

# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

## A Downtown Landmark Finds New Ownership



After some time on the market, this vacant Avenue A building sold on Monday.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – “We expect to be in a major listening mode for a long time here,” Suzanne Webber said, sitting in the vacant right-hand storefront of downtown’s historic Starbuck building, “understanding what place the building has had, and what people are wanting it to be.”

On Monday Webber, a co-owner of Brook’s Bend Farm in Montague Center, and Tamara McKerchie, co-owner of the Upper Bend café across the street, closed on this building, which has been empty for a year. According to Webber, the pair had each been curious about the building, but felt the original

listing price had been exorbitant; when it began to come down in the last several months, they decided to join forces to take the project on. McKerchie was not immediately available for an interview; the seller, Ya-Ping Douglass, declined to comment publicly on the sale.

“Tamara and I realized that both of us had been looking at it for a long, long time,” Webber said, “as I’m sure as many in the town had – just appreciating the beauty of it, noticing that it was empty, wondering what was happening, and kind of dreaming that we could participate in what was happening here.”

Webber said the plan for the building is general: commercial or see **LANDMARK** page A5

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD Field Building Study Member Accused of Going Rogue

By GEORGE BRACE

In a lengthy and at times contentious selectboard meeting on Tuesday, several Leverett residents raised complaints over the process involved in the board’s recent approval of a grant application for gathering information about the Leverett Family Museum in order to plan for its future. The board also continued deliberating over how to proceed with repairs and maintenance on Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

Deterioration endangering the town-owned museum, formerly known as the Bradford M. Field Memorial Library, previously prompted the board to form an *ad hoc* committee and task it with recommending to town meeting the building’s “most preferred” future use, including whether the town should retain ownership and the financial impact if it does.

This committee also investigated the option of moving the building, due in part to the possibility that its current site would fail a perc test, which would prevent the installation of restrooms.

At the October 10 selectboard meeting, committee chair Richard Nathorst received approval from see **LEVERETT** page A5

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Town Administrator Ellis Gives Eight Months’ Notice

By JEFF SINGLETON

“I’ve had conversations with each of you privately about this,” Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard at their meeting Monday evening. “It is an oddly emotional thing to share that it is my intention to leave town service on June 30 of this year.”

Ellis called the decision “personal,” and said that he has been “overjoyed and supported in my work at the town.” He said that the selectboard, town meeting, and numerous other boards and committees had been “nothing but tremendous to work with,” but that “it is a good time for me to move on to address other priorities that are important to me.”

“I appreciate all you’ve done, and will continue to do I’m sure,” said selectboard chair Rich Kukle-



Ellis has served as Montague’s town administrator since 2016.

wicz. “And also [giving us] the time to figure out how we want to move forward. You’ve made a major impact in town... and it shows.”

“I’ll second that,” said board see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## GILL SELECTBOARD

### Jurisdictional Scuffle Turns to Roadside Wood

By KATE SAVAGE

At their meeting Monday, Gill’s selectboard finalized the warrant for an upcoming special town meeting and dealt with grants and purchase orders. But the strongest emotions were reserved for an ongoing conflict over the role of the town’s tree warden.

Newly-elected warden Joe Williams still doesn’t have a budget,

but he’s moving forward on identifying problem trees in town. He told the selectboard that a resident had asked him to deal with a tree that was threatening to fall on their house, and he had marked around eight additional trees around town that he believed should be felled for safety issues.

Williams emphasized the need to move quickly on next steps. “Once I mark them,” he said, “if something

happens, we’ve already shared some liability in them, because they’ve been identified as a hazardous tree.”

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier instructed him to talk to town administrator Ray Purington and highway superintendent John Miner to figure out next steps.

“You don’t feel it’s up to me?” asked Williams.

“I said work through Ray and see **GILL** page A8

### After Nine-Year Run, Fox Announces Last Call



Owner Ashley Arthur is planning on shuttering the Third Street restaurant in mid-December.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – “It’s a good run for a restaurant anywhere,” Ashley Arthur told the *Reporter* this week, of her public announcement that the Five Eyed Fox restaurant and bar will be closing next month after nine years of operation. “Everyone knows it’s a rough business... I can only blame COVID for so long.”

After a period of sporadic scheduling, Arthur posted on the restaurant’s Instagram page on November 1 that the 18<sup>th</sup> would be its last day in service; after “some friends helped us out,” she said, the new target is December 16. “We will keep our website and Instagram updated for any changes that may happen,” she added.

Arthur opened the Fox in 2014 with two partners as a café-bar, open 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. The model pivoted as the clientele shifted, dropping the late-night bar hours and breakfasts and eventually honing on full-service dinners with occasional brunch hours. Along the way the business dropped to two owners, and then to one.

“Listen to the people who tell you that you’re not working with enough capital,” Arthur offered aspiring local restaurateurs by way of advice. “We started with too

see **FOX** page A5

## Strong Ridership Projected On Proposed Northern Rail

By JEFF SINGLETON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – “I am really impressed and excited by the ridership numbers, the ride time, and certainly the cost,” said state representative Natalie Blais, who represents 17 towns and portions of Greenfield in Western Massachusetts’ 1st Franklin district. “I am grateful to you for incorporating so many of the suggestions that not only we as legislators, but our constituents, have.”

“When we started this journey a few years ago I was skeptical about

what would come out of this,” said representative John Barrett of North Adams. “I’m most pleased by what I see, I think it is doable, I think it can happen.”

“I’m an MBTA baby,” said Montague town administrator Steve Ellis, noting that his grandfather was an “Irish rail worker” in Boston and his father had a “full career” working for the MBTA. “I love and believe in public transportation, and I love this project.”

This optimistic tone prevailed at the Northern Tier Rail Study Public see **RAIL** page A5

### High School Sports Week: An Elimination Hat Trick

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School grappled this week in venues across the state, heading deeper into the 2023 fall postseason.

For Franklin Tech, Black Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> came a few weeks late – as they lost all three contests they were engaged in on November 3. The girls’ soccer team lost in the final minute to a team they had already beaten; girls’ volleyball got into another five-game battle, but were un-

able to win the marathon; and that night, way over in Carver, one of the best football teams in the state gave Tech its third black eye of the day.

Turners Falls, meanwhile, went 1 and 1 on Friday. The boys lost against Kipp Academy in soccer out in Lynn, but the volleyball team ousted Madison Park at home.

On Saturday, the Franklin Field Hockey Eagles lost by a goal, but on Monday the Thunder spoiled the International’s third trip to Turners Falls and stayed alive in the volleyball playoffs.

see **SPORTS** page A6



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech Eagle Mia Marigliano, a TFHS student, shoots around Renaissance Phoenix defenders during an October 23 home win. The Eagles were knocked out of the MAA preliminaries last Friday, the same day as two other Tech teams.



**Current Location of All the Flowers Unclear**

Thirty-Nine Colleagues.....	A2	The Porches of Montague (Animal Edition).....	B1
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Ad: Free Pallets Time.....	A3	Our Sick Friend Sees the Slow Violence.....	B2
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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## For Our Colleagues

October 7. **Shai Regev**, an Israeli editor for TMI, the gossip and entertainment news section of the Hebrew-language newspaper *Maariv*, was killed during a Hamas attack on the Supernova music festival in southern Israel. Regev's death was confirmed after she was reported missing for six days, according to *Maariv* and *The Times of Israel*.

October 7. A 22-year-old news Israeli editor with the Israel Broadcasting Corporation Kan, **Ayelet Arnin**, was killed during the Hamas attack on the Supernova festival according to *The Times of Israel* and *The Wrap* entertainment website.

October 7. **Yaniv Zohar**, an Israeli photographer working for the Hebrew-language newspaper *Israel Hayom*, was killed during a Hamas attack on Kibbutz Nahal Oz in southern Israel, along with his wife and two daughters, according to *Israel Hayom* and *Israel National News*. *Israel Hayom* editor-in-chief Omer Lachmanovitch told CPJ that Zohar was working on that day.

October 7. **Mohammed Al-Salhi**, a photojournalist working for the Fourth Authority news agency, was shot dead near a refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, according to the Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa and the Journalist Support Committee (JSC), a nonprofit which promotes the rights of the media in the Middle East.

October 7. **Mohammad Jarghoun**, a journalist with Smart Media, was shot while reporting on the conflict in an area east of Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the BBC and UNESCO.

October 7. **Ibrahim Mohammad Lafi**, a photographer for Ain Media, was shot and killed at the Gaza Strip's Erez Crossing into Israel, according to the Palestinian press freedom group MADA, the Beirut-based press freedom group SKeyes, and Al-Jazeera.

October 8. Freelance journalist **Assaad Shamlakh** was killed along with nine members of his family in an Israeli airstrike on their home in Sheikh Ijlin, a neighborhood in southern Gaza, according to the Beirut-based advocacy group The Legal Agenda and BBC Arabic.

October 10. Palestinian journalist **Saeed al-Taweel**, editor-in-chief of the *Al-Khamsa News* website, was killed when Israeli warplanes struck an area housing several media outlets in Gaza City's Rimal district, according to the UK-based newspaper *The Independent*, Al-Jazeera, and Wafa.

October 10. **Mohammed Sobh**, a Palestinian photographer from the Khabar news agency, was killed in the same strike.

October 10. **Hisham Alnawjha**, a 27-year-old reporter for Khabar, was injured in the same strike and died of his injuries later that day, according to MADA, the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate (PJS), and the Palestinian news website AlWatan Voice.

October 11. **Mohamed Fayez Abu Matar**, a freelance Palestinian photojournalist, was killed during an Israeli airstrike in Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the PJS and Wafa.

October 12. **Ahmed Shehab**, a Palestinian journalist for Sowt Al-Asra Radio (Radio Voice of the Prisoners), was killed along with his wife and three children in an Israeli airstrike on his house in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip, according to the PJS, MADA, and the London-based news website *The New Arab*.

October 13. The death of **Salam Mema**, a 32-year-old freelance Palestinian journalist, was confirmed on this date. Mema was the head of the Women Journalists Committee at the Palestinian Media Assembly, an organization committed to advancing media work for Palestinian journalists. Her body was recovered from the rubble three days after her home in the Jabalia refugee camp, situated in the northern Gaza Strip, was hit by an Israeli airstrike, according to the PJS and Wafa.

October 13. **Husam Mubarak**, a journalist for the Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa Radio, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza, according to SKeyes and the PJS.

October 13. **Issam Abdallah**, a Beirut-based videographer for the Reuters news agency, was killed near the Lebanon border by shelling coming from the direction of Israel. Abdallah and several other journalists were covering back-and-forth shelling in southern Lebanon between Israeli forces and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group.

October 14. **Yousef Maher Dawas**, a contributing writer for *Palestine Chronicle* and a writer for We Are Not Numbers (WANN), a youth-led Palestinian nonprofit project, was killed in an Israeli missile strike on his family's home in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia, according to WANN and *Palestine Chronicle*.

October 16. A Palestinian journalist who worked for Al-Manara



Asa de Roode and Avelar Barros pose in front of the trash compactor during a recent workday at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station. "It's great working here!" Asa says. "Wendell has the nicest people!" Avelar adds, "Mary Diemand brings us Tuesday Treats every week – today, it's lasagna!"

News Agency and HQ News Agency, **Abdulahdi Habib**, was killed along with several family members when a missile strike hit his house near the Zeitoun neighborhood, south of Gaza City, according to the PJS and the independent Palestinian news organization International Middle East Media Center.

October 17. **Mohammad Balousha**, a journalist and the administrative and financial manager of the Gaza office of the local news TV channel Palestine Today, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the Al-Saftawi neighborhood in northern Gaza, as reported by Anadolu Agency and *The Guardian*.

October 17. **Issam Bhar**, a journalist for the Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the northern Gaza Strip, according to TRT Arabia and the Cairo-based Arabic newspaper *Shorouk News*.

October 18. A journalist and director for Al-Aqsa TV, **Sameeh Al-Nady**, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to the PJS and the Palestinian press agency Safa.

October 19. A videographer for Al-Aqsa TV, **Khalil Abu Aathra**, was killed along with his brother in an Israeli airstrike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, as reported by the PJS and the Amman-based news outlet *Roya News*.

October 20. A Palestinian journalist from Al-Shabab Radio (Youth Radio), **Mohammed Ali**, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza, according to the PJS and the Cairo-based newspaper *Al-Dostor*.

October 20. Israeli journalist **Roe Idan** was declared dead after his body was recovered, according to *The Times of Israel* and the International Federation of Journalists. Idan, a photographer for the Israeli newspaper *Ynet*, was initially reported missing when his wife and daughter were killed in a Hamas attack on October 7 on Kibbutz Kfar Aza. CPJ confirmed that he was working on the day of the attack.

October 22. A 31-year-old photojournalist and co-founder of Ain Media, a Palestinian company specializing in professional media services, **Roshdi Sarraj**, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to Wafa and Sky News.

October 23. **Mohammed Imad Labad**, a journalist for the Al Resalah news website, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City, according to RT Arabic and Wafa.

October 25. **Saed Al-Halabi**, a journalist for Al-Aqsa TV, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, according to the PJS, MADA, and Al-Jazeera.

October 25. **Ahmed Abu Mhadi**, a journalist for Al-Aqsa TV, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to the PJS and *Youm7*.

October 25. **Salma Mkhaimerr**, a freelance journalist, was killed alongside her child in an Israeli airstrike in Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to the PJS and the independent Egyptian online newspaper *Mada Masr*.

October 26. Palestinian journalist **Duaa Sharaf**, a host for Radio Al-Aqsa, was killed with her child in an airstrike on her home in the Yarmouk neighborhood in Gaza, according to Anadolu Agency and Middle East Monitor.

October 27. Palestinian journalist **Yasser Abu Namous** of Al-Sahel media organization was killed in an airstrike on his family home in Khan Yunis, Gaza, according to the Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa, Al-Jazeera, and the Hamas-affiliated Al-Quds network.

October 30. **Nazmi Al-Nadim**, a deputy director of finance and administration for Palestine TV, was killed with members of his family in an airstrike on his home in Zeitoun area, eastern Gaza, according to Wafa and Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency.

October 31. **Imad Al-Wahidi**, a media worker and administrator

for the Palestine TV channel, was killed with his family members in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement issued by the channel, Wafa, and the PJS.

October 31. **Majed Kashko**, a media worker and the office director of Palestine TV, was killed with his family members in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement issued by the channel, Wafa, and the PJS.

November 1. **Majd Fadl Arandas**, a member of the PJS who worked for the news website Al-Jamaheer, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, according to the PJS and SKeyes.

November 1. **Iyad Matar**, a journalist working for Al-Aqsa TV, was killed with his mother in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, according to *Roya News* and *Palestine Today*.

November 2. **Mohammed Abu Hatab**, a journalist and correspondent for Palestine TV, was killed along with 11 members of his family in an Israeli airstrike on their home in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip, according to Wafa and *Roya News*.

November 5. **Mohamed Al Jaja**, a media worker and the organizational development consultant at Press House-Palestine, which owns Sawa news agency and promotes press freedom and independent media, was killed in an airstrike on his home along with his wife and two daughters in the Al-Naser neighborhood in northern Gaza, according to *The New Arab*, SKeyes, and the PJS.

November 7. A journalist with Al-Aqsa Radio, **Yahya Abu Manih**, was killed in an airstrike in the Gaza Strip according to *Roya News*, Al-Jazeera, and SKeyes.

November 7. **Mohamed Abu Hassira**, a journalist for the Wafa news agency, was killed in an airstrike on his home in Gaza along with 42 family members, according to Wafa, *The New Arab*, and the PJS.

Source: The Committee to Protect Journalists, [www.cpj.org](http://www.cpj.org)

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

If this October's foliage display left you feeling deprived, you can fill up on color at the **Fall Mum Show** at the Smith College Botanical Gardens in Northampton. See an amazing variety of chrysanthemum shapes and hues displayed throughout the greenhouses over the next two weeks, Saturdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day is Sunday, November 19.

The band Tracy and Company is teaming up with the Pioneer Valley Brewery this Saturday November 11, to host a **benefit for the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services**. The event runs from 4 to 10 p.m., with music starting at 6 p.m. There's a \$10 raffle with three prizes for three winners: 100 gallons of oil, one ton of wood pellets, and a cord of wood. There's also food for sale, a 50/50 raffle, and some other prizes. Tickets are available at the Pioneer Valley Brewery or by emailing [tracyandcompany123@gmail.com](mailto:tracyandcompany123@gmail.com).

A **community photo exhibit on the Climate Crisis** opens this Friday evening, November 10 at the LAVA Center in Greenfield with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. The photographs depict evidence of weird weather in Western Massachusetts. Extreme heat and excessive rain and flooding has led to more crop disease, insects, and other changes depicted by photographers throughout the valley and hilltowns.

The reception will kick off two months of climate-change programming at LAVA. Find out more at [thelavacenter.org](http://thelavacenter.org).

The Montague Congregational Church is hosting its **Fête de Noël** this Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Christ-

mas fair includes crafts, baked goods, regifts, straw pull table, tin can drawing, and lottery wreath and food basket drawings. Food is available in the form of morning coffee and muffins, and a corn chowder and sandwich lunch with pie for dessert. Santa arrives at 11 a.m.

**Great Falls Books Through Bars** is holding a volunteer day this Saturday, November 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls. The work involves responding to letters from incarcerated people, and packing up books to send them.

This month they are also seeking donations of graphic novels and manga in addition to trade skill books and fantasy novels. Drop them off during this time. The space is also a free store, library, and community pantry. Masks are required inside.

The Cinemastorm double-feature at the Shea Theater this Saturday is a **Parody Party**, featuring *Weird Al Yankovic's* 1989 movie *UHF* and Mel Brooks 1974 *Young Frankenstein*. Things start up around 7:30 with a trivia contest. Admission is free, with beer and snacks sold in the lobby.

**Wendell's Full Moon Coffeehouse** is back with a benefit performance for the Wendell Historical Society by *Do It Now* with Paul Richmond, Tony Vacca, and John Isaac Sheldon this Saturday, November 11. *Do It Now* combines poetry, storytelling, political commentary, and musical improvisation to share a vision of hope.

The evening starts with an open mic at 7:30 p.m., and refreshments from the famous "Dessert-O-Rama" can be enjoyed. Admission is by suggested donation of \$6 to \$20, and attendees are urged to keep scents to a minimum.

There's also a **Montague Com-**

**mon Hall Open Mic** this Saturday, with featured performers Michael and Carrie Kline doing country harmony duets. The folklorist-musicians play kitchen songs inspired by Appalachian gospel, front porch music, and coal mining songs. Open mic sign-up starts at 6:15 p.m. Bring your own food and beverage; donations are encouraged.

LifePath's new **Community Engagement Center**, which will provide respite for caregivers and engaging programs for participants, is having an open house on Monday, November 13 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The center is located at the Care Collaborative, 267 Amherst Road in Sunderland.

All are welcome to see the space, learn about programming for participants and caregivers, and find out ways to become involved. Caregivers will be able to get information and resources specific to their needs, and get help with navigating healthcare and social systems. There will also be self-care offerings like massage and yoga, as well as peer support.

To learn more about the new Center, contact Robie at [drobie@lifepathma.org](mailto:drobie@lifepathma.org) or (413) 773-5555.

New Salem Public Library is holding an **Old Time Radio Hour** next Tuesday, November 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Host Brian Casey will air the Groucho Marx show "You Bet Your Life" and Ronald Coleman's "Favorite Story," featuring Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment*. The shows are aired on Casey's fully restored 1936 Crosley radio.

On Wednesday, November 15 the Montague Center library branch will hold its next **Author Series event with Gray Davidson-Carroll**, who will read from their new book of poems, *Waterfall of Thanks*, from 6 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

If you view the upcoming holidays with dread, you are not alone. Many people feel stressed out or overwhelmed at this time of year. Matt Aversa, MSW will share some **coping strategies for surviving the holidays** while leading a group talk next Thursday, November 16 at

9:30 a.m. at the Gill Montague senior center in Turners Falls.

The free, open-ended discussion will focus on how to reduce anxieties, stresses, and expectations around the holidays.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Montague Public Libraries will present the last of the three-part **Good Food Workshop** series next Thursday, November 16 at the Millers Falls Branch library at 2 p.m. "Keeping Your Family Healthy" will teach safe food preparation and storage to avoid food borne illness and protect your family. The workshop is free.

Música Franklin will give a **free Community Concert** from 5 to 6 p.m. next Thursday, November 16 at the First United Methodist Church in Greenfield. There will be student performances and family-friendly concert featuring jazz and blues singer Samirah Evans, whose musical style is heavily influenced by the New Orleans sound. The concert is free and open to the public.

The **Brick House Community Resource Center** at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls invites the public to an open house next Friday, November 17 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meet the new executive director, Dr. Tom Taaffe, and learn about recent and upcoming programs from staff members. There will be refreshments. For more information, contact [board@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:board@brickhousecommunity.org).

Want to learn **how to make sauerkraut**? Attend a workshop at 12:30 p.m. next Saturday, November 18 at the Leverett Library. "We'll discuss the simple process, make sauerkraut, discuss additional fermentation techniques and include tips for incorporating fermented foods into your daily diet. Each participant will leave the class with a jar of their own kraut," reads the description. Sign up by emailing [leverettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:leverettlibrary@gmail.com) or by calling (413) 548-9220.

The annual **Authors and Artists online festival**, featuring poetry with an emphasis on social and environmental justice, was held last weekend. Check out the lineup

**FREE PALLETS!**

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Looking for artists to create a sculpture with natural materials on the library lawn for Summer 2024.

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December 15, 2023

More information at  
[erving-ma.gov/bids](http://erving-ma.gov/bids)

of writers who read their work at [nature-culture.net/authors-artists-festival](http://nature-culture.net/authors-artists-festival). We missed including a notice about it last week, but organizer Lisa McLoughlin, who edited our science page for many years, reports that over 200 people signed up to attend, and that the festival was recorded and is viewable on YouTube until December 1 at [youtube.com/@natureculture](http://youtube.com/@natureculture).

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

## AT LARGE

# The Gill Newsletter's 'List of Shame'

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – According to a state database, Gill ranks 308th of 351 cities and towns with 1,551 residents and has the 47th-highest property tax rate. It is the classic small town where everyone knows everyone else and where "good fences make good neighbors," as Robert Frost wrote in his 1914 poem "Mending Wall."

The town publishes a quarterly newsletter that's funded by advertising and grant money, and copies are mailed to every postal delivery address in town and posted on the town's website. Its editorial content is usually tame and informative, but the recent issue went full frontal tabloid by publishing the names of 30 residents who aren't paid up on their property taxes.

"I wouldn't say the town is hard up [for money], but at what point do you not collect what's legally owed?" said Gill town administrator Ray Purington. "Are taxes suddenly voluntary?"

Calling it "a precursor to the town of Gill initiating formal tax taking proceedings," Gill tax collector Tom Hodak released the

"Gill Real Estate Tax Delinquency List" to Purington, who gave it to editor Susan Lascala. Purington said the decision to publish the names was "a combination of the editor and myself."

"It's a way of reducing the number of names that have to be published in a demand ad," Purington said, referring to legal ads that appear in tiny print in a daily newspaper's classified ads section.

Using the newsletter for debt collection was the first, and many hope the last time it happens. "Very demeaning," said one resident I spoke with.

"Shaming folks is ass-y," said a selectboard member from a neighboring town.

"This 'list of shame' is meant to embarrass these homeowners into paying," said Greenfield activist Al Norman. "It's a throwback to public stocks and pillories for debtors. Why didn't they meet with the property owners and discuss repayment options?"

In a worst-case scenario, the town could seize the property and auction it. "At least they could've added, 'We will take only taxes due plus interest and legal costs with bal-

ance returned to the owner,'" said Norman, whose efforts to stop home equity theft have gained statewide attention and garnered him quotes in a *Boston Globe* editorial.

Purington said he's received equal measure of positive and negative feedback – "less than five of each, saying either 'That's horrible' or 'Way to go.'"

Advertisers we spoke with who use the newsletter to attract new customers aren't happy with the town's debt-collection strategy. "I'm not in favor of it," said Doug Smith of Doug's Auto Body in Gill. "Maybe it's good to get people to man up, but this goes above and beyond. It's personal."

"That's kinda unique," said Chris Couture of Couture Bros. Painting in Turners Falls. "I get the Elks newsletter and they said 'there's still 12 people delinquent and we're gonna publish their names.' Ya know, you might want to think twice about that: To what extent are they overdue? How much? There might be extenuating circumstances. Who knows what their situation is?"

Clifford Hatch of Upingil Farms concurred. "In one sentence, I don't think it's the

greatest idea," he said. "There's all kinds of reasons – somebody forgot to mail a check, someone might be back on their bills. I see these names and some surprise me. When the church used to collect the taxes, everyone knew. I come from a long line of Puritans. They were used to running everything. Myself, I'm a little uneasy with it. I know some of these people, and they don't have a lot of money."

When Lascala learned that the *Reporter* was covering this story, she emailed: "The article was directed at Gill residents; publishing it in the *Montague Reporter* seems, to me, to be more inflammatory. Any wider distribution beyond the town newsletter was not the intent and might well contribute to unnecessary public shaming."

Perhaps Ms. Lascala should have thought of that when the tax collector and town administrator gave her the names. When asked if she pushed back on their request, she did not respond.

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

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OP ED

# To a Man With a Hammer...

By OLIVIA TUSINSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Working in London as an urban renewal professional for the past decade, I can honestly say there was little in the 2022 masterplan for the Strathmore complex that I could get behind.

Developed by Dietz Architects of Springfield, the final vision for the site proposed its near-total demolition, with retention of select wall fragments for “historic interpretation.”

This work did not appear to seek adaptive reuse, nor did it reflect the reality of our already abundant access to nature. Above all, it was a poor option from environmental and economic vantages, incurring multiple rounds of capital-intensive spend – first to demolish, then to remediate, and again for ongoing maintenance – all while eliminating future avenues for Montague to generate income.

Yet within that masterplan, Building #11 was highlighted as one of the few buildings recommended to be salvaged.

Now, with the carrot of federal brownfield funding on offer, Montague town officials have deemed it beyond repair.

In many ways, it's not their fault. To a man with a hammer, every problem is a nail.

The scope of available funding reflects the ongoing failure of our funding agencies to provide support that is proportional, responsive, or in any way strategic. Past rounds of funding have been inadequate at worst, cosmetic at best – leaving critical issues such as site access and the physical fabric of the buildings unaddressed.

Perhaps most striking is that in autumn last year, just as the masterplan was concluding, MassDOT announced plans to invest up to \$56 million in the replacement of three bridges across the site within the next decade. None of this investment appeared to take a holistic view of the Strathmore into consideration. Nor was

the funding leveraged as a potential bargaining chip during recent negotiations with FirstLight around the renewal of their 50-year license, missing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure control of the bridge at Rear Canal Road and establish a one-way circular vehicular route through the site.

The Strathmore sits at the heart of one of the few surviving examples of a planned industrial community at this scale. It goes without saying that its erasure represents an enormous loss in its own right.

Economically, redeveloping even a fraction of the 245,000 square feet of existing floorspace in the mill complex holds transformative potential. According to past feasibility studies, Building #11 – with a footprint of just over 30,000 square feet – was alone anticipated to support 20 housing units and generate an additional \$90,000 in annual tax revenues.

Now imagine the impact of 100 additional households and workshop units in a new thriving waterside neighborhood – their purchasing power bolstering the venues, shops and restaurants of Avenue A, and providing tens of thousands in additional tax revenue annually.

From an environmental perspective, total demolition is also a staggeringly wasteful approach. Up to 50% of carbon output in construction projects is generated through manufacturing and transport of raw materials. A brick complex of this scale would host an estimated 8,000 tons of such “embodied carbon” in its structure, foundation, and envelope alone. For perspective, to offset 8,000 tons of carbon, you would need to plant just under 400,000 trees.

At a time of climate crisis and spiraling material costs, why are we consenting to adopt such a blunt tool?

Because it is the only one on offer.

What we need is public funding which addresses the true obstacles which have caused Strath-

more – and countless sites like it – to remain “undevelopable.” This includes funding which:

- de-risks the site for potential developers with packages to cover the burden of MA building code requirements (elevators, sprinkler systems) that push redevelopment costs beyond levels developers are able to absorb;
- provides resources for non-capital costs, such as legal mediation;
- supports façade retention, to retain historic and atmospheric qualities of the structures while allowing for their potential future use (a common approach in Europe).

Derelict industrial buildings like those in the Strathmore have been central to the transformation of many post-industrial, economically depressed waterside neighborhoods across the world. Even in a global city like London, the revitalization of long-derelict canal-side warehouses in Kings Cross – central London – was inconceivable to local officials in the '90s. No one believed the area would ever economically recover. Yet decades later, those buildings form the heart of what is now one of the most celebrated renewal projects in Europe.

We need to adopt that same patient, long-term approach to stewardship of place now, and go back to the table to demand funding that reflects this perspective.

Wholesale demolition is not the answer. Our industrial heritage, local economy, and community – past, present, and future – deserve so much better.

*Olivia Tusinski is an urban researcher and strategist working in the Economic Development unit of the Greater London Authority, where she directs programs focused on participatory city-making, institutional innovation, and inclusive economic development. She has family roots in Turners Falls, and calls it home for half the year.*

## RAIL from page A1

Information Meeting #2 on October 26. The virtual meeting, with 143 attendees including public officials, various stakeholders, and the interested public, reviewed a study of the feasibility of rebuilding east-west passenger rail between North Adams and Boston, which was discontinued in 1958.

### The Menu of Options

The study is a result of enabling legislation sponsored by Blais and state senator Jo Comerford, among others. It was “launched” in December 2021, according to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The research, directed by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and implemented by the transportation consulting firm HNTB, has now reached the end of its second phase.

The first report, presented at a similar meeting last January, outlined two potential scenarios for upgrading tracks – currently used only for freight service – between North Adams and the MBTA commuter line stop in Fitchburg. A minimal upgrade, estimated to cost \$1.04 billion, would produce a travel time of just under four hours from North Adams to Boston's North Station. A second scenario, which would include major track and other infrastructure upgrades at a cost of approximately \$2.2 billion, would reduce the end-to-end travel time by an hour.

Based on responses to that report, the study's second phase reviewed four additional scenarios:

the use of electrified trains; a “full local service” system with additional stops in Shelburne Falls, Athol, and Gardner; an extension from North Adams to Albany, New York; and a transfer at Fitchburg to the MBTA commuter line which would allow passengers to access all the stops on that line.

All of these additional scenarios assumed the implementation of the significant upgrades presented in the “high-investment” option last January. They also included a stop at Porter Square in Cambridge, a recommendation of earlier public input sessions.

Perhaps one reason for the relatively optimistic tone of last week's meeting was that the travel times projected for most of the scenarios seemed competitive with automobile travel. Travel time from Greenfield to Boston under the “full local service” option would be two hours and eight minutes. The trip from North Adams would take just under three hours.

These short travel times had the effect of increasing ridership projections, the topic of a lengthy technical analysis by HNTB's Paul Nelson. Increased ridership, in turn, tended to reduce the cost per rider for the system as a whole. Nelson's ridership estimates were also comparable to similar rail systems already in operation, including the Amtrak Downeaster, which runs from North Station to Brunswick, Maine.

Beyond the reduced per-rider cost estimate, the study predicted strong economic benefits, primarily from

project construction, and environmental benefits, primarily from reduced automobile fuel consumption.

### Bedroom Communities?

Amid the generally positive public input, which took up nearly half the meeting, came some pointed questions. One attendee, who introduced himself as “Mike,” posed a question about the proposed project's impact on housing costs. “If population growth is projected in Greenfield from this,” he asked, “will there be a policy to encourage dense, affordable housing, to encourage walking, and to discourage sprawl or building where woodland exists now? Failing that, will there be planning to prevent spikes in rents?”

Meeting moderator Makaela Niles of MassDOT thanked Mike for making the connection between transportation and housing policy. “There will certainly need to be coordination with municipalities about those different elements that connect with transportation, including housing,” she said.

John Garrett, a Greenfield resident elected this week to an at-large city council seat, compared the cost of electrifying the Northern Tier very unfavorably with rail projects in other countries, such as Israel and New Zealand. “Do we hire a bunch of people from New Zealand and basically pay them four million dollars to do this?” he joked.

Paul Nelson noted that the question of the high cost of transportation in the United States was frequently raised, and that while Columbia University researchers had

done a study of the topic, “we kind of have to follow the standards of practice for these things.”

There were numerous questions about the next steps in the process, and what local citizens who support the project can do to “make it happen.” Andrew Fitch, elected this week to a city council seat in North Adams, said that he was “psyched out of [his] mind about this,” and asked what residents could do to help “evangelize” the project.

Janice Sorensen said she would like to convince her neighbors in Buckland and Shelburne to support the project, particularly the local option that would include a stop in Shelburne Falls. She added that it would be “helpful to know” what the cost of a ticket would be.

HNTB program manager Anna Barry said the study had not “gone into fare policy” yet, but had primarily focused on the project's construction costs. Fares, she said, are typically considered “further on in the development of transportation service.”

When the feasibility study is completed, MassDOT is instructed by the 2019 enabling legislation to file its report with the legislature.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime investment,” said Tom Bernard, former mayor of North Adams and the present CEO of Berkshire United Way. “This is generational, this is game-changing. If you look back in history, you could say the same things about the Hoosac Tunnel. So let's use history as our model in that way and go forward boldly.”


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**LEVERETT** from page A1

the board to apply for a grant which would cover, among other items, gathering information related to moving the building.

A second committee member, Don Robinson, appeared at Tuesday's meeting to assert that Nathorst had been out of line in seeking that approval, because the move had not been voted on by the committee. He said the selectboard should have asked whether the committee had voted to seek the grant before approving it.

Robinson added that Nathorst's comments at the prior meeting about the negative consequences of the property failing a perc test were not accurate, and did not reflect a consensus of the committee.

Nathorst responded that he believed he was acting "at the behest" of the committee, based on discussions at its meetings, in seeking to "extend the scope" of the original charge using the grant. He said the study would serve the public by providing information needed to make a decision about the best course of action, which included the possibility of moving the building, as discussed by the committee.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson commented pointedly that Nathorst should have secured a committee vote on seeking the grant application before presenting it.

Hankinson went on to say that the committee's charge and what it had accomplished thus far, "don't neces-

sarily go hand in hand," but that the information it was gathering would be useful for the town, and was moving the process in the right direction.

**Budget Season**

Taking an initial step in the yearly budget process, the selectboard voted to follow the finance committee's recommendation that town departments be asked not to increase their budget requests by more than 2.5% over the current year.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she was hopeful property tax bills would go out by December 7, with payments due on January 11.

Finance committee chair Phil Carter noted that the capital planning committee was not functioning, due to a lack of members, and that it "would be nice" to fill the open positions for budget season.

Hankinson said capital planning was a "serious and important" committee, and encouraged inclined residents to volunteer.

**Gutter Reassurance**

Discussion continued on finding ways to fund the repair of erosion damage and ensure the long-term stability of Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

The road, long closed to traffic, serves as a hiking trail through the town-owned Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation area. Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT) trustee Steve Weiss updated the board on RGT's planning, emphasizing that if funding for repairs is found, it would need to be

accompanied by an assurance that the town would maintain the road.

Hankinson said he believed he was speaking for his fellow board members in saying that they were in favor of the outline of the course sought by the RGT, and that in combination with highway superintendent Matt Bouchier's willingness to do the work the plan "seemed to make sense," but that the board was not in a position to provide the requested assurance. That, he said, might require town meeting.

Due to the complexity of the issues involved, Weiss suggested that the discussion be resumed after engineering studies currently underway are completed, and the board agreed.

**Other Business**

The board appointed approximately 10 volunteers to serve on a town forest advisory committee. The committee is charged with studying the offer of a gift to the town of land for a town forest. They appointed Kate Rice to the rec committee, and Erin Jacque as an interim conservation agent.

Hankinson recommended that a housing association on Putney Road present an article at town meeting for FY'25 if the association believes it is due payment from the town for a recent private road project, which was undertaken without town consultation.

The board approved an application for a grant to study the feasibility of an electricity "microgrid" shared by several town buildings.

The board assigned members to introduce articles at a special town meeting to be held at 7 p.m. next Tuesday, November 14 at the Leverett Elementary School. Fourteen of the 17 articles pertain to easements around the Millers Road Bridge, which is slated for repairs, while two involve Community Preservation Act funds and a memorial bench on a town-owned field.

In response to an unresolved complaint about barking on Cave Hill Road, by dogs, Hankinson said that the board was "still on the case" and hoped to bring "very distant parties" closer through further individual meetings.

**FOX** from page A1

little, and then when I took it over it had too much baggage – or enough that I could surmount it, but then *bang*, COVID happened."

Arthur reorganized the Fox in 2019 in a sequence that included the sale of the building to local businessman Josh Goldman. "We reopened three weeks before the shutdown," she said. "I still remember that Sunday brunch – regulars looked me in the eye and said, 'We're in here for our last meal.'"

The 2019 closure, Arthur said, greatly reduced the amount of pandemic support the Fox was eligible for. She and her partner spent the

first months of the shutdown making free meals and delivering them to residents in need.

"To me, this was the top level," Arthur reflected of her nine-year run. "I don't even enjoy owning a business, necessarily, but I do feel like this place being a pure expression of my vision."

After the restaurant closes, she said, she is taking a trip to Cuba: "I'm already feeling like I will come back from that trip feeling clear-headed and open-hearted, and with some new perspective and some new inspiration for what I want to do next."



**LANDMARK** from page A1

community uses of the Avenue A storefronts, and residential use of the second-floor apartments.

A connected rear structure, much in need of work according to listings, is zoned for light manufacturing – provided the product is sold onsite. Webber said the pair is inviting "people to approach who have a proposal for a makers' space," listing a weaving studio and bagel shop as examples.

The building, 113-115 Avenue A, has a storied past. The first deed for the property, to Robert, James, and George Starbuck, was signed in person on January 26, 1872 by the village's founder, Alvah Crocker. "Said building may be used for working of tin, shut-iron, or copper," read a handwritten addendum to the Turners Falls Company's standard typeset deed.

Over several generations the building would remain with the Starbuck family businesses, which specialized in woodstoves and boilers. Robert Macy Starbuck, or R.M., became widely known for his practical illustrated manuals for plumbers and steamfitters.

The Starbuck building was finally sold, in 2000, by George Starbuck & Sons to Paul and Delores Letourneau, who owned it for four years; then to Tom Cameron and Mary Mathers, who owned it for 11, and then to Douglass, who purchased it in the summer of 2015.

A dispute arose that fall between the new owners and commercial tenant Gary Konvelski, who moved his Gary's Coins and Antiques business down the Avenue to the Crocker Building after a mutually unsuccessful attempt to continue his tenancy in one storefront for a year. (According to the Reporter: "what he was promised and expected, he says, did not come to fruition, and he feels his side of the story was not often heard.")

Under Douglass's ownership it was the home to La Mariposa Collective, a political initiative committed to justice and reparations for people of color. A wide range of projects and businesses operated in the storefronts during the last decade, including Mariachi Shoe Repair, the business of skilled cobbler and leatherworker Luis Felipe Gonzalez Perez; gallery events and receptions; Great Falls Books Through Bars; and emergency basic needs distribution by the Pioneer Valley Workers' Center.

Last fall, in preparation for the sale of the building, Books Through Bars and the Workers' Center relocated to a new shared storefront space on Fourth Street.

"We are excited to talk to anybody who's had anything to do with the building, whatever that experience was," Webber said about her future plans with McKerchie. "Our ears are open."

The colorful murals on the alley side of the building, Webber said, will remain.

"Everybody loves the murals," she said, grinning, "or if they don't love the murals, too bad."

The pair plan to work with Neal Bannon of the Amherst-based Apollo Contracting on the major renovations. The building comes with a relatively new, 13-KW solar array on its roof.

"I'm very pleased that the building is as empty as it is, that so little has actually been done to the infrastructure," Webber told the Reporter. "It feels like a blank slate.... Everything feels very doable. I can see that work was done over the years, and I appreciate that."

"Our heart, coming into it, is that our resources are going toward really lovingly repairing the building," she added, "making it really sound for the future generations – we see ourselves as having a kind of responsibility to do that."



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MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023 to review the Request for Determination of Applicability RDA #2023-08, filed by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, to determine whether the proposed work to remove hazard trees or trees not meeting electrical safety clearances along the 312 Transmission Line between Lake Pleasant Road and Green Pond Road, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023 to review the Request for Determination of Applicability RDA #2023-06, filed by the Town of Montague, to determine whether the proposed work involving repairs to the steel superstructure, new anchor bolts and concrete patching at the piers and abutments, at the 11th Street Bridge Over Utility Canal, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023 to review Notice of Intent NOI #2023-01, filed by Peg Piwonka, for the construction of a veterinary clinic facility with associated site work and preparation in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland at 2 Fosters Road (Map 51, Lot 10).

Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

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**SPORTS** from page A1

As the dust settles and the evenings darken, only three local teams are left: the Turners Falls cheer squad, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles, and the Volleyball Thunder.

**Girls' Soccer***Upper Cape 2 – FCTS 1*

Last Friday the Upper Cape Rams upset Franklin Tech in the preliminary round of the MIAA Division V soccer playoffs. The teams faced off just before 4 p.m., making it the day's first contest.

Both teams played ball-control in the first half. The action rarely left midfield, with the exception of periodic fast breaks, and with the score 0-0, I headed into the gym. After the third volleyball game, I came back to the pitch to find Tech was down by a goal. One of the Franklin mothers gave me a recap while I told her about volleyball.

And just like that, Blue attacked in formation. Standing on the hash mark, we had a wonderful view of the attack. Anne Kolodziej dribbled the ball to the far side, then passed it dead center. Ella Kolodziej, coming up the middle, took the pass and kicked it straight at the goalkeeper. The kick was a grounder, and the goalie didn't have time to get her hands back down – the ball rolled between her legs, and the game was knotted at 1 all.

The score was still tied at 1-1 when I left again, this time for the Turners volleyball game.

Later, as I was listening to football on Bear Country, one of my sources called me. "The girls lost," he reported. "Cape Cod scored in

the last minute to eliminate Franklin Tech." It wouldn't be our last conversation of the night.

Later, coach Jason Butynski confirmed that Franklin had lost with 15 seconds left in the game. But Butynski refused to see this as a defining moment for his team: "I am really proud of what this group accomplished this year," he told me.

And it's not just this season. Franklin has steadily improved each year, and although they'll lose both Kolodziejes, Kyra Goodell, and Trinity Doane to graduation, the Kicking Eagles seem to have a pretty bright future.

**Volleyball***SICS 3 – FCTS 2**TFHS 3 – Madison Park 0**TFHS 3 – SICS 0*

In the gym, the Tech volleyballers were hosting the Bulldogs of Springfield International Charter School in the Division V tournament Round of 32.

Franklin is familiar with SICS, having just swept the Bulls in the PVIAC playoffs on October 26. On Friday Tech won the first game going away. The Bulldog coach countered Tech's scoring runs with timeouts, but they weren't able to stem the Eagles' flow, and the game went into the win column at 25-16.

In the second game the Internationals started to play with desperation in their steps. They dove for balls, chased them into the benches, and blocked shots at the net. This game remained close until midway through. With the score 10-9, the Bulldogs went on a scoring spree and doubled up Franklin 18-9; not to be

undone, the Eagles went on a run of their own to tie it at 24. Both teams had chances, but neither could reach the 2-point margin – they tied at 25, 26, and 27 – before SICS scored two consecutive to tie up the match.

Tech built up a pretty solid lead in the rubber game, but the Bulls never gave up, losing by just two points. With the score at 2-1 Tech I went back to the soccer game; later, my source would call me again to inform me that Tech had lost it in five.

Lea Chapman finished with an ace, nine kills, nine digs, and seven blocks; Brooke Smith had six aces, three kills, two digs, and an assist; Shelby O'Leary two aces, 16 digs, and 13 assists; Jenna Petrowicz four aces, four kills, 15 digs, and a block; Emma Petersen six aces, seven kills, six digs, an assist and two blocks; and Skylei LaPan got in six digs.

Across Millers Falls Road, Turners had no trouble defeating Roxbury's Madison Park Cardinals.

Blue held the Cards to just 11 points in the opener. In the second game Madison hung tough, losing by just five points, but the Thunder secured another lopsided win in the final to advance to the Sweet Sixteen.

Contributing to the win were Taylor Greene (23 assists, four kills, and three digs), Madi Liimatainen (12 kills, five aces, and six digs), Tatiana Carr Williams (six kills), Janelle Massey (nine kills and four aces), Ian Bastarache (three aces), and Maddie Dietz (two aces and eight digs).

On Monday, Springfield International Charter came back to Turners. Because I had seen this team three times in recent weeks, I was

pretty sure the Blue Thunder would take it in three games. But the Bulls did their best to win.

While the Thunder's spikes and serves were much faster than SICS's, the Bulldogs kept the ball alive with fast legs and lucky hits. As Springfield held on, the crowd grew restless – and louder. The score was 24-24 but Blue simply scored the next two points to win the evening's first game.

With the momentum on their side, the Thunder shot out to a 9-0 lead in the second game. The Bulls fought desperately to make up ground, but Powertown shut the door, winning it 25-10. The visitors built a small lead in the third game, and the crowd again began to murmur. But they had nothing to worry about, as Blue took the final game 25-17.

Making noise for the Thunder were Greene (19 assists, five kills, eight aces, and two digs), Liimatainen (11 kills, three aces, and six digs), Massey (six kills, three aces, and three digs), and Dietz (10 digs and two aces).

This Thursday, Blue hosts the Hopedale Blue Raiders in the Elite Eight round.

**Field Hockey***Stoneham 2 – FCTS 1*

On Saturday the Tech field hockey team lost against the Stoneham Spartans in the Division IV Round of 32. Kate Trudeau scored the team's sole goal, with an assist from Hannah Gilbert, and in goal Madie Markwell made six saves.

It was the team's last game of the 2023 season. Unlike other fall sports, there is no statewide Vocational tour-

namment for field hockey, so the team will have to rest on their laurels.

Franklin Tech field hockey went 16-3-1, with two of those losses in tournaments. They also shared the county conference title, had two players reach 100 points, and made it to the Western Mass championship game. Perhaps next year they'll be able to compete in the Voc playoffs!

**Football***Carver 55 – FCTS 0*

On Friday night, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost a tough one against the Carver Crusaders. It was a little painful to listen to, but I kept it on for the whole game. In the second half, both teams emptied their benches.

Under center, Gabriel Tomasi completed three passes for 24 yards, and ran for 19. Backup QB Tyler Yetter also made three completions for 28 yards. William Ainsworth caught three passes for 22, while Ethan Smarr and Cameren Candelariam made the other two catches. Maxon Brunette rushed for 53 yards, Josiah Little gained 47, and Nathan Sabolevski had three.

Defensively, Laden Hardy made eight tackles, and Shaun Turner and Camryn Laster each knocked away passes.

The loss eliminates the Birds from the MIAA playoffs, but their season doesn't end with the loss. This Friday they host the first game of the Vocational playoffs against another Crusader team, the Cape Cod RVT Crusaders, and they have a date Thanksgiving morning with the Smith Vikings.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# As Big Projects Conclude, Wendell Hopes to Forward Bills

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their November 1 meeting the Wendell selectboard heard from project manager Phil Delorey that the Mormon Hollow Road culvert has again been fixed, this time protected by a 12- to 18-inch concrete base. One complication came up with the school bus route that crosses the culvert, Delorey said; the bus had to be re-routed back through Wendell Center for students west of Diemand Farm.

The other complication is now paying the bills for the two repairs, first \$84,000 and then \$79,000, to a project whose cost had already grown from an original \$300,000 estimate to over \$600,000 in the years when the highway department was putting money aside for the work.

Wendell paid the most recent repair from the highway budget, "to be replaced with available funds." Both the contractor and the engineer agree the town should not be held responsible for that extra expense, but each say the mistake belongs to the other party.

Delorey agreed to check with town counsel about calling in the bond the town took out on the project.

**Almost Filtering Through**

Peter Valinski, vice president and project manager for the engineering firm Tighe & Bond, Zoomed into the meeting to report on delays in getting the new PFAS filtration system at Swift River School in place and working.

Since PFAS were first found in the water the school has had to keep 250 gallons of bottled water on site. Valinski said some of the delay comes from the fact that Whitewater Water and Wastewater Solutions, the school's water operator, is only available part-time, once a month for water testing.

The contract was put in place in spring and work was to begin June 28, the first day

of summer vacation. Construction of the filter room actually started earlier, but parts were still on order when the time came to pick up the equipment. Testing on September 23 revealed leaks and head loss, and a handful of the filtering gel went into the school's water pipes and clogged the sink screens.

Further testing was to occur on an early-release day for students, in the hope that workers would be able to access the whole building without disrupting classes, but the chosen day turned out to be Parent-Teacher Night and testing was again postponed. That Saturday an eight-hour flow test was undertaken without a hitch.

A final test of the system was completed on October 28, and Valinski emailed town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad on November 4 reporting that the system removed PFAS6 to below the detectable level of 2 parts per trillion. Whitewater will conduct routine maintenance this Friday, the Veterans Day holiday, and then a week-long flow test will take place next week.

Once the state Department of Environmental Protection approves the system, the school will have filtered water.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine asked whether Tighe & Bond would pay for the bottled water the school has had to buy because the project went past its expected completion. "I'll be back," Valinski said, but he added that Tighe & Bond was already over-extended on the project.

**Sorting It Out**

Shawn Jarrett and Tom Mangan came to the meeting, continuing their effort to restore the separation of deposit bottles and cans at WRATS for redemption. This time Jarrett seemed not to be arguing about whether it could be done, but how.

A volunteer, who may not also be a town employee, would separate the deposit con-



*Third time's the charm: This culvert under Mormon Hollow Road is hoped to hold.*

*The engineer and contractor blame each other for the initial project's failure last year, and Wendell officials are considering calling in the town's bond.*

tainers from other recyclable materials. The WRATS assistant might still take those containers to a redemption center, but he might need an exemption from the Massachusetts ethics commission to show that he is not receiving unwarranted privileges from his position. Getting mileage compensation for doing that is a second issue, which would need to be addressed independently.

The applicant must contact the ethics commission in writing. Mangan said he could help the assistant with that step.

With little discussion, the board approved an exemption for fire captain Asa DeRoode to be a WRATS attendant and Wendell's representative to the Franklin County solid waste management district (FCSWMD).

**Other Business**

The board approved a two-day alcohol license so Home Fruit Wines can sell at Diemand Farm on November 21 and 22.

They agreed to waive the building permit fee for the Wendell Historical Society's continuing work to make the former Wendell Depot Post Office into a museum. While not

objecting to this, treasurer Carolyn Manley said the board should establish criteria for deciding when fees should be waived.

Board members agreed that a special town meeting is not currently necessary. One resident of Stone Cutoff Road has asked the town to discontinue that road, an action that would require a town meeting vote; Delorey said he had discovered that a second person owns property on the road. While the road stays a town road, town workers are prepared to do some needed maintenance.

Erving has approved a contract with Gill Engineering for designing repairs to the Farley Road bridge, and will send Wendell a bill for half the expense.

Delorey said the dying tree at the library is down and the stump grinding is done, and that drilling for sampling wells around the former landfill was put off into November. Paving of storm damage on Farley and Wendell Depot road was scheduled for November 7 and 8, weather permitting, with each road limited to one lane of traffic during the work.

Johnson-Mussad said other towns have been reporting slow response to their town counsel requests similar to Wendell's, and not just with the firm Kopelman & Paige (KP Law). Issues in Wendell that have gone a long time without answers include an easement for a dry hydrant at McAvoy Pond, a land transfer at 318 Locke Village Road, and the Audubon offer for the condemned house at 40 Gate Lane.

Budine asked whether the town is required to accept the low bidder when contracting its legal services. Johnson-Mussad said he would look up Wendell's contract with KP Law.

Johnson-Mussad said town annual reports for 2021 and 2022 are at the printer, ready to be put in book form. He has ordered 30 copies of each – fewer than in earlier years, when many books went unclaimed. He has a list of people who have asked for copies.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1  
member Matt Lord.

"I'll third it," said Chris Boutwell. Ellis was hired at the end of 2016 to replace longtime town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. He had previously worked at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, a policy organization, as its Director of Applied Research and Program Evaluation.

"We evaluated public- and private-sector programs to measure and improve their performance," Ellis told the *Reporter*, noting that he began working at the institute as a graduate student in the 1990s, a time he describes as the beginning of the era of "standards and accountability" in public policy.

The shift from academia to small-town administration was a "big jump," Ellis said, but as a local resident he had already served on the Montague planning board, briefly on the Gill-Montague school committee, and as a member of Montague town meeting. "My familiarity with town government was shaped by my direct experience," he told the *Reporter*.

Ellis said he would prefer to "wait until [his] story is written," at the end of this fiscal year, to comment on the positives and negatives of his tenure. But he stressed that "the best part of my experience has been the way I have been received and treated.... I can not imagine a more thoughtful and engaged community. If you share the story behind a particular decision, people may or may not agree, but they are willing to listen."

As for what comes next, Ellis said that "I need to pause and think about what's next and what my mission is," he said - perhaps even have a real summer vacation. "I plan to give myself the gift of time and reflection," he added.

#### Animal Control

Monday's meeting began with a hearing about dogs the selectboard had previously declared "nuisance dogs" for being unlicensed and for attacking another resident and her dog. The board had required that the owner license them by October 25 and secure the dwelling. That deadline was reportedly not met, however, and in the interim two of the dogs had puppies, making up to 15 dogs living at the house by the end of the month.

Animal control officer Calin Giurgiu, testified that he had visited the owner on the 25<sup>th</sup> and told them he would return the following Tuesday, October 31, to retrieve as many dogs as he could find shelter for. He reported an objection by the owner.

On November 1 Giurgiu took one of the mothers, six puppies, and another adult dog to the regional shelter on Sandy Lane. The other dogs, including another mother with puppies, were taken some days later to the animal shelter operated by the Dakin Humane Society.

After a brief discussion the board voted 2-1 to declare the owner in violation of the original order, and to require that they surrender the dogs and not be allowed to own another dog for five years as required under state law. Boutwell voted in the negative.

#### Expensive Hookups

Airport manager Bryan Camden presented an update on a solar lease which had been expected to generate nearly \$228,000 in revenue for the airport in the current

fiscal year. The company that won the bid for the project had projected the cost of connecting the array with the electrical grid at \$2.4 million, but that cost had ballooned to \$16 million when the electric company Eversource and ISO New England, which manages the grid, required major improvements in connections at the industrial park where the airport is located.

The result, Camden said, has been a potential delay in quarterly payments and revenues for the airport, a municipally-owned facility which relies on these funds to avoid local tax subsidies. Camden said that negotiations between the airport, Eversource, ISO New England, and the Federal Aviation Administration were advancing, but that the current fiscal year's budget may need to be either reduced or supplemented by the town.

The board did not take a vote on the issue, and Camden said he would return in December with another update.

#### Abate and Switch

The board held a hearing on the town's application for a federal Brownfields grant to demolish most of the Strathmore mill complex in order to abate hazardous materials. Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey introduced the proposal, which had been tweaked to focus on the abatement of contaminated soil under the building, not just asbestos in the complex's roofs.

The application for the \$4.9 million grant, which is supported by the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), argues that a near-total demolition will be required to abate the hazardous materials.

In response to a question from Janel Nockleby of the Montague historical commission, Ramsey said that although the grant application is due on November 13, there would be "plenty of time between now and when the grant award is announced for the commission to weigh in."

Ramsey discussed options for creating a fund within next year's budget to address a potential structural crisis, or collapse, at the mill complex. After showing some horrifying slides of the complex, Ramsey suggested either setting up a special account funded by a capital request to town meeting or dealing with the problem on an "emergency basis." For the latter approach, federal funds remaining in the town's American Rescue Plan Act account were suggested.

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

#### Endless Drainage

Ramsey, armed with yet more pictures of decaying infrastructure, reviewed the poor condition of the parking lot behind town hall. He said a project would need more than "repaving," but should include stormwater management, curbing, and removing the Butler building used for storage.

The board did not take a vote, but Kuklewicz said he felt Ramsey "had unanimous consent to move forward on that."

Ramsey then updated the board on the project to mitigate flooding on Montague City Road which has been delayed this year because "it just keeps getting wetter and wetter." He said the company implementing the project, Davenport Trucking of Greenfield, had "changed its approach" to focus on opening up the

stream channel next to the road with an excavator to allow it to drain.

The new strategy will commence at the end of the week, and a section of the road will be closed during each day until mid-December.

Finally, Ramsey reported on the project to upgrade the basin collecting runoff from the town's former burn dump, which has been capped and now supports a solar array. He said the solar company, Kearsarge, is bidding out the design for the drainage project, which will be funded by the town. Kearsarge will pay for the project itself, which is the result of a MassDEP mandate.

Ellis reported on the "substantial completion" of the project to put new roofs on the town-owned Shea Theater and Colle Opera House buildings. The project had been completed significantly under budget, he said, and received favorable warranties, "so we feel good about it."

He also reported on a response the town is drafting to a MassDEP "notice of non-compliance" involving the town sewer system.

#### Other Business

Ellis reported back from a recent meeting on the Northern Tier Rail Study, which is evaluating the feasibility of reconstructing passenger rail service from North Adams to Boston. (See article, Page A1.) He read a statement he had submitted stressing support for the creation of a northern rail extension based on the need for more "equitable" access to services concentrated in the eastern part of the state, including healthcare, and the potential to stem the population decline in the western part.

Public health director Ryan Paxton came before the board to discuss the installation of Naloxone Boxes in Montague. The publicly accessible boxes contain naloxone, a nasal spray which can counter opioid overdoses. The boxes are being installed under the direction of the regional Opioid Task Force and maintained by Tapestry Health, a "community-based" non-profit agency with an office in Greenfield.

One such box has been installed in Millers Falls, Paxton said, and two others are planned for Turners Falls.

Kuklewicz indicated his support, but asked about potential legal liability for the town. "I'm just concerned if the box gets emptied, for whatever reason..." he said, "and then somebody really needs it."

Paxton said he would bring the issue up with "the group," and that town counsel should perhaps be consulted. Ellis suggested that either the task force or Tapestry could provide a certificate of insurance naming Montague.

Ellis discussed the annual property tax classification hearing, at which officials determine the "split" between residential tax rates and those classified as commercial-industrial-personal. He proposed a "two-phase process" in which data is discussed on either November 13 or November 20 and a final decision is made on November 27.

The board approved a request from RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto for the use of public property on the evening of Friday December 8 for the annual "It's a Wonderful Night In Turners Falls" event. The celebration, which takes place at Spinner Park, features Santa accompanied by the Turners Falls Fire Department.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for November 13.



## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on November 7, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

#### Who's That Howling Out There?

Montague internet posters have been discussing sightings of a "large canine" on North Leverett Road. Some speculate it is a wolf, taller than the side mirror of a Subaru. Howls heard in the woods did not resemble those of a coyote.

Sightings of large predator animals have become more frequent in recent years with large cat sightings, a.k.a. mountain lions, as close by as Gill. It could be possible. Who would have thought 25 years ago that bears would be the nuisance and population they are today?

#### Wendell Strays Go To Turners

Wendell has joined the Frank-

lin County Regional Shelter in Turners Falls, which is run by the Sheriff's Department, so stray and lost dogs picked up in Wendell will now be housed there.

Owners can claim their lost dogs from the shelter on Sandy Lane behind Judd Wire. Unclaimed dogs will be made available for adoption after seven days.

#### Locust for Leverett Tots

The Leverett Elementary preschool playground has undergone a total transformation. A Community Preservation grant paid for new fencing, a climbing structure, and materials for a sandbox.

Wayne Cromack and Joe Sobieski, the evening maintenance staff, built the sandbox from locally-sourced locust wood. Now it is filled with sand, and the kindergarten and preschool children are having a most excellent time at recess!

## 20 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on November 6, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

#### Bean Offered Road Post

After failing to reach agreement with their first choice for DPW superintendent, the Montague selectboard offered the job to Thomas Bean, currently a manager of new technologies for Verizon in Concord.

Bean was born in Montague City. His grandfather worked as a civil engineer and hydrologist for the Turners Falls Water Company, and his younger brother John has been head of the Greenfield DPW for many years.

Bean, who also worked for the Greenfield DPW before moving east, said if he accepts the job it will be a challenge "to bring in ethical behavior for the department, and to

improve morale." He said he had some soul searching to do over the next few days: "I really love my job." But he told the board he would let them know his answer shortly.

#### By the Light of the Moon

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse opened its doors just about 20 years ago, making it probably the longest-continuously-running venue of its kind in the state.

The first coffeehouse took place in February 1984, to raise money to support the Wendell Concerned Citizens, who were battling the state over the relocation of Route 2 through the Wendell State Forest.

After almost nine years of fighting, the proposed South Bank Alignment was dropped, but by then the coffeehouse had become an important institution in town.

## 150 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on November 5, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.*

#### Local Matters

Fit up your sleigh.

Every cord of wood given to the poor is recorded above.

The oyster supper at the Baptist Church this evening deserves a generous patronage.

Mr. Holden says that in view of the stringency in the money market he will have to run his hotel on three-quarters time.

The Turners Falls Lumber Co. are building, near the ferry, a house in which to store all the tackle and tools used in log driving.

We are informed that the contract for the Lawrence Water Works has been awarded our fellow townsman, B. N. Farren, Esq., at about one million dollars.

People are always talking about

the higher education of women. If they would educate some of them to hire out as trustworthy domestics it would be more philanthropic.

Trains leave Greenfield for Turners Falls at 8 a.m., 12 m. and 4 p.m., and leave Turners Falls for Greenfield at 8:40 a.m., and 1:50 and 4:40 p.m., the forenoon train being discontinued.

On Thursday night last, a gang of burglars broke into R.L. Goss's store, Montague City, and blew open the safe, from which was taken \$60 to \$70 worth of postage stamps. The books and papers were disturbed, but nothing carried away. The blacksmith shop in the neighborhood was also entered and tools taken away which were used in entering the store.

Thieving is being carried on at present with a persistence worthy a better cause. It requires all the eyes of Argue to keep a vigilant watch on any thing of a portable nature.



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**GILL** from page A1

John,” Crochier answered. “You don’t have a budget to pay for that at this point.”

Williams pointed out that Miner is listed as “assistant tree warden.” “An assistant means he works for me,” Williams said, “and you can’t argue that one.”

“I’ll argue it all day,” snapped Crochier.

Selectboard member Greg Sneider cut in to say that both Williams and Miner work for the town, and that even if Williams were to supervise tree work Miner does, it wouldn’t give him control over the highway department budget.

“When was there ever a town meeting appointing an assistant tree warden?” Williams asked. “When was that job created? There never was – there never was a town meeting.”

“Great. Great. Whatever,” Crochier replied.

“So that job doesn’t exist,” pushed Williams.

“Great,” Crochier told him. “You still don’t have a budget, sir.”

Williams also brought up the question of what to do with wood from trees felled on town land. He had brought concerns before the selectboard last year, before he was elected as tree warden, protesting that a highway worker had taken some of it for his own use. Williams asked that wood be made available for town residents to use instead. At the time, the selectboard said they would consider possibilities.

“Anything come of that?” Williams asked.

“Nope,” Crochier answered.

Williams said that Northern Tree Service had contacted him for approval to remove or trim trees to protect power lines, and that he planned to tell them to leave the wood behind so residents could come take what they needed.

“Absolutely not,” Miner objected. “People don’t go pick it up, Joe – they say they’re going to, [and]

they pick and choose what they’re going to pick up. That’s why when we have a tree crew come in, anything that can go through the chipper goes through the chipper – otherwise you’re back six times to pick it up. If I have one guy throw his back out lifting cordwood to bring to somebody’s house, we’re done.”

Williams suggested he could have the company leave the logs at his house, where he would invite anyone to come get it.

“You were the one accusing people of taking it home,” said Crochier. “Why would we let it go to anybody’s private property?”

“I’ve already given 12 cords of wood away this year,” Williams responded. “Not that I need any wood for myself.”

“Congratulations,” Crochier replied, “but that’s beside the point. What you just asked about is town wood. Would you deliver it to my house and let people come get it?”

“Certainly, if you’re willing to let people come to your house and cut it up,” answered Williams.

“No, I’m not willing to, but that’s great,” said Crochier, before changing the subject.

Williams, Miner, and Purington agreed to meet this week to hash out tree removal protocols.

**Special Town Meeting**

A special town meeting will be held Monday, November 27 at 7 p.m. at the town hall. The selectboard reviewed and signed a warrant for the meeting with three articles.

The first is a vote to approve a new agreement between the town of Gill and the solar company Kearsarge Energy, establishing a new set of payments *in lieu* of taxes for its solar array on Main Road.

The second, a “financial house-keeping” article, would rescind unused money from five prior debt authorizations, going back to 2010.

The third would expand the sewer commission by two members. The current commission is

made up of the three selectboard members. Currently, none of them owns or lives on property that uses the town’s sewer system, which only serves Riverside residents. The article would allow the board to appoint two more commissioners, with preference given to sewer users. If approved, the measure will be placed on the ballot in the next town election.

**Other Business**

The board approved a new policy for “associate members” of the conservation commission. Up to three associate members can now be appointed to assist the full members and staff, without having voting rights. “If we have anyone who’s interested, in any form, I think we [should] try to get them any way we can,” said Crochier.

The town was awarded a \$6,775 risk management grant from its insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. Most of the money will be used to install “smart” water shut-off valves at four town buildings. These valves can detect irregular activity resulting from broken pipes and shut down the flow.

“It’s a direct lesson learned from the flood here in February,” said Purington, referring to a busted pipe that caused considerable damage to town hall last winter.

About \$875 of the grant will go toward disconnecting an old boiler in the basement of the Riverside Municipal Building, which the town rents to Four Winds School, from the water and fuel line. “The boiler hasn’t been turned on since 2017,” said Purington. “I’d be beyond nervous at this point to fire it up.”

The highway department will spend \$2,172 from its snow-and-ice budget for four wheels and studded tires to use on the town’s 2009 International dump truck in the winter.

The board will meet next on Monday, November 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.



Readers: Did you receive this envelope in last week’s edition? The Montague Reporter Board of Directors has launched a Writers’ Fund campaign to help make sure our contributors are supported over the coming year. Thank you to all who have donated!

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**November 16: Michael Miller, High Bridge**

*Upstate New York in the mid-19th century is a cauldron bubbling with the lure of fast fortunes, religious zealotry, and battles for civil liberties. This fervor centers on the Erie Canal, which supports scores of villages brimming with opportunity. One, Fayetteville, shapes the lives of two future American leaders. The young Stephen Grover Cleveland and women’s rights activist Matilda Joslyn Gage form an unlikely friendship. Can they combine their skills to solve a mystery and vindicate a Black man accused of murder?*

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NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Above: When all the leaves are off the bough...

## Porches of Montague, Part 2: Animals A Montague Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Wednesday, 6/26/13

5:21 a.m. A caller reported that a raccoon family had moved out from under his/her porch, but that one of the baby raccoons kept leaving the mother and wandering back across the street.

Tuesday, 9/24/13

8:56 a.m. Officer approached by a female who reported that she was on her porch with her dog when an unknown male passed by and said "If I had my gun, I would shoot your dog."

Thursday, 10/17/13

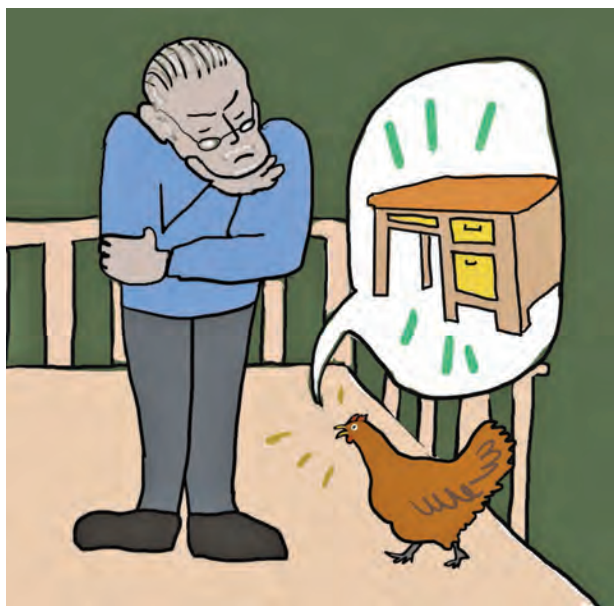
6:46 p.m. Complaint regarding neighbor cleaning shared porch with bleach; caller was afraid it could make her dogs sick.

Wednesday, 9/10/14

12:18 p.m. Report of a dog on the roof of a porch.

Friday, 2/27/15

5:06 p.m. Caller reports a raccoon nestled into their wood pile on the front porch. Raccoon has been there for approximately one hour and is not causing any problems at this time.



Monday, 4/27/15

4:48 p.m. Caller inquiring about getting help removing a snake from under her porch. Snake is possibly a ring snake, approximately 9 or 10 inches in length. Caller advised that animal control officer does not handle snakes, and that it is unknown if anyone would assist with a snake of that size.

Sunday, 5/10/15

5:36 p.m. Second call re-

garding a rabid raccoon who had climbed a tree earlier. Animal is now back and on the porch; resident cannot get into house.

Monday, 5/11/15

11:51 a.m. Report of multiple dogs outside on a third-floor porch; ongoing issue.

Friday, 5/29/15

8:16 a.m. Caller requests to speak with an officer regarding a neighbor's chicken that has taken up residence in his yard.

Caller expressed concern for the chicken's previous living conditions, as it was being kept in a desk on the porch of a house.

Tuesday, 4/12/17

3:10 a.m. Caller reporting being woken by some type of loud animal on porch next door. Officer advises that possums appear to be living on the porch among a large number of items.

9:59 p.m. Caller reporting small puppy on her porch.

Sunday, 5/7/17

2:20 a.m. Report that fox is back on Park Street. On approach, fox took off from road and ran underneath a nearby porch.

Monday, 8/7/17

4:48 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with a skunk that is curled up on her porch, which is against the house. Caller expressed concern that the skunk might be sick. Caller later reported that skunk is no longer on the porch, but is curled up next to the stoop up against the house.

see POLICE page B8



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – An impromptu weekend trip to a friend's Lake George summer home, the fascinating mid-18<sup>th</sup>-century journal of a scholarly foreign traveler, and an interestingly carved and painted 1789 Scandinavian tabernacle or bonnet-top cupboard that had previously stirred my inquisitive juices.

That's what's on my plate today, and what I'll serve in soothing soapstone warmth wafting from the dining-room woodstove to my morning parlor seat.

First, allow me introduce the astute foreign traveler. He's Swedish-born natural historian Peter Kalm (1716-1779), author of *The America of 1750: Peter Kalm's Travels in North America* – a classic diary of his colonial travels through budding villages and unspoiled wildlands extending from Delaware to Quebec. Then we'll take a look at how Kalm's important two-volume, 776-page work provides unexpected insight into the antique Scandinavian cupboard that has captured my fancy.

Isn't it dandy how important information can appear when least expected to a reader's delight?

Though born in Sweden, Kalm, the son of a Finnish clergyman and

Scots mother, was educated in Finland. He was, at the University of Uppsala, the student of famed naturalist Carl Linnaeus (commonly spelled "Linne"), one of many important friendships he built among pillars of Finland's scholarly botanical community.

It was Linnaeus who sent Kalm on his professional North American mission. The assignment was to gather data on North American plants that could be economically useful to Scandinavia. Privately, Kalm also harbored a deep interest in the history of New Sweden, a short-lived upper Mid-Atlantic colony that began in 1638 along the Delaware River, vestiges of which were still obvious during his tours through Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Kalm's journal records what he saw along the way from Wilmington, Delaware, to Philadelphia and up through New Jersey to what is now New York City. From there he followed the Hudson River upstream to its headwaters above Albany, Schenectady, and Saratoga before venturing into what was then uncharted territory – a no-man's land following Lake George to Lake Champlain and into Canada.

He described in invaluable see VALLEY VIEW page B3

### BOOK REVIEW

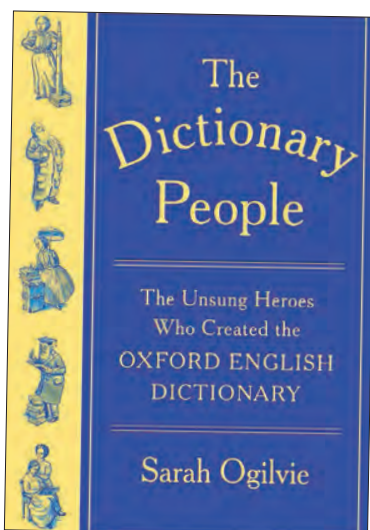
## Sarah Ogilvie, *The Dictionary People: The Unsung Heroes Who Created the Oxford English Dictionary* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2023)

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** – Until the 19th century, the most important dictionary of English was written by Dr. Samuel Johnson and published in 1755. Working alone with only clerical help, he identified the sources of words, and carefully included multiple definitions for words that mean differently in different circumstances.

He did not hesitate to voice pronouncements nor to make wry jokes. He defines *lexicographer* as "A writer of dictionaries; a harmless drudge who busies himself in tracing the original and detailing the significations of words." He completed his dictionary in seven years, and it reigned supreme for decades.

But Johnson did not include American words, or any meanings that would be unfamiliar in Britain. In 1828 Noah Webster took care of this by publishing his American Dictionary of English. He learned 28 languages so he could trace word roots, and as a former schoolmaster he valued spelling words consistently in ways that best approximated the sounds. Hence Americans now spell



many words differently: *center*, not *centre*, for example, and *labor* instead of *labour*. It took Webster 26 years to finish his dictionary, which remains the root of all Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

But extraordinary as Webster's and Johnson's achievements were, by the mid-19th century British philologists were convinced that English needed a better dictionary. One inspiration was a new, scientifically-based dictionary of German that benefited from considerable European work on philology. Challenged by this example, in 1857 members of the London Philological Society

proposed "an entirely new dictionary; no patch upon old garments, but a new garment throughout."

Crucially and in line with the latest scholarship, it would trace the meaning of words over time and note how people used them both in the past and at present. The goal was to describe English rather than prescribe what it should be. The result was the monumental Oxford English Dictionary, often abbreviated to OED.

see DICTIONARY page B5



SANDERSON PHOTO

A friend found this cabinet at Brimfield, but where was it made?

# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## “SOUP”

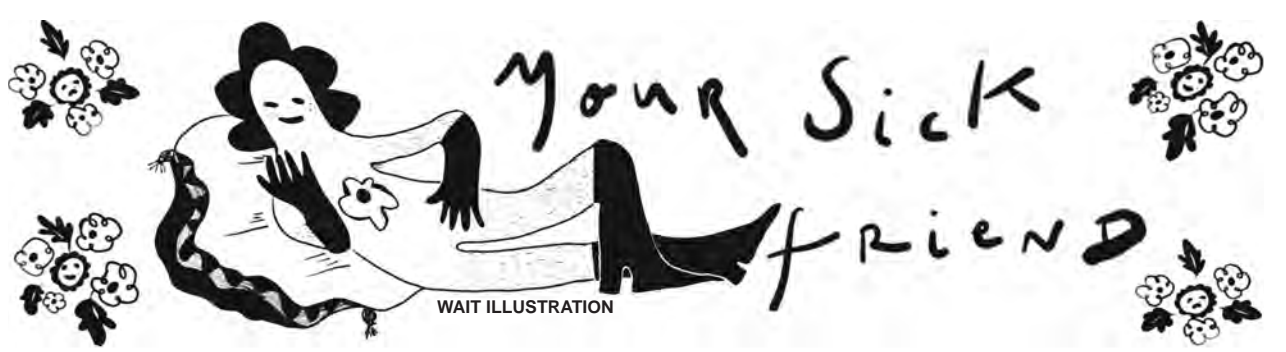
Soup has been in foster care with her littermates living the good life, but now it's time to move on to bigger and better things! Her foster mom says Soup is sweet and affectionate. When she's not playing, she's seeking attention or will just sit on your lap and watch TV with you. She's the first to greet you and sometimes mews looking for you.

If you're thinking about adopting more than one kitten, consider

one of Soup's siblings and double your fun!

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

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



By CASEY WAIT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hello from a hurting world, dear reader.

The last few weeks have been unrelentingly hard, not just for me as an individual managing chronic illness and chemo in a still unfolding pandemic, but in the world at large. There have been more mass shootings, more attacks on trans people, and now, a genocide taking place before our eyes.

Palestine has been on my mind almost constantly. As of this writing more than 10,000 Palestinians – most civilians and about 40% children – have been slaughtered by Israeli occupation forces. We can mourn the lives lost to the Hamas attacks on October 7 and at the same time know that nothing justifies the wholesale killing and maiming of so many more innocent people.

The United Nations itself has called this brutal violence and destruction “collective punishment” – a war crime that goes against the Geneva Convention. On Monday of this week, UN secretary-general António Guterres asserted that a ceasefire becomes “more urgent with each passing hour” as “Gaza becomes a graveyard for children.”

And while this escalation is harsher than anything most of us have seen in our lifetimes, Palestinians are no strangers to state violence. Disability scholar Jasbir Puar wrote about the “slow violence” Palestinians endure daily living under Israeli occupation and apartheid in her seminal work *The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability*, a text that has become required reading for anyone studying disability, biopolitics, or settler colonialism.

I think her analysis is incredibly helpful for understanding the linkages between disability justice and the Palestinian struggle, but it is a very dense and difficult text. Fortunately, activists Alison Kopit, Aimi Hamraie, and Kelsie Acton have broken down some of Puar's key concepts in plainer language (inspired by the Plain Language movement: using language that is more direct and accessible for people with intellectual disabilities). Summarizing Puar, they write:

“The Israeli government has caused serious harm to Palestinian people. When the Israeli military takes away food, water, and electricity, it hurts Palestinian people

over time. This is called ‘slow violence.’ Sometimes this violence is ignored because Israel defends its right to hurt Palestinians. Sometimes Israel says it treats queer and disabled people with great respect as a way to distract from the harm they are causing to Palestinians.

“There's a word that can help us understand the process of hurting people slowly: debility. Debility explains how people get hurt every day. Debility says that having a body that is hurt or works differently from others is very common. We can miss how common it is when we only think of Disability Rights. *People need accessibility and accessibility means freedom from slow violence.* This is very different from how we usually think about accessibility.” (Emphasis my own.)

Understanding the power of *slow violence* is essential to understanding why many people believe that a ceasefire, though absolutely necessary, is not enough if the goal is justice and safety for Palestinians. Israel must stop the bombing of Gaza, and settlers must stop their vigilante violence in the West Bank. But when these assaults stop, things must not simply go back to normal – normal was already a death sentence for millions of Palestinians living under occupation and apartheid. This is why so many people are calling for *decolonization*.

Like the United States, Israel is a settler-colonial nation. Settler colonialism is the full-scale replacement of an indigenous population with settlers. If this current escalation ends but the settler-colonial paradigm remains, continued violence against both Palestinians and Israelis is guaranteed.

Multi-ethnic, multi-religious peaceful societies are possible – but not under conditions of apartheid. And it is more than possible to stand in solidarity with both Jewish people and Palestinians at this time. If these ideas are new for you, I encourage you to check out the work of Jewish Voice for Peace and If-Not-Now, two anti-Zionist Jewish groups doing incredible organizing work around Palestinian liberation, with an emphasis on stopping US support for the occupation.

Earlier this week hundreds of Jews and allies took over the Statue of Liberty to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. *New York Magazine* quoted Jewish Voice for Peace

organizer Jay Saper: “We came to the Statue of Liberty today because we are inspired by the words of our Jewish ancestor, Emma Lazarus, that are etched into the monument. Those words compel us to take action to support the Palestinians of Gaza yearning to be free. And we will continue to take action until we bring about a cease-fire and until Palestinians are free.”

More than anything, we need to listen to Palestinians themselves. *Protean Magazine* has published “Letters from Gaza,” writings directly from people experiencing the siege firsthand. *N+1* published an excellent piece by Saree Makdissi entitled “No Human Being Can Exist.” “How can a person make up for seven decades of misrepresentation and willful distortion in the time allotted to a sound bite?” he asks. And the Institute for Palestine Studies is publishing many direct accounts of those in Gaza every day.

Death Panel Podcast, which focuses on disability justice, has also published several excellent interviews detailing the importance of Palestinian liberation to our movement, including “Body Politics w/ Jasbir Puar,” “Refusing Genocide w/ Radha Abdulhadi,” and “Public Health and Palestine w/ Dana Qato.”

“Abolition and apartheid cannot co-exist,” the Abolition and Disability Justice Collective wrote in 2021. “There is no disability justice under military occupation. Palestine must be free.”

Just this past week, President Biden approved a \$14.5 billion aid package to fund the Israeli assault on the innocent people of Gaza. These are our tax dollars: bombing refugee camps, schools, homes, ambulances, hospitals, entire villages. Blood is on our hands and we cannot look away.

Demand ceasefire now, and recognize that – from Palestine to the United States – land taken by force will have to be given back. And may the violence, fast and slow, from the river to the sea, end for good.

With love and rage,

*Your Sick Friend*

P.S. I've started a podcast! Find “Sickos Podcast” on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Substack. This week's episode is a reading of *Protean Magazine's* “Letters from Gaza.”

## Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 13 THROUGH 17

### 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.

### ERVING

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

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

### Monday 11/13

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

### Tuesday 11/14

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

### Wednesday 11/15

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

### Thursday 11/16

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

### Friday 11/17

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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 11/13

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

### Tuesday 11/14

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
10 a.m. Zumba Lite  
1 p.m. COA Meeting  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 11/15

9 a.m. VA Agent  
9:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
11:45 a.m. Friends' Meeting  
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo  
1:30 p.m. Food Pantry  
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 11/16

9:30 a.m. Coping with the Holidays and Loneliness  
1 p.m. Pitch  
1 p.m. Five Crowns

### Friday 11/17

9:15 a.m. SHINE by appointment  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pizza Party  
2 p.m. Chair Dance

### 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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

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EVENT PREVIEW

Veterans Day Benefit in Turners

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

and Rich Blake on drums.

**GREENFIELD** – Among the things I like to write about are places and events that have to do with veterans. My latest one is the 2023 Veterans Day Benefit, which will benefit Upper Valley Pioneer Veterans Services. The Pioneer Valley Brewery is hosting it along with the band Tracy and Company, and it is going to be held this Saturday, November 11 from 4 to 10 p.m.

I was able to talk about the benefit with Steve Valeski, who has been one of the owners of the Pioneer Valley Brewery for four years along with Chris Fontaine.

Tracy and Company is a classic rock band. I have been told they have been around for quite a while. “They are a well-known band locally,” Steve told me. “They are very popular.”

A total of five members are in the band, according to Steve. I got their names off their Facebook page. Along with singer Tracy Odle, the other band names are Mark Ethier (“a.k.a. Luther T. Buckman”) on keyboards, Matt Cornell on lead guitar, Mike Sisto on bass guitar,

I learned that this benefit, which will be held on-site at the Brewery at 151 Third Street in Turners Falls, took about a month to organize. They have never done events this large for veterans. “This is our first major event for veterans,” Steve told me.

There will be a couple of raffles – a 50/50 one, which I assume means the winner gets half of the money raised and the rest goes to the veterans – and the Grand Prize one, which has 100 gallons of heating oil from Dead River Company, one ton of wood pellets from Tractor Supply, and one cord of wood from Jim’s Tree Service to its name as prizes. Raffle tickets cost \$10 each. Why did the Dead River Company give this prize? According to them, “Because Tracy and Company called on behalf of it asking for a 100 gallons donation of oil for a prize.” That is how prizes come to be part of one of these raffles.

Besides being a big event, this is the first time the brewery is doing it. If the event is popular, Steve said, “Yes to doing it again, and/or making it annual.”

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

detail the colonial villages, the isolated farmsteads and their people, the trees, forests, and soils, the birds, snakes, and wildlife, the rivers and streams, their watercraft and fish, and what was left of the Native American people who had once called his study area home. Sadly, most Natives had by Kalm’s time fled to temporary inland refuge west of the Alleghenies.

Indian presence dramatically increased above Albany, and the learned Kalm predictably showed great interest in their lifeways. In fact, I have not read a better description, and I doubt that one exists, of an early Northeastern Native American fishing camp than the one he stumbled across and recorded on June 22, 1749. Nestled into an old, unoccupied Dutch Island located in the Hudson River’s upper reaches, it was an “old ways” sturgeon camp where men, women, and children worked together to gather and preserve fish stores for winter.

Although what Kalm witnessed occurred roughly three generations after the Connecticut Valley’s infamous, May 19, 1676, King Philip’s War massacre of a Native fishing camp at Peskeompskut Falls in Gill, the fish-gathering activity would have been similar, if not identical. It’s also quite likely that at least some of the Native people Kalm observed descended from Connecticut Valley ancestors driven to the untamed Lake George/Lake Champlain corridor after the “Falls Fight.”

Kalm described in detail the fishing camp’s temporary wooden shelters and pelt bedding, canoes and spears, and wooden drying racks with slim filets dangling in the sun. He also shared his fascination with the people – their hair and face paint, their clothing and *accoutrements*, their barter economy – while describing massive sturgeon often leaping four feet in the air from the shallows they occupied.

His description of the sturgeon camp and its people is an anthropological treasure. He unfortunately did not offer the same minute detail about the material culture of his own people who had settled New Sweden and were by his day under English rule.

Which circles us back to my friend’s interesting painted Scandinavian cupboard, which I believe to be the work of a skilled American joiner of New Sweden roots.

Yes, it could be Dutch or Norwegian, I suppose. But its rich earthy-green color, the carved and painted vine-and-leaf *motif* on the doors, and other decorative elements framing them suggest Swedish to me after viewing many Scan-

dinavian cupboards online. Not only that but, given its high-style formality, I suspect that some expert may be able to attribute the piece to an important 18<sup>th</sup>-century Swedish-American cabinetmaker. Not a one of the many Swedish cupboards I viewed online could match its dignified presence.

My friend bought the piece about 10 years ago at the Brimfield Flea Market while in the process of furnishing her new stone vacation home, built on Lake George property owned by her New Jersey family. The May’s Field vendor told her that it was Scandinavian, and may have accompanied immigrants across the Atlantic Ocean to America.

She showed the piece to me back then and, although it greatly interested me, I didn’t take photos and, regrettably, could not delve deeper in the comforts of home. That said, I never believed it was made overseas. I knew off the top of my head that Swedes had been here by the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly earlier. Then, upon discovering recently that they had been here for 150 years by the time it was constructed, my opinion only strengthened.

On my Lake George sojourn last month I did take photos, thoroughly examine the cupboard, and vow to learn more about its history. Also, having read another scholarly book about the construction of Fort William Henry on Lake George’s southwestern shore, I had seen Kalm’s book referenced and was determined to buy it upon returning home. Little did I know that my online purchase would kill two birds with one stone. Not only did Kalm improve my insight into colonial forests, settlements and Indians, rattlesnakes, blacksnakes, sturgeon, and you name it. His book offered a surprise addendum titled *History of the Delaware Swedes*.

Although he didn’t cover colonial Swedish material culture or its artisans, he taught me much about New Sweden. Then an online keyword search pulled me to the University of Pennsylvania, which seems to have an active group of New Sweden scholars, at least one of whom must specialize in the colony’s furniture and furniture-makers. If so, I may yet get an attribution for my friend’s extraordinary piece, and learn whether it was hung on a wall or was the top section of a Queen Anne chest on frame with *cabriole* legs that long ago disappeared. Though I suspect the former, I’ll reserve judgment for now. It’s a work in progress.

I am, however, supremely confident that my friend’s cupboard is a keeper. So, too, is Kalm’s journal.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fifteen Dogs Surrendered; Chronic Car Alarm Annoys; Church Shed Burglarized; Harasser Deemed Friendly

Monday, 10/30

7:57 a.m. School resource officer received a report about a gray VW Jetta driving erratically and swerving back and forth between lanes. Vehicle was seen pulling into the Tech School.

11:38 a.m. Northbound lane of Montague City Road flooded near Walnut Street. Officer placed a couple of cones in road, but more is needed. DPW notified and responding. Road reopened.

2:46 p.m. Report of one-car accident with injuries near town hall on Avenue A. PD, FD, and AMR ambulance responding. Tow requested for vehicle.

10:48 p.m. Caller states that a car has been parked on Seventh Street since 5:15 p.m. and that its car alarm has been sounding every 15 minutes since.

Officer checked area on a few occasions throughout the evening; did not ob-

serve car alarm sounding at any point.

Tuesday, 10/31

9:22 a.m. Employee from Our Lady of Peace Church states that someone ripped open the shed overnight and stole equipment. Damage included a broken window pane on the back door of the garage and a pried lock resulting in the lock ripping away from the shed door. Objects taken were: two leaf blowers; one weed wacker with extended hedge trimmer; one chainsaw; one edger; one pair of hand clippers; one pair of gloves; and two green plastic garbage cans, presumably to carry items away in. Officer will be on lookout for these items in the village of Turners Falls.

9:47 a.m. Caller states there is a syringe outside the handicap entrance to Ed’s Barber Shop. Item removed by officer.

11:30 a.m. Caller from Discovery Center states he is with a female who believes her car was stolen within the last hour. Officers advised. Caller called back in stating that the female party found her vehicle.

3:40 p.m. Caller reports that a male party is pushing a cart around in the area of Food City and Walgreens and is soliciting for money. Referred to an officer.

5 p.m. Officer advises he just spoke with a male party who was riding a dirt-bike on Hillside Road. Officer advises he is going to the residence to speak with his parents. Officer clear; spoke with mother.

6:51 p.m. Caller wishing to remain anonymous reporting a young male who is ripping a go-kart around the area of Fourth, Fifth, K, and L streets; states he just saw him head up L Street toward Nouria. Caller states he has seen this kid on the go-kart before, and that he lives on K Street. Officer unable to locate go-kart.

8:23 p.m. Caller states that a group of older kids is riding around on a golf cart in the area of Griswold and Davis streets with no lights and multiple kids hanging off the sides. Unfounded.

Wednesday, 11/1

9:14 a.m. Officer out with animal control officer on N Street. One female dog, one male dog, and one five-dog litter taken. Will return later today for remainder of 15 dogs.

12:21 p.m. Landlord states someone backed into the side of his building on Bridge Street and damaged the electrical box. Officer advises meter is broken. Ticket placed with Eversource.

1:19 p.m. Report of flooding on Montague City

Road in front of the Farnen property. DPW aware. Officer advises area checked and still passable at this time.

4:16 p.m. 911 caller from Marshall Street states that her neighbor wouldn’t leave the porch and was threatening her. Male party has now left.

4:29 p.m. Caller states that someone left a couch and an end table near her dumpster on Seventh Street. Advised of options.

5:17 p.m. Caller reporting that his vehicle was hit around 4 or 5 p.m. while parked on Avenue A near the Discovery Center. Referred to an officer.

6:29 p.m. Report of a low-hanging wire on Grout Circle. Verizon employee states it was reported to them by PD due to a trash truck not being able to get through. Wire actually belongs to Comcast; Comcast advised.

8:20 p.m. 911 caller from Bridge Street states that his upstairs neighbor is making a lot of noise, banging on things. Officer advises no answer at door; all quiet.

8:24 p.m. A 54-year-old Wendell man was arrested on four straight warrants. 9:33 p.m. Caller from H Street advises that she could see a male party in her backyard at 9:03 p.m. on her camera footage. The neighbor went outside to look to see if he was still there, and he was gone. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 11/2

8:06 a.m. Officer flagged down about slippery conditions on Montague City Road. DPW notified.

9:34 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that the downstairs neighbor is banging on the ceiling, attempting to bother and harass him. No answer at door; quiet upon officer’s arrival.

12:25 p.m. Food City employee requesting PD remove male party who is outside begging for money. Male party has been verbally trespassed for the day.

1:15 p.m. Caller reporting that the alarm of a vehicle on Seventh Street goes off numerous times each day for a short time, stops, and comes on again for no apparent reason. Referred to an officer. Mechanical issue with car. Advised of a way to keep alarm from sounding until it gets fixed.

1:43 p.m. Chief Williams responding to N Street with animal control officer.

1:58 p.m. A 29-year-old Sunderland woman was arrested on a straight warrant.

3:37 p.m. Caller advises that on October 31, the sign at Locust Hill Cemetery was smashed.

4:28 p.m. Caller states that a male party is outside Food City bothering cus-

tomers and making them uncomfortable. Would like him moved along. Officer advises party has been moved along.

5:30 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that there is damage to his vehicle that looks like vandalism. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 11/3

8:38 a.m. Following a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road, the passenger, a 25-year-old Greenfield woman, was arrested on a straight warrant and a default warrant, and a summons was issued to the operator for operating a vehicle with a revoked registration; failing to stop at a stop sign; and all other offenses.

10:54 a.m. ACO visited an N Street address twice for a scheduled pickup of two dogs, but no answer.

3:58 p.m. 911 caller reporting a lot of smoke in the South Prospect Street area. Shelburne Control advised.

Saturday, 11/4

2:43 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting loud people and music in the apartment next to him. Officer attempted to speak to individuals in apartment where noise was coming from. No answer at door. Music was turned down, and involved parties were advised of the complaint through the door.

12:05 p.m. Caller reporting that she is being harassed by a male party in a wheelchair; states he has done this several times before. He has been following her into stores she goes into and won’t leave her alone. Officer clear; states he is going to be on the lookout in the area for the male party; believes it was just friendly conversation.

6:46 p.m. Caller states that she overheard people on Randall Road saying that they are going to ride their four-wheelers with the headlights turned off and telling the children to stay out of the way. Caller worried about possible injuries. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 11/5

8:54 a.m. Report of loose guinea hen in area of Our Lady of Peace Church.

10:39 a.m. Report of motorcycle racing around in the paper mill area in Erving. Forwarded to Shelburne Control.

12:35 p.m. Vehicle entered overnight on J Street; subwoofer stolen. Report taken.

4:56 p.m. Caller reporting that the drain in the intersection of Marshall and Stevens Streets has been partially opened; nervous for child safety tomorrow during school hours. Officer advises manhole cover has fallen into the drain. Requesting barricades from DPW. DPW replaced cover.

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## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

## 'Memory Lands' Author Returns to Discovery Center

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Nolumbeka Project will hold a Full Beaver Moon Gathering on Saturday, November 18 at 1 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The presentation will be "Itineraries: Knowledge, Sovereignty, and Freedom in the Eighteenth-Century Northeast" by Christine DeLucia, author of *Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast* (2018, Yale University Press).

This talk traces intertwined lives of Indigenous, African-American, Afro-Indigenous, and Euro-colonial people in the Northeast/New England across the 18th century, illuminating how individuals, families, and communities in the era of the American Revolution – and before and after it – conceptualized and pursued greater security, well-being, justice, and liberation.

In a time of tremendous upheaval, communities sought to maintain family integrity, homelands protection, personal and collective property, cultural self-determination, and other priorities. Stories of particular books, houses, pathways, maps, images, and memory sites can bring us into fuller, and more complex, understandings of a past that remains powerful in the twenty-first century.

The talk also traces how communities use multiple ways of knowing and remembrance to cultivate relations among past, present, and future.

All are welcome to this free event, co-sponsored by DCR and the Nolumbeka Project. A raffle drawing will follow the talk. For more information, visit [nolumbekaproject.org](http://nolumbekaproject.org).



Turners Falls High School students made scarecrows this fall, which have been on display outside the school. On October 27 a panel of judges awarded prizes for the scariest, funniest, and most creative scarecrows, fan favorite, and best hairstyle.

## FACES &amp; PLACES

"The town I grew up in, Gill, is a community with such a rich farming history," writes Joe R. Parzych. "I wanted to share some photos from my archives, from my film era, when I was on the photo beat for the former Greenfield Town Crier... This is a rare treat – I have been looking for my early photojournalist work for a long time. My late grandfather Joseph A. Parzych and my grandma Edina Parzych saved them for me, and my dad found them recently."



"The first two photos were taken at a picnic in Gill in the summer of 2002. Everyone was having a good time, including my late aunt Christine Parzych (above left), who was watching a person feeding a horse."



"It was a totally different world. You can see the people in these photos with no smartphones, interacting with each other. There was no such thing as selfies."



"The third photo, of the Gill Store, was taken back in October 1999 when Susie and Phil Maddern owned the store, including the Gill Greenery. They sold Mobil gasoline, snacks, soda, etc., and you could also rent movies there. This is where the Gill Tavern is now located. Becky and Seay Minor currently own and operate the Gill Greenery."

"I wanted to see if anyone can remember this, or identify anyone in these photos. Feel free to share your own memories of the past with [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org). You never know what you will find, there's a treasure trove of great memories in our backyard – the Franklin County area has a rich history."

## EXHIBITS

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Lisa Beskin*, underwater photography. Through December.

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Migrations Exhibit and Day of the Dead Altar*. Colorful depictions of village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Through November 30.

**Montague Center Library:** *Jamie Fuller*, mixed media, through November 17. Followed by *Moonlight Magic* by Jeanne Weintraub-Mason, luminous illustrations of nocturnal animals; opening reception Monday, November 20 from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill:** *Torrents*, sculpture and drawings by NMH alum and Hampshire professor emeritus Bill Brayton of Conway. Through November 17.

**LOOT, Turners Falls:** *Paintings and Prints* by Amy Chilton. Colorful geometric paintings and fine art prints. Through February.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Breakfast Kingdom*, new multimedia work by Wishbone Zoë (Zosia Kochanski). Through November 24.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Fourth Annual Community Art Show*, through December. *Climate Crisis Photography Exhibit*, photos taken in the Connecticut River Valley and the Hilltowns, through December; opening reception this Friday, November 10 from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett:** *Oh Beautiful Glass*, annual group show curated by Sally Prasch of works by glass artists that range from realism to surrealism to abstraction. Through November 27.

**MD Local Gallery, North Amherst:** *Amherst Plein Air Society*, paintings of the Sweet Alice Conservation Area. A portion of sales benefits the Kestrel Land Trust. Through November 12.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Expressions from Nature: Past and Present*, landscape paintings by Janet Winston. Through December 2.

**Art in the Hall, Shelburne Falls:** *The Antique Future*, Christin Couture's long, narrow, surreal landscape paintings in battered vintage frames. Through December. By appointment at [redtidebluefire@gmail.com](mailto:redtidebluefire@gmail.com).

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *MEOW*, a humorous collection of sculpture, stuffies, comics, and wall art with a feline theme by Nina Rossi. Through November 20.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *On the Land*, paintings by Charles Malzenski, and *Bright Suspensions*, window hangings and mobiles by George Reynolds. Through December 31.

**D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield:** *As They Saw It: Women Artists Then and Now*, over 60 works by women artists spanning three centuries. Through January 14.

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**DICTIONARY** from page B1

Now, Sarah Ogilvie describes its making as “the Wikipedia of the nineteenth century – a huge crowd-sourcing project.” Its editors invited members of the public to send in examples of how words were used in books they were reading. Each word was to be written on a 4-by-6-inch slip noting the word, its source, and an illustrative quotation. The aim was to trace the meanings and spellings of words as they have appeared in written English from 1,000 AD.

During its first 20 years several hundred unpaid helpers sent in their words, and in 1879, when the editorship passed into the hands of James Murray, it expanded to thousands of contributors as the result of his global appeal for readers made through scholarly societies and newspapers. The response was so massive that the post office built a full-size mailbox outside his Oxford house to accommodate the daily mountain of replies.

The story of the making of the Oxford English Dictionary has been told many times, but Ogilvie tells it differently. After discovering Murray’s address book, she was able to trace the names of thousands of previously unknown contributors. She has researched many of them, and focuses on these individual “word-nerds,” many of whom sent in thou-

sands of slips over many years.

Each chapter describes one of these fascinating people. Some were academics, but most were not. Among them were gentleman scholars – men wealthy enough to not need a conventional job and therefore with time for reading and noting words. Many were women. Again, typically they came from wealthy families. With time on their hands and bright minds to occupy, they were ideal readers and slip-writers.

Margaret Murray was one such. She grew up in Kolkata, India, and contributed 3,800 words from the Douay Bible, as well as many words of Indian origin picked up from Indian servants. She also worked as a nurse in India, but at only 4 foot 10 inches tall didn’t meet the height requirements for nursing when she moved to England. Instead, she went to lectures given by the archaeologist Flinders Petrie. Inspired, she too became an archaeologist specializing in Egyptology. (Petrie was also a slip-writer, contributing words from poetry and the works of John Ruskin.)

Margaret Murray sent in 5,000 slips. Others contributed many more. The record is held by Thomas Austin: 165,061. A further 62,720 slips came from a patient at Broadmoor, a psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane.

Explorers, entertainers, novelists,

a cannibal, a pornographer, a kleptomaniac, a president of Yale University, and many more Americans, New Zealanders, and Australians sent in word slips, usually from books of their choosing or from the vocabulary of their professions.

As words accumulated, James Murray asked some contributors to search for words that had a gap in their history. He had Sub-editors, who sorted the words by era or meaning, and Specialists, who consulted on etymology. Some worked in an iron shed in his backyard called the Scriptorium. It was so cold in winter that they wrapped their legs in newspaper. Eventually the job was so huge that another group was based in the Old Ashmolean Museum.

Even with two groups and thousands of slip-writers from all over the world, the OED did not appear in full until 1928. Murray died in 1915 knowing only that the finished parts had been published, and that work was progressing on words beginning with T. Surely he hoped that the remaining letters would be covered, but was probably uncertain because Britain was embroiled in the ravages of the First World War.

A revised edition of the OED was published in 1979, and work goes on. Sarah Ogilvie was once an OED lexicographer herself, responsible for working on English words that orig-

inated in non-European languages. She writes with love and admiration for the dictionary, and with affection and respect for its word-nerds.

Her most poignant chapter is the last: “Z for Zealots,” a term that applies to many word people, including, she admits, herself. But the person she highlights is Chris Collier, who sent in 100,000 slips from 1975 until his death in 2010. He would spend his evenings culling words from the *Brisbane Courier-Mail*, finishing around midnight. Then he would take off all his clothes and walk around the streets of his neighborhood.

Ogilvie, coincidentally, is also from Brisbane, and interviewed Collier there. She noted that his history was similar to many other OED slip-writers: “An autodidact, he left

school at fourteen, ended up working at the Queensland Patents Office. Having read an article in the newspaper calling for contributions to the OED he said, ‘I thought to myself, imagine if I could help get one word in the dictionary.’” In fact, he contributed many Australian terms – all from his hometown newspaper.

Those who are not word-nerds may think dictionaries are boring. Sarah Ogilvie’s book will blow away such ideas. She writes briskly, clearly, and often amusingly about her word people, clarifying always the way the OED was made and confirming the oddity, devotion, and sheer charm of the thousands who labored – and still do – in its vineyard. Her book is both extraordinary and delightful.



**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Killers of the Flower Moon (2023)**

By REBECCA TIPPENS

**COLRAIN** – Martin Scorsese’s latest film, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, is named for what we call the month of May – the month when lovely ground-covering flowers are killed by the shade of emergent taller wildflowers, and also the month when the first atrocities revealed in this film began.

It is the story of the Osage Nation, who were shunted to a relatively barren land in Oklahoma and discovered oil there in the early 20th century. They became the richest community in the United States. Every one of the 2,229 members on the Osage tribal rolls in 1907 was entitled to an equal share of the oil royalties, a dispensation known as a headright amounting to the equivalent of \$232,000 per person today.

Enter the greedy white men, who have plotted over the years to gain rights to that wealth. Corrupt courts, corrupt laws, devaluation of property and civil rights, marriage, and murder have all been tools in their arsenal.

Within this context, Scorsese’s film tells of one particularly heinous chapter, a story which actually occurred, in the oil boom town of Fairfax, orchestrated by a two-faced wealthy rancher, William Hale, played by Robert DeNiro. Hale speaks Osage, giving him a certain cover and respect within the community while he strategically manipulates others.

Chief among these is his nephew Ernest Burkhart, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Returning from World War I and at loose ends at first, with Hale’s encouragement Burkhart becomes involved with a particularly comely and wealthy Osage, Mollie Kyle, played by Osage actor Lily Gladstone. The two share a teasing affection, and before long she becomes Mollie Burkhart.

The film chronicles Hale’s maneuvers to up the ante, giving Burkhart the resources to bribe and otherwise cajole deviant-leaning or spiteful characters to murder Mollie’s relatives. (Though over 24 Osage were documented as being killed over this time, scores more were killed throughout the 1930s.)

Scorsese shows us that much of the white community is complicit in this land theft, fed by cultural belittlement underpinned by greed and racism. Yet, the film counterposes this with the story of love that Ernest and Mollie share in raising their children together.

Scorsese also juxtaposes the murders with scenes of Osage community life: the dance- and music-filled marriage celebrations and baby-naming ceremonies; the close relationships amongst women friends; the funeral customs, including wailers who stand outside the

homes of the deceased. We see the way Osage language is taught, and hear the cadence that the Osage brought to speaking English, which would have been missed if the film had not been shot on the reservation.

Further, we are introduced to the processes of the governing councils and shown the tribe’s respect for nature. On Mollie and Ernest’s first dinner date it begins to rain. Mollie insists that Ernest hush and simply *listen* to the rain. The sound of rain will later close out the film.

Robbie Robertson, who had worked with Scorsese as a consultant for decades, composed the score. Of Native lineage himself, he was familiar with the drumming and music ceremonies of Indigenous traditions, and spent time among the Osage when working on the score.

The cast has noted that the novel *A Pipe for February*, written by the Osage writer Charles Red Corn, was a leading textbook for the film’s creation. Though its story focuses on the killing period, it is contextualized within the Osage community, sharing the nature of their characters and culture.

Reflecting on the making of the film, Chief Standing Bear revealed that the collaboration in making the film, which went on for years, resulted in the community allowing themselves to talk about this reign of terror that they previously had kept close to their chests. He also had the opportunity to travel with the creators to screen the film in Mexico, and said the reaction there was “This is our story, too!”

There is much discussion about this true story being recreated by an outsider, and a white man. Had it been directed by an Osage, a much deeper tale would have been told, perhaps revealing forces of resistance to the exploitation, and placing the murders within the context of more general attempts to kill Native cultures. Scorsese himself closes this film saying that he was not the best one to tell this story. Today there are many films and TV shows featuring all-Native casts and crew, and we can look forward to hearing stories that capture the essence and subtleties of varied cultures.

However, as another one outside the culture, I am grateful to have learned the outline of the story. The acting, by the by, is pretty universally consummate – with the exception of Brendan Fraser, who plays Hale’s lawyer, and thankfully is only on screen for a few minutes.

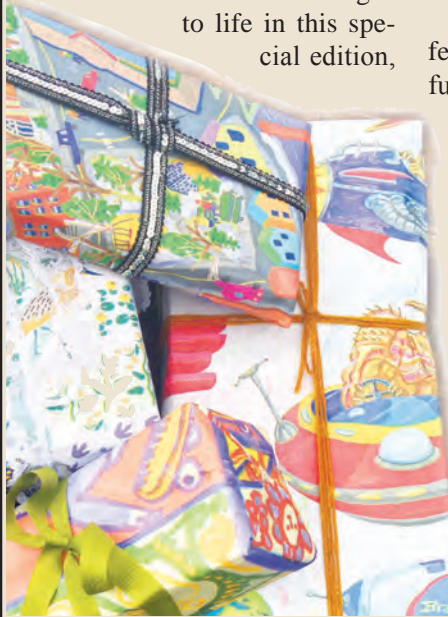
Pee before entering the theater; the film runs three-and-a-half hours without an intermission. A streaming date has not yet been announced. Remarkably – I have never seen this before – it has been playing at four local cinemas: the Greenfield Garden, Cinemark at the Hampshire Mall, the Latchis Theatre, and Amherst Cinema.

**MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profile #6**

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 dozens of entries we received.

We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special edition,



which will go to press in the third week of November!

This year, we also created a Youth category for those 16 years old and younger, which Franklin County Technical School ninth grader **Piper McMahon** won with her entry of a colorful flower pattern. 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?*

**PM:** I would like people to feel excited about my paper. How fun and unique it is.

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

**PM:** I hope my paper hides a special birthday gift that will make someone smile.

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

**PM:** I like learning about events in town that I can walk to and have fun at when I read a newspaper.

**Montague Community Television News**

**Spooky Parade Taped**

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – This year’s Halloween Rag Shag Parade was documented in all of its glory! It’s one of the sweetest events to film all year, and we do have quite a collection of them if you want to dig around our archive.

We also have a special video by “Cloudgaze,” who documented their “Happening” at the Shea Theater on October 21. The Shea has been keeping us busy with a lot of programming. We have a recording of the *Healing Waters* hospice benefit from November 5, and the Art Salon from October 26, which featured presentations by four artists: Joan O’Beirne, Emily Tarelia, Marianna Dixon, and yours truly.

The new meeting videos posted this week are coming in from the Montague selectboard and Gill selectboard.

And remember, residents and readers, all community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. If you have any ideas for films, MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for check-out, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

And if you’re looking for more ways to get involved, consider joining the MCTV Board. If you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com) for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram @[montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv). Find videos and more on our website, [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org).

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the  
poetry  
page

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
*Montague Reporter* at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# November Poetry Page

## Thorns

The walls  
are too thick.  
Now I can't  
see inside  
your hearts, the coffins  
of your minds locked away  
into some distant recess.  
Long ago  
I thought I knew  
you and now  
I feel the distance,  
the strain of isolation;  
days numbered in islands;  
sullen shards of silence;  
creeping vines strangled  
by toxic air,  
while you ask me nothing  
with your mouth open and stilted  
voice stammering.  
If I had roses  
for your grave,  
I'd stab my face with the thorns  
just to taste  
the blood of  
life again.

– Kevin Smith  
Greenfield

## Repairs

The thick streak of lonely in those Vermont boys had deep hollows of mean.  
So much so after work or even just after spending time together  
They'd rip the innards of a '67 Saab out  
With carburetor, head cylinders strewn on the dirt floor  
like a bear had at it.  
If that didn't answer aches of beer  
Maybe a broken jeep would show itself to someone who wanted to have their way with it  
That too could be history along with beer  
Sure sure it would all get cleaned up and become a winter story.  
Their hands were awful to look at.

We took the VW apart. (We didn't drink beer.)  
Slowly slowly and page by page we followed the book with funny drawings on the front  
Which gave us the story as a discovery:  
If you put the parts that went together in a coffee can, with a label  
you could bring them into the house.  
By the wood stove clean them to a luster and a satisfying shine.  
It was so beautiful.

– Edna French  
Montague

## Hidden

There are no dimensions.  
If they exist, they are quite  
Narrow and not worth  
Inhabiting.  
Their depraved regions  
Cannot speak in recognizable  
Words.  
Their muffled declarations  
Of injustices go ignored  
Despite their daily recitations.  
The wise spiders appreciate  
Them though.  
They only, rejoice and find  
Everlasting sustenance in  
These remote, narrow,  
Dimensions inside the steel  
Fence posts around the little  
League baseball field.

– W.C. Gosnell  
Amherst

## Unformed for Life

There are much better  
Ways of being than  
This narrow one.  
This stunted way  
Of existing excludes  
The most important  
Experiences and forms  
Of existence.  
Singing this narrow,  
Uninteresting song  
For thousands of caterpillars  
Is not the way to Carnegie Hall.

Depraved, unformed styles  
Of being in the world  
Will get a laugh or two  
In passing but in the end  
There are only empty  
Theaters left, full of  
Thousands of lost mice,  
Running rampant through  
Littered balconies on  
The verge of collapsing  
Any moment.

– W.C. Gosnell  
Amherst

## Contributors' Notes:

Kevin Smith, an ex-Turners resident, now lives in Greenfield, where he continues to play the tuba, walk his dog, and be inspired by his girlfriend Stephanie.

W.C. Gosnell's previous work has appeared in *Soundings East*, *The Portland Review*, *Black River Review*, and elsewhere.

Edna French has lived in New England, and in the town of Montague, for years. Also a photographer, a recent focus included urban structures imprinted by human nature: "Town Without Pity" and "Town Without Pity (next door)". Professional success includes: proposal writing and research for education, arts and community health fundraising.



WRITING THE LAND

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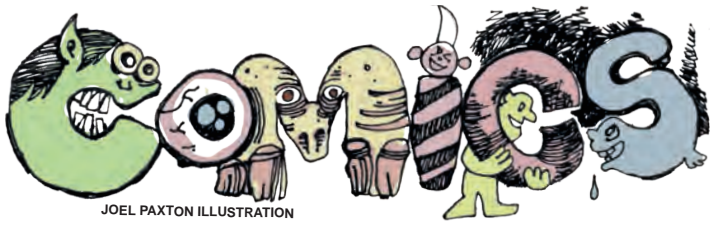
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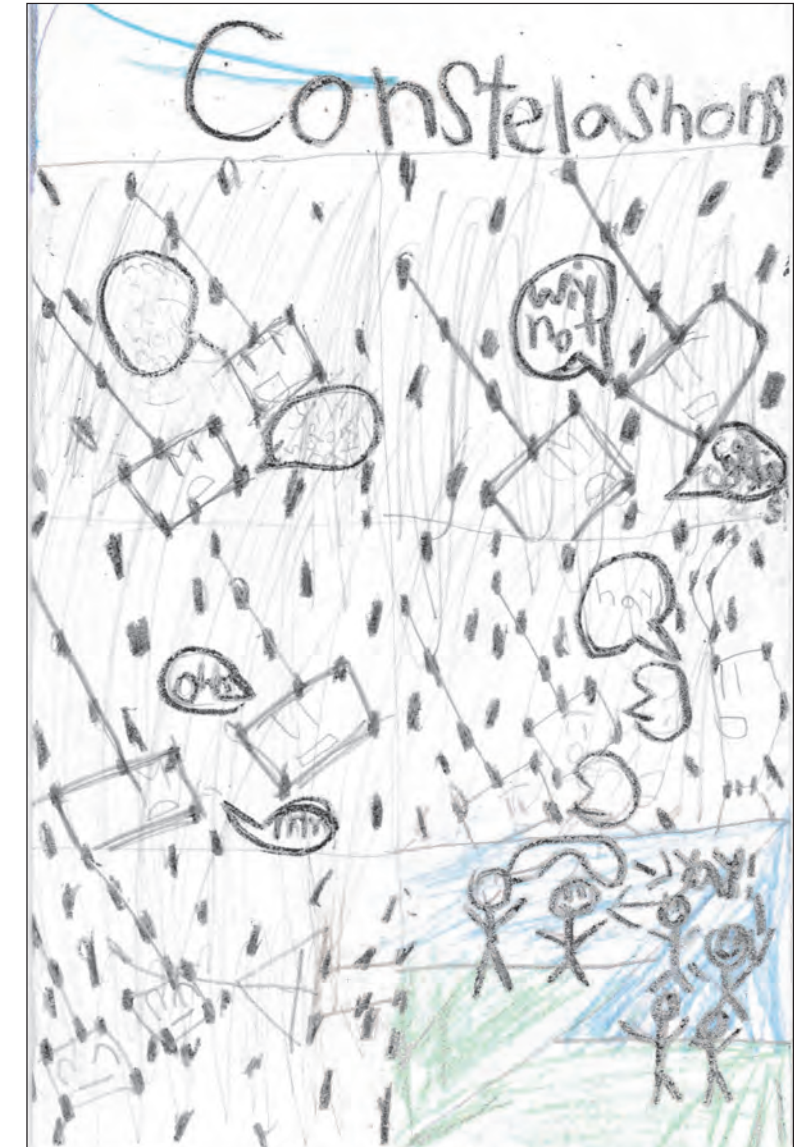
## OVER THE HILL - GENERATION GAP - Part two Carolyn Clark



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



WESLEY DOXZEN ILLUSTRATION



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

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

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Nova Arts, Keene: *Tiffany, The Flems*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Burning Sun*, Noah Kesity's *Magic Band*, *bobbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Nova Arts, Keene: *Ruth Garbus Trio*, *Joseph Allred*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kendra McKinley*, *Cloudbelly*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Little House Blues*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Br-jo*, *Void Bringer*, *OFC*, *Blossom*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: Future Beats 3 feat. *The Real Computer People*, *Frogtones*, *Water Champ*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dylan Patrick Ward and the Lovable Losers*, *Emma's Secrets*, *Outside Voice*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Tracy & Company*. Veterans benefit. 6:30 p.m.

Institute for the Musical Arts, Goshen: *Bridget St. John*, *Norma Dream*. \$ 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy, NY: *Screaming Females*, *Dazy*, *Sunbloc*. \$ 7 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Trash Sun*, *Red Nave*, *Sleep Destroyer*, *Dalton Moon*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Fall: *Cinemastorm* double feature with *UHF* (1989), *Young Frankenstein* (1974). Free. 7:30 p.m.

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT: *Tool*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spire, Brattleboro: *Missive*, *Staubitz/Waterhouse duo*, *Marasca*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Aaron Noble & the Clones*, *The Frost Heaves & Hales*, *The Ambiguities*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 3 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *El Khat*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *Bob Dylan*. \$ 8 p.m.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Bookends, Florence: *Bird Friend*, *Myles Burr*. \$ 7 p.m.

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *Neil Hamburger*. \$ 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Marc Cohn*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. No cover. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Mike Doughty and Ghost of Vroom*.

\$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Cocktail Slippers*, *The Fawns*, *Glowbox*. \$ 8 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Shea Theater, Turners Fall: *Greenfield Community College Music Department Concert*. Free. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Matthew Parrish Trio with Houston Person and Michelle Lordi*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Galvanizer*, *2 Car Garage*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

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

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Jason Moran & the Bandwagon*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *North Bay Dead Alliance*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers*. \$ 7 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Third Wife*, *Grazer*, *Tysk Tysk Task*, *Rage Honey*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Marisa Anderson*, *Pete Bernhard*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Rubblebucket*, *Dante Elephante*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *The Basement Cats*, *The Claudia Malibu*, *Outro*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Winterpills*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Zoh Amba / Chris Corsano* duo. \$ 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Brad Mehlau Trio*. \$ 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Jeopardy*, *Coma Hole*, *Tysk Tysk Task*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *JARV*, *Coyote Reverie*, *Nahte Renmus*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Cajun Two-Step Night*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Willi Carlisle*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Lonesome Brothers*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Josh Ritter*, *Nora Brown*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Slob Drop*, *Chodus*, *imissmydead-friends*, *cmputergirl*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Music of the Stone Coyotes & The Art of Doug Tibble*, memorial concert. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Roomful of Blues*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Josh Ritter*, *Ali McGuirk*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Drake, Amherst: *Sen Morimoto*, *Club Casualties*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Presents: A Drag for the Holidays*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Slob Drop*, *Chodus*, *imissmydead-friends*, *cmputergirl*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hanover Theater, Worcester: *Indigo Girls*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Kendra Morris*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Halley Heynderickx*, *Max Garcia Conover*, *LéPonds*. \$ 8 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Armand Hammer*, *M. Sayyid*. \$ 8 p.m.

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



### looking forward...

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Sandy Bailey*, *Stefan Weiner*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Editrix*, *Sensor Ghost*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Drake, Amherst: *NRBQ*, *LuxDeluxe*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke:

*Enter the Haggis*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bella's Bartok*, more TBA. \$ 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Enter the Haggis*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *NRBQ*, *LuxDeluxe*. \$ 9 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bella's Bartok*, more TBA. \$ 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Nova Arts, Keene: *Horse Lords*, *Ka Baird*, *Know Your Program*. \$ 7 p.m.

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**POLICE** from page B1

**Tuesday, 8/8/17**  
12:41 a.m. Caller states that there is a possum on her porch.

**Wednesday, 11/15/17**  
12:44 p.m. Caller requesting animal control officer assistance with a cat who just had a litter of kittens, all of which are living under her porch.

**Saturday, 12/9/17**  
8:57 p.m. Caller arrived home a few minutes ago and realized that she had left the front door unlocked. She believes that a man may have come into the apartment because she found the toilet seat in the "up" position. She also found her cat in the drawer of a dresser that is on her front porch.

**Wednesday, 12/20/17**  
1:28 p.m. A caller is requesting assistance with a hawk, possibly injured, stuck in her en-



closed porch.

**Sunday, 12/24/17**  
11:04 p.m. Caller requesting assistance dispatching and disposing of a possum on his porch. Caller advises that the possum got aggressive with him and he fought it off with a broom, but now it is injured.

**Saturday, 6/23/18**  
10:24 p.m. Caller complaining of a bear in his backyard who was on his porch, damaged his bird

feeders, and is now ripping apart his trash cans.

**Saturday, 7/7/18**  
7:47 a.m. Caller complaining of skunks, two adults and one baby, who have dug a hole and are living under her sun porch.

**Saturday, 9/15/18**  
7:45 p.m. Caller advising that a raccoon has walked into the common area of this building. Animal then came out onto the porch of the second floor.

**Thursday, 1/10/19**  
9:16 p.m. Caller states that when he came home, he found a large black Lab sitting on his porch.

**Sunday, 2/24/19**  
5:53 p.m. Report of a brown-and-white Chihuahua mix with a bloody paw that showed up on caller's porch.

**Friday, 3/22/19**  
11:31 p.m. Caller reporting a skunk under her porch; states that the skunk has been in the area for some time now.

**Saturday, 4/6/19**  
3:12 p.m. Caller states that there is a skunk next to her front steps that she believes is sick. Caller called back and said that MPD could cancel its response for now; skunk has gone well under the porch area and is out of sight.

**Saturday, 6/29/19**  
1:14 p.m. Caller states that a rabid or sick raccoon is having a seizure on their back porch.

**Saturday, 7/13/19**  
6:39 p.m. Caller believes there is a rabid raccoon in the street; it is growling like a tiger and hissing. Officer spoke with caller; raccoon has gone under porch across the street.

**Thursday, 6/11/20**  
8:57 p.m. Caller reporting that she has a baby possum with a severe eye injury in a box on her porch.

**Friday, 6/19/20**  
4:54 a.m. Caller states that there is a bear on her back porch and it is not moving. Caller called back stating that the bear left her porch and went toward the woods.

**Monday, 8/17/20**  
4:37 p.m. Caller request-



ing assistance with removing a skunk who is living under his porch and has been spraying for two days.

**Friday, 10/23/20**  
8:57 p.m. Caller states that there is a dog-sized

walking toward Millers Falls Road.

**Monday, 11/15/21**  
5:16 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a group of turkeys that have been chasing people and getting on people's

**Wednesday, 10/26/22**  
7:30 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that a pitbull puppy has been left outside all night and no one is answering the door where the dog lives. The dog has pooped all over the porch.

**Thursday, 2/16/23**  
10:14 p.m. 911 caller reports there are possums and raccoons on his porch and he does not feel safe because he has to go to work at 6 a.m. tomorrow and he can't get outside past them.

**Monday, 5/22/23**  
2:08 p.m. Caller states that a family of baby foxes is living under his back porch and he doesn't know what to do.

**Tuesday, 6/13/23**  
12:48 p.m. Caller states that there are five foxes under her porch that she would like help removing.

**Thursday, 7/20/23**  
10:47 p.m. 911 caller states there is a porcupine on her front porch and she is nervous that if it leaves it will be hit by a car.



raccoon on her porch and its babies are under the shed. Caller called back stating the raccoons are hissing at them.

**Sunday, 5/23/21**  
9:27 a.m. Caller seeking assistance with baby bunnies that are under his porch. Mother has not been seen in 12 hours.

**Friday, 10/15/21**  
2:27 p.m. Caller states that a black bear was just on their porch and is

porches. The turkeys are currently roosting in a tree for the night.

**Sunday, 5/22/22**  
2:24 a.m. Caller states he got a call from his sister stating that a mama bear and two cubs are in the area, coming onto her porch.

**Friday, 7/8/22**  
6:03 a.m. Caller advises a raccoon is tangled up on her front porch; unsure what to do, so she called.



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