% Uncertain, Lost Generation, the Painted Saints, and Brave New World. In a short period of time we recorded the aforementioned EPs, the first featuring Jason's “The Final Line,” which was played on WRTC, WLIR, and other college radio. It's been on many compilations.

For me, the finest moment was playing at CBGB's, which the band repeated again a year or two later. One of the early gigs was with a band called AWOL, opening for the Joneses from LA. That band featured a young Moby, and we both discovered we were mutual Joy Division fanatics. When we started to turn toward a fast hardcore sound (i.e. 7 Seconds) I decided to leave.

MMM: How about Jack Tragic?

CD: Many months later Jack Tragic, of the “I Kill Hippies” single fame, asked me to join the Unfortunates after they had lost a drummer. At this time Jack was really into an Alice Cooper, Dolls, '70s NY style of punk which I loved, so I said yes, and had an enjoyable year-plus with that group.

We played the Agora Ballroom,

opened for TSOL, played to some biker audiences, and had a good time. Jack was very charismatic and had a great stage presence. But things changed again – a turn to hardcore, plus other things – and I decided to leave.

MMM: So then the Dispossessed was after that?

CD: A few months later I heard the Dispossessed demo in a record store in West Hartford, and thought I would dig being with them. And I certainly did. We eventually released a single, “Mr. Kite,” with a song Leigh and I wrote, “Circus Nights,” on the B-side.

After Jeremy passed we released a compilation of the many studio sessions we had in the can, *Sister Mary*. We had recorded at several places like Trod Nossel and a couple of well-equipped home studios around Connecticut... The idea was to get a label. We almost had something with an offshoot of Enigma, but didn't really have the glossies, etc. together, so it fell apart.

Keith Grave had distribution connections, so we released the LP as a tribute to Jeremy on Keith's own label, and then Di-Di out of Greece picked it up.... My guess is the initial run (on Dagger) was 1,000 copies. Keith has also had Dispossessed material appearing on many compilations worldwide over the years.

Jack took the Unfortunates to NYC, and Jason took Chronic Disorder to the upper Northwest. I finished up my art degree and ended up working on Leigh's solo work until he relocated to San Diego, and later San Francisco. We remain close friends to this day, something I'm very thankful for.

I haven't spoken to Jack in a while, but I am in touch with Jason. A few years ago he used some of my lyrics in a song on their last LP (*Electric Victorians*). I recorded some solo tracks – a few albums' worth – and released a couple of CDs in the 2000s.

Leigh continues to write and record with his solo CDs. He's had many other projects such as Memory's Mystic Band, Miles From Nowhere, Mellow Drunk, and White Sails. His work today is very mature and developed – he's doing great.

MMM: Yeah. So, any other stories about playing or going to shows in Connecticut back then?

CD: It was a pretty wild time.

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Photos and captions by
CHIP AINSWORTH

Saturday was Northfield's
350th Anniversary parade.
Our correspondent sent photos!



Michael Cameron of
Cameron's Winery,
all dressed up for the
ride down Main Street.

Brian Bordner of Tri-State Precision
shows off his 1967 Ford M151-A1
Military Utility Tactical Truck.



AINSWORTH PHOTOS

Sriners are dedicated to helping
children and families in need, but
also like to have fun driving mini-
cars and doing daredevil stunts.
Evel Knievel they're not!

HEARTFELT from page B1
conquistadors from Mexico to southern Europe. It's possible the explorer Cortez may have brought ornamental tomato seeds to Europe in 1519. Early on in Britain, tomatoes

were grown as ornamentals. By the 18th century tomatoes made it to Britain's North American colonies, but it wasn't until the late 19th century that they became more highly regarded in America.

Although the US and Britain weren't initially keen on tomatoes, they became a staple in European cuisine. In Italy, they featured in *caprese* salads and *marinara* sauce; in France they were cooked in winter casseroles and *ratatouille*, a tomato-based vegetable stew; and in Spain they are an important ingredient in *gazpacho*, a cold tomato soup, and the national dish *paella*. In the Middle East they're grilled with kebabs, and from Mexico comes salsa, *pico de gallo*, and spicy *mole* sauce.

In the late 1890s a man named Joseph Campbell started a business that would evolve into the Campbell Soup Company. After canning and selling ketchup he released his first line of condensed soups, which included tomato.

In the 1920s Chef Ettore Bioardi, an Italian-born chef with a popular restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio, was asked so often to sell his tomato sauce that he eventually built a processing plant and sold the sauce under his own name. Complaints that his name was too hard to pronounce led it to be changed to Chef Boyardee.

Today, more than 189 million metric tons of tomatoes are produced globally, with about 1.4 million produced in the US alone. California and Florida are the largest commercial producers. The average American consumes about 31 pounds of tomatoes a year, though some avoid consuming this member of the nightshade family as a chemical alkaloid it contains can exacerbate certain medical conditions.

Tomatoes have even had their Hollywood debut as killers in the film *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, and since 1998 they have been used



MANDESON PHOTOS

Tomatoes are, of course, one of the traditional ingredients on pizza.
This is a pizza made on homemade focaccia bread.

to rate movies on *rottentomatoes.com* with the "Tomatometer" measurement of quality, which awards a fresh red tomato for a 60% or more positive rating, while anything less receives a green splat.

Tomatoes can be prepared in so many ways. The British love their breakfast "fry up" with eggs, sausages, and grilled tomatoes. Tomatoes are also delicious fried – slice green tomatoes, dip them in beaten egg and breadcrumbs, and fry them to a golden brown – sauteed, roasted, in sauces, soups, casseroles or stews, or sliced in a salad or paired with mozzarella, olive oil, a pinch of salt and a basil leaf.

This year I got a lot of free tomato starts and was pleasantly surprised to have one very prolific orange cherry variety that is the sweetest tomato I've ever eaten. A big bowl of them stays on the kitchen counter for snacking throughout the day.

One of my favorite tomato dishes is made by roasting them with olive oil, garlic, and rosemary. I slice small to medium tomatoes in half across the middle, sprinkle them with toppings, and set them in the oven at

200° for a few hours until they melt into tart, savory, salty deliciousness. Spread a spoonful on crackers or toasted sourdough bread, and I guarantee you'll swoon at the flavors.

So go ahead and can yourself some of this year's luscious tomatoes. Buy a box of seconds and go to town. Label, date, and stack them in a cool dark place. Then, imagine cracking open a jar of that ruby red sauce on a cold winter's day when you're hankering for a big pot of chili, and enjoying the tangy scent of summer filling your senses and your kitchen.

Here's my Dad's Famous Spaghetti Sauce recipe. He used to make it a few times a year on a Sunday, leaving it simmering all day on the stove while he watched college football, rooting for his beloved USC team.

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



DAD'S FAMOUS SPAGHETTI SAUCE



Homemade tomato sauce bubbling on the stove. This is the time of year to make it.

- 1 lb. sweet Italian sausage
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced

- 1 28-oz. can of tomato sauce
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 small can tomato paste
- chopped celery tops

- 1 sprig rosemary, or 1 tsp. dried
- 2 sprigs oregano, or 1 Tbsp. dried
- salt and pepper to taste
- fresh basil to taste

Chop the sausage into bite-size pieces. Brown the meat, drain the fat, and dump into a large pot. Saute the onion and garlic and add to the pot.

If you have fresh herbs and/or your own tomatoes, tomato sauce, and paste, use that. Otherwise, add in:

This recipe is an unusual case where a whole can of paste is called for! Simmer for two hours, spooning fat off the top. Season to taste, and serve over spaghetti noodles.

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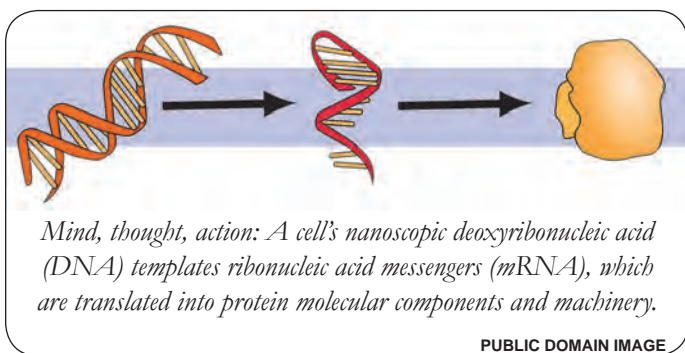
Sneaky Greaseballs Deliver an RNA Revolution

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – Paired with the ever-expanding human knowledge of the biological mechanisms driving the cells that make us up has been a growing number of possibilities to affect that biology, and to remedy disease states. One novel therapeutic paradigm, emerging from decades of research and engineering, involves lipid nanoparticle (LNP) carrier systems and their engineered ribonucleic acid (RNA) cargo.

You have probably heard of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), the nanoscopic informational blueprint or coded program that ultimately controls the behavior of our microscopic cells. If DNA is to a cell like a brain is to a human, RNA would be like our thoughts, and the protein molecular machines produced by RNA translation would be like our actions.

Small-molecule drugs, the backbone of medicine over the last century, affect cells by getting stuck in these protein molecular machines and jamming them. Therapeutic use of LNP delivery vehicles for RNA brings game-changing possibilities to medicine: the ability to directly influence the cellular production of protein molecular machines, which can be much more powerful than just jamming some of them.



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGE

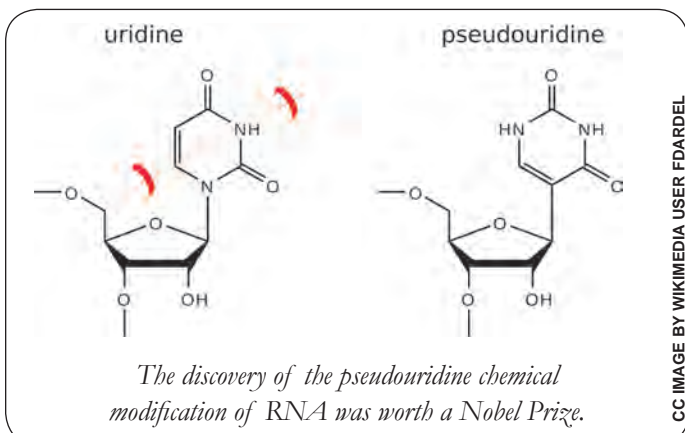
Engineering the RNA-LNP

One of the roadblocks to getting these delivery systems to work turned out to be figuring out which chemical modifications to add to these exogenous RNA messages (mRNA) to prevent the cells from just destroying them as soon as they enter.

The key modification turned out to be swapping out one of the four main “letters,” uridine, with the slightly remixed letter pseudouridine. This week the Nobel Prize in Medicine celebrates this very discovery, going to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman for their discoveries of the importance of these RNA modifications.

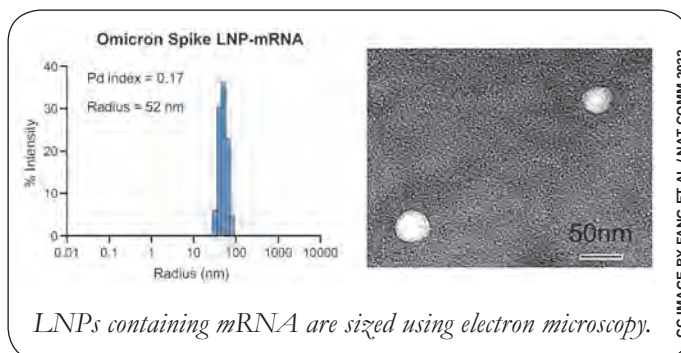
Successful RNA delivery demanded more than chemical tweaks alone. It also necessitated the development of stable and covert carrier systems, akin to Trojan horses, capable of navigating the body’s fluids and cellular barriers. Over the past decade various delivery systems have been developed, including gold and polymer-based systems at UMass Amherst, but the true victor emerged in the form of LNPs.

LNPs have been developed to possess the ideal balance of charge, slipperiness, and stealth, allowing them to traverse bodily fluids undetected. They must reach the cell’s membrane barrier, infiltrate the cells and escape initial containment, and release their vital RNA cargo within – a triumph of biomolecular engineering.



CC IMAGE BY WIKIMEDIA USER FPARDEL

An mRNA-LNP has a size of around 50 nanometers, which is much too small for a traditional light microscope to see, but can be visualized well under an electron micro-



CC IMAGE BY FANG ET AL./NAT COMM 2022

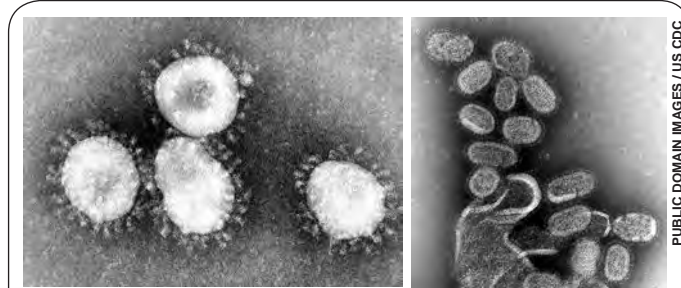
scope, as seen in the accompanying image. These spherical particles have a few layers: the outer layer is composed of a relatively slippery polyethylene glycol coat, which is chemically linked to the outside of a lipid bilayer, which surrounds a layer of mRNA complexed with ionizable lipids.

RNA Vaccines

Traditional vaccines have long been the cornerstone of disease prevention, offering effective protection against a multitude of infectious agents. They typically consisted of weakened or inactivated pathogens, or fragments thereof, aiming to stimulate the immune system to mount a protective response.

The mRNA-LNP vaccines, such as those developed for COVID-19, introduce to the cell a snippet of modified RNA that encodes a part of the target pathogen’s genetic material – the infamous spike protein, in the case of COVID-19. This genetic message instructs our cells to produce this piece of the pathogen, which is said to be harmless, priming our immune system to recognize this “antigen” and to generate antibodies and immune cells to combat it.

These vaccines can be swiftly designed and manufactured, offering a speed advantage helpful in responding to emerging threats. Clinical trials and real-world data have demonstrated their impressive efficacy and safety profiles in the case of COVID-19, demonstrating around 80% fewer hospitalizations for those COVID-19 cases among vaccinated people.



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGES / US CDC

Left: An electron microscope image of a coronavirus coated with spike proteins.

Right: An influenza virus coated with hemagglutinin proteins.

Influenza vaccines have been notoriously hit-or-miss as their viral surface antigen, hemagglutinin (HA), can vary substantially in different strains. Influenza mRNA-LNP trials are currently underway that combine mRNA coding for HA from a variety of strains, as well as other more conserved influenza antigens.

Cancer mRNA vaccines are also currently in clinical development, with at least a dozen trials ongoing. Cancer vaccines try to induce an immune response against tumor-specific antigens, leading a tumor-clearing response by the immune system as well as establishing immunological memory.

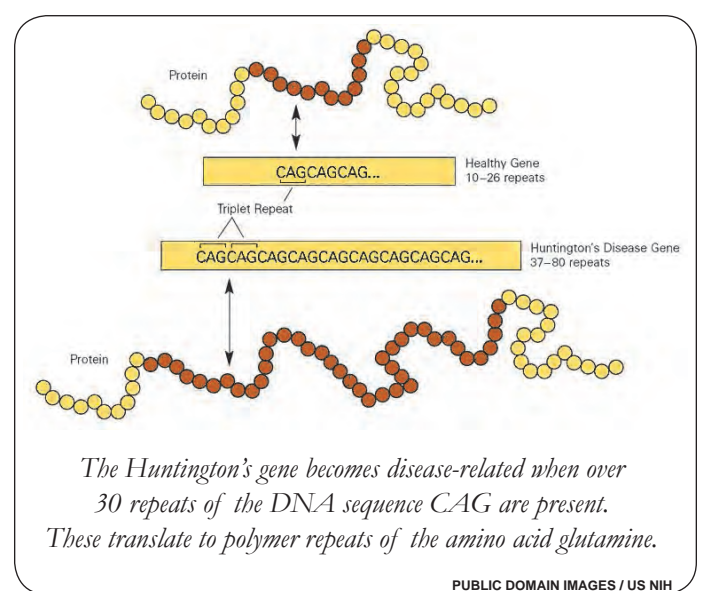
RNA Silencers

Another use for RNA-LNPs is RNA interference: preventing the production of proteins altogether, through a process of sticking to and blocking a targeted mRNA. Under this approach, “small interfering RNA” (siRNA) are delivered that silence specific genes responsible for diseases. The 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Andrew Fire and Craig Mello for their discovery of RNA interference.

One recent high-profile siRNA approval was *inclisiran*, originally developed by Alnylam Pharmaceuticals to lower blood cholesterol. It works by silencing production of PCSK9, which leads to an increase in clearance of blood lipids and cholesterol by liver cells, and it only needs to be given twice per year;

previously developed antibodies that target PCSK9 must be administered biweekly. A PCSK9 gene therapy, which would only need to be undertaken once in a lifetime, is also in clinical trials.

People with Huntington’s disease inherit a certain chromosome from their parents containing at least 30 repetitions of the DNA sequence “CAG,” encoding a protein with a long, repetitive string of glutamines. The prevailing hypothesis has been that this aberrant protein is toxic to brain cells, resulting in debilitating neurodegeneration. Ongoing siRNA trials which block this protein’s production may shed light on this hypothesis in the coming years.



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGES / US NIH

Vaccine Conspiracy Theories

In addition to the general concern over government mandates infringing on personal freedom, there have also been conspiracy theories surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines and mRNA-LNP medicine in general. I know the “conventional” wisdom is not to give such conspiracies any air, but where better to discuss them than immediately following a wealth of facts on the matter?

Microchips/surveillance: This theory suggests that the mRNA-LNP also contained microchips or nanotechnology for tracking people. I have never heard of any that can fit through a syringe needle and transmit some sort of signal, radio or otherwise. I’ll tell you what, though: I’ll get a bit of the next vaccine and put it under an electron microscope to see if anything weird is there. That should give a ground truth on this one.

Side effects: Some individuals worry about potential long-term side effects of RNA vaccines and gene therapies. There have been a few cases, at the few-in-a-million rate, which is considered at least as safe as vaccines which had come before.

Altered DNA: There is a misconception that the RNA vaccines alter a person’s DNA. In reality, the mRNA that is delivered is for a coronavirus spike protein, and not for any gene-editing machinery. While it is possible to execute a gene edit by delivering mRNA that codes for gene-editing machinery, it would have to be a pretty deep supervillain plot to sneak those mRNA sequences into a vaccine.

Fortunately, we can test the RNA in a vaccine to determine if it is the correct sequence. I’ll run the next vaccine through a nanopore sequencer to see if there are any strange sequences there.

Regulation: Critics argue that the rapid development and approval of RNA vaccines for COVID-19 bypassed necessary safety protocols, including years of trials typically mandated by the FDA. I agree that this was, in principle, a risk. However, we already knew that RNA-LNP delivery vehicles were safe from a history of prior clinical trials beginning in 2013. So the question is more about the safety of the spike protein expression resulting from the vaccine. If you get the virus, which most of us have by now, your body will also get a heavy dose of spike protein, so this doesn’t seem like a big additional risk.

Some people are concerned that pharmaceutical companies prioritize profits over public health. To that I say, we live in America, where our Supreme Court feels that corporations are people, and government agencies don’t mind allowing gain-of-function virus research. What could go wrong?

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Asher White, Silvie's Okay, Dollflower*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Major Stars, Jeffrey Alexander & the Heavy Lidders, Bhajan Bhoj*. (Moved from the Shea.) \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Brattleboro Gallery Walk, Brattleboro: *The Gaslight Tinkers*. Free. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. No cover. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New England Repertory Orchestra*. \$ 7 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *La Perla, Gaia Roots, Peace & Rhythm DJs*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Stoner Will & the Narks, Shagohod, Laini & the Wildfire, The 413s, Penniless Wild*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Two Crows for Comfort*. No cover. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Kid Psilo, imissmydeadfriends, Cosmos Cozzy, indigauxz*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Wildcat O'Halloran*. No cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Lupo Citta, Germ House, Jeffrey Alexander, Luxor Rentals, Human Pontiac*. \$ 1 p.m.

Abandoned Dream, Turners Falls: *Hal Lambert & Mitchell Mobley, Aaron Dooley & Friends, The Monotonous Ringing*. \$ 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *KISStory*. Kiss tribute. \$ 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The Mammals*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Danielle Miraglia, Jen Kearney, Lisa Bastoni*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Primaya Darshini's Periphery, Kimaya Diggs*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Free Range Cats*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ava, Hoonah, bobbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Nude Party, Old Lady*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Courtney Barnett*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Darsombra, Taxidermists, Knobclaw, Junk Orbit*. \$ 7 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Flywheel Arts presents mssv, Sky*

Furrows, Vex Party. \$ 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Nova Arts, Keene: *Mariee Sou, Diane Cluck, Simon Gray*. \$ 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Suicidal Tendencies, Judge, H2O, End It*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Juli-ana Hatfield*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Aubrey Haddard, Ciarra Fragale, The Burning Sun*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinmastorm double feature: Labyrinth and Legend*. Free. 7:30 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sartaria, Lacquerhead, Earthlore*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bob Mould*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Chris Forsyth's Evolution Band, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. No cover. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Leafing, Jobber, Ian St. George Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

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 21

Spinner Park, Turners Falls: *Tommy Filiault, Jenny Burtis, Jim McCrae, Adelaide Fay, Burrie Jenkins, Kevin McCarthy & Bruce Richardson*. \$ 1 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers DuPree, Trailer Park, James Montgomery Band*. Free. 1:15 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends, Stella Kola*. 2 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sara Thomson*. \$ 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Hard Knox Band*. No cover. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Robber Robber, Rockin Worms, Perennial, Classics*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Nova Arts, Keene: *Baba Com-mandant & The Mandingo Band, Deep Seize*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bruce Cockburn: O Sun O Moon*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Gary Higgins, Glenn Jones, Liam Grant*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Fancy Trash* album release, *Moon Hollow, Chris Goudreau*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Palladium, Worcester: *Fishbone, GZA*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Toubab Krewe*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Armand Hammer*, special guests. \$ 8 p.m.

The O's, Sunderland: *Subjxt 5, Popo2004, DJ Lucas*. \$ 8 p.m.

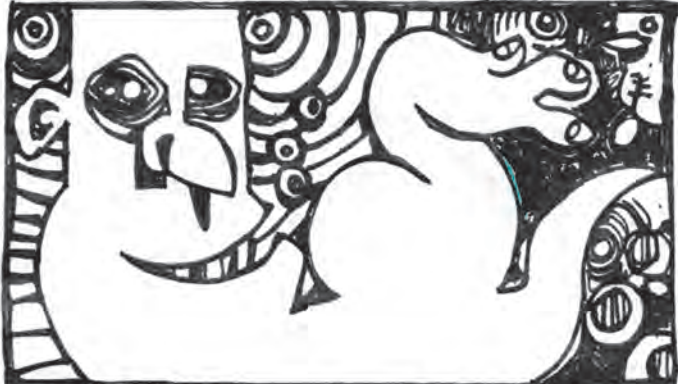
COMICS and PUZZLE

JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



"Feeling small within this world, I've come to appreciate my DNA."

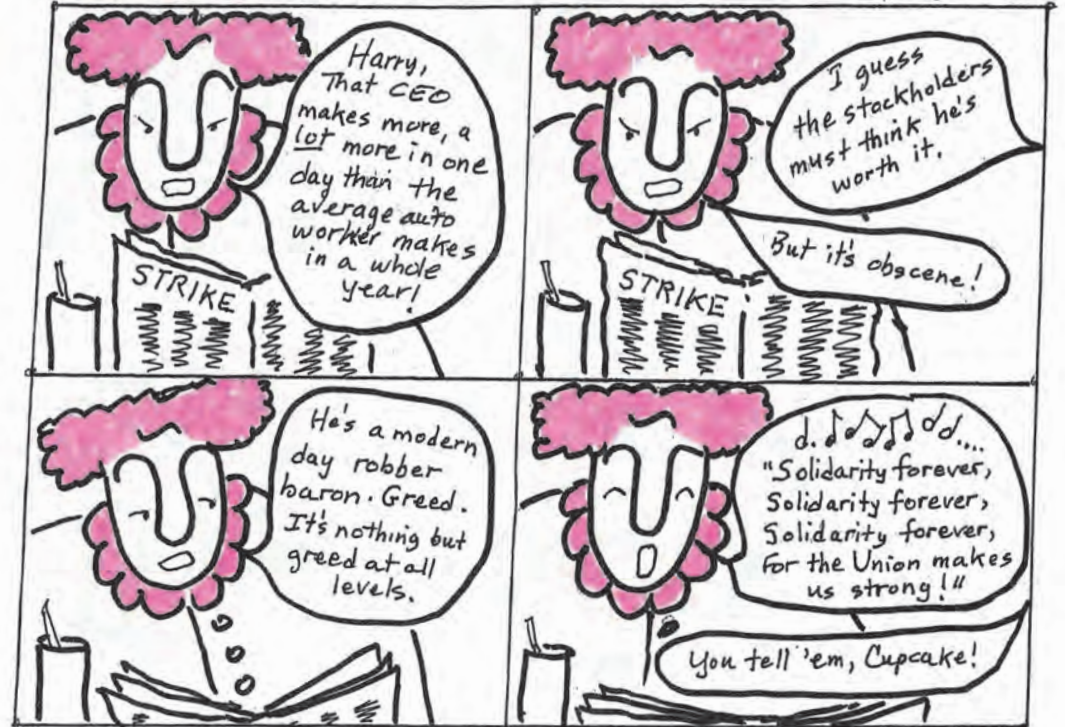
JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



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OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



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LISTENING from page B1
attention and encoding memories.”
In another part of the book, she writes about “guddling” for thoughts. This wonderful word comes from her childhood in the Borders of Scotland, trying to catch fish with her bare hands in the shallows of a stream. Paying attention inward to gather thoughts, like reaching into dark cool waters to grasp a slippery fish, is a practice many of the experts she interviews are familiar with.



The Big Ear
In the process of writing *In Praise of Listening*, McEwen was inspired to break out of the solitude of writing and take her project out into the world in the form of a giant, papier-mâché ear. Aided by a small local grant for activist art, she made the Bread and Puppet-style appendage with the help of Jane Wegscheider and Laura Iveson of the Art Garden in Shelburne Falls and brought it out to several farmers markets in the area.

McEwen’s words, “its own container,” and centers around one in-depth interview with other related stories. The cover itself holds a message for the ears through the eyes: “You have to slow down to read the cover – LIS.TEN.ING. – and realize what it means,” she says. “I encourage people to read the listening book with slowness!”

She will also be reading from the book at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 15 at the Brattleboro Literary Festival (brattleborolifest.org); at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18 at the Meekins Library in Williamsburg; and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8 at the LAVA Center in Greenfield.

“The word *listen* became a metaphor for a much bigger kind of attention. It seemed to me to have to do with some kind of large-scale receptivity that in the end was beyond the simple act of human listening, something more deeply receptive,” says McEwen, whose book includes sections on listening to the dead, listening to dreams, and listening to silence. “If you believe John Cage, then silence contains sound, and sound contains silence.”

afraid to talk with others, they may also feel afraid of hearing their inner voices which are sometimes filled with self-criticism and doubt. Meditation may feel threatening, and slowing down might cause “a whole mash of old shit to come up, and they have waves of stuff,” she says.

“It felt tentative and risky,” she recalls. “Quite honestly, when I set up my little listening booth, like Lucy in *Peanuts*, I didn’t know if people were going to play along.”

Events
A book release for Christian McEwen’s *In Praise of Listening* will take place at the Broadside Bookstore in Northampton next Wednesday, October 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

McEwen will lead a three-session writing workshop, “Writing the Memoir: Listening to the One You Have Become” beginning on October 13 in Northampton. The workshop is limited to 12 people; email her at christianmcewen@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Hearing Our Loneliness

A generation of people have now grown up with a constant flood of visual and audio input from cell phones and earbuds. Where is the pause? When do they guddle?

“I use the image of a pond with scum on the surface,” McEwen continues. “If you get down below the scum, you get into some nice dark cool water. But that scum level can scare people – they say, ‘Ugh, I’m not going there!’ and they get right back into their busy hustle. Listening inward and outward are crucial, and yet unsupported in lots of ways.”

But they did. McEwen reports that there was always someone who would sit down to talk, and often there would be a line. “People were hungry to show up,” she says. “They are kind of spacious when they go to a farmers market. They are willing to stop and listen and take note and talk.” Often, it was just to talk about what a lovely day it was, but sometimes people needed to express opinions that they felt inhibited to talk about within their own family.



McEwen with her giant papier-mâché ear.

“And their parents so often are filled up with cell phones and plastic plugs in their ears as well,” says McEwen. “So people have to learn to be friends in real time again. That was my underlying thought.”

McEwen says she hopes her book will offer support to people in listening, but there is also a section offering advice on not listening. “There is also a gender issue around listening,” she explains. “As you know, men tend to talk first and most. Any good listener has to be able to say ‘No. No, I am too tired, I’m not clear-headed right now, you told me that story before...’”

Did any of those conversations become part of her book? I asked. McEwen says she initially thought they might, but then decided she did not want to turn the gift of these conversations into a product.

In general, she tells me, she believes our culture values the eye over the ear. “I’m just standing up for the ear!” she says. “It puts you slightly askant of the dominant culture.”

There are consequences to listening too much, she says, to being an ear that is too available: you can end up feeling angry or resentful, or simply unheard.

She goes on to add some statistics about the epidemic of loneliness in the US: “More than half of all Americans say that nobody knows them well. The percentage of people who say they don’t have close friends has increased four times since 1990. The percentage of people who aren’t married or living with someone has gone up from 29% in 1990 to 38% in 2019. So even pre-COVID, people were feeling isolated and alone, without someone they feel safe talking to.”

Not only do lonely people feel

No Gobbling
Because I wanted to read the advance publisher’s copy sent to me before interviewing McEwen, I gobbled her book up quickly over several days. This is not how the book is meant to be consumed! In fact, she calls it “indigestible” if it is read straight through.

Each section of the book is, in

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