

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 22 – NO. 34

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 8, 2024

Our One Thousandth Issue

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague to Reconsider Its All-Day Annual Town Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague is considering eliminating its day-long annual town meeting in May, a decades-old tradition, in favor of a shorter evening meeting on another spring night. That option was put on the table at Monday's selectboard meeting by town clerk Kathryn "Beanie" Pierce, who suggested that a weeknight meeting might attract more candidates, and help the town avoid the loss of a quorum, which almost halted the afternoon annual this year.

Montague moved in 1963 from an open town meeting, attended by all registered voters, to a representative meeting, with six precincts electing 21 members each. Seven three-year seats come up for election each year in each precinct, but there are often more openings on the ballot due to resignations, and fewer candidates than openings.

Pierce began the discussion by noting the recent problem of maintaining a quorum at the annual meeting, held the first Saturday in May in accordance with town bylaws. She referenced an article in this newspaper about the difficulty of finding

see MONTAGUE page A7

Lake Pleasant Throws Party To Celebrate 150th Birthday

By BELLA LEVAVI

LAKE PLEASANT – The Lake Pleasant Village Association and The National Spiritual Alliance invite the public to celebrate their 150th anniversary on Saturday, August 24, with a full day of outdoor events across the village.

"I've lived here all my life – it is just home," Mary Bordeaux, one of the organizers, told the *Reporter*. "This is a celebration of the people who live here and grow together."

This free outdoor public event is scheduled from 1 to 9 p.m. and marks the founding in 1874 of the Village of Lake Pleasant, which began as a Spiritualist summer holiday encampment.

The event will feature live music on two stages, regional craft vendors, festival food, historical tours, metaphysical vendors – selling goods and books related to

see LAKE page A6

CONNECTIONS

Drums Along the Kwinitekw



NINA GROSS PHOTO

The Pua Ali'i ilima o Nuioka dancers performed under the main tent at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival last Saturday.

By DAVID DETMOLD

I: Hawaiian Dancers Bless The Waters at Peskeompskut

UNITY PARK – There was something at once soft and subtle, pliant and yet powerfully firm about the way the hula dancers placed their honey-brown feet on the damp green grass beneath the performance tent at the Nolumbeka Project's 11th annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival last Saturday, August 2.

Their dance steps told us, as no words could, "We are Here. We are dancing on Native Land. We are Home."

The Pua Ali'i ilima o Nuioka dancers began their part of the weekend's festivities with a traditional "blessing of the waters" at the bend of the Kwinitekw, the Northeast's longest river.

These dancers traveled from New York City bringing danc-

es from their Hawaiian Islands to mingle their footsteps with their Native sisters' and brothers' from the clamshell edge of the Atlantic, from the freshwater ponds and cedar swamps of the Nipmuc, from the Green Hills and White Mountains where the Long River rises, and from the flint land of *Kanienkehaka*, the Mohawk country.

As *Na Kuma Hula* (lifetime master teacher) Vicky Holt Takamine led her strong and graceful troupe through their paces to the beat of her handmade, double-gourd, *ipu hula* drum, she braided the lore of the Native Hawaiian people into a living filament, attaching the fishhook of her 1,500-mile long Pacific island chain firmly to the mainland, revealing the true expanse of Turtle Island.

As Takamine made clear, the geopoetics of North American

see DRUMS page A4

Community Health Center Still Expanding to Montague City

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – "It took a long time to get started," Allison van der Velden, CEO of the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC), explains as we pass through the lobby at 8 Burnham Street, a building CHCFC purchased last summer and hoped

to open earlier this year as a primary care site. "It's a big process to get medical office plans approved, and the state has been slow to respond... The biggest update is that it was delayed."

A huge pile of unopened cardboard boxes is stacked in the lobby, ductwork and wires dangle from

see HEALTH page A5



JACKSON PHOTO

Allison van der Velden says the CHCFC urgently needs space to grow into.

New Leaf Turns Over, Withdraws Battery Project

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – Citing financial and regulatory headwinds, New Leaf Energy has withdrawn its application to build a 105-megawatt lithium-ion battery storage facility near the center of town.

"The decision not to proceed was based on evaluating the risks of continuing with the newly reformed regional interconnection process and reassessing the project's overall

commercialization prospects," New Leaf project developer Ben Torda wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to the chairs of the Wendell selectboard and planning board.

New Leaf applied to build the 11-acre battery energy storage system (BESS) in Wendell in 2020, then petitioned the state for the project to be considered a public utility, and thus exempt from the town's zoning bylaws. Opponents

see BATTERY page A5

State Handed the Reins As Farm Questions Mount



QUALE PHOTO

Land cleared to create a vegetable farm and apple orchard has proved vulnerable to erosion in the summer's heavy rains, attracting the attention of regulators.

By WILL QUALE

MONTAGUE – Since May, conservation commissions in Montague and Sunderland have discussed apparent wetlands violations at Falls Farm, a 110-acre farm straddling the towns' border, at eight public meetings. The two boards, composed of volunteers, have been investigating substantial and ongoing erosion and siltation which appear to stem from violations of the state's Wetlands Protection Act of a scale and complexity rarely seen in either town.

The properties now comprising Falls Farm were acquired by Dr. James Arcoleo, a Conway-based cardiologist, in 2019 and 2020. The town line bisecting wetlands zones has complicated the work of each board, even as a series of erosion control barriers Dr. Arcoleo and his staff have deployed on the land have continued to fail with each successive summer storm.

On July 25, Sunderland's commission revealed that state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) staff had made

see FARM page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Developer Pares Back Proposal for Housing

By GEORGE BRACE

Ongoing negotiations with prospective developers of a 60-acre estate on Juggler Meadow Road were on the agenda at Leverett's most recent selectboard meeting on July 30. Board members discussed scheduling a special town meeting to seek approval for measures that would support the town's negotiators, among other items.

Developer Joshua Wallack's proposal last December for a

700-unit housing development on land owned by the estate of Yankee Candle founder Michael Kittredge, with up to 400 units in Leverett and 300 in Amherst, was not well-received locally. Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson said representatives of the developer returned to Leverett with a revised proposal for 150 units intended for residents 55 or older, with some percentage of units devoted to affordable housing, and another 250

see LEVERETT page A10

Like Sands Through The Hourglass...

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SUMMER SCHEDULE
VOL. 22 #35: AUGUST 22
VOL. 22 #36: SEPTEMBER 5

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

A Thousand Plateaus

A thousand issues a big milestone, and no one is more surprised than we are! Starting a weekly community newspaper was a crazy thing to do back in 2002, and continuing to publish it has been a crazy decision, made one week at a time.

To say that the *Montague Reporter's* first two decades have been a labor of love is a wild understatement. Each edition exists only because hundreds of people wish to keep a little independent paper in our towns. If it's economically rational behavior, the timeline for payout is sometimes *extremely* long. Every week – every two weeks in July and August, for better or for worse – is partly an exercise in historical reenactment, partly a prayer for the future, and entirely a love note to the idea of building community in this place that will withstand the passing of years and generations.

This spring, while cleaning a dark inner chamber of our Avenue A office, we turned up the amazing artifact shown below:

If it's not immediately apparent, this was *the* working list of the advertisements that went into Volume 1, Issue 1 of the *Montague Reporter* back in September 2002. Take a few minutes to squint and read it – there are likely names you'll recognize, an eclectic mix of businesses and magnanimous individuals. (We've blurred out phone numbers just in case!)

We wonder if any of these people realized the investment they were making. Please take a minute to thank them this week – and to remember the ones who are no longer with us.

"Happy birthday Sophie, pg. 2. 2x2. **Pd.**" *Thank you!*

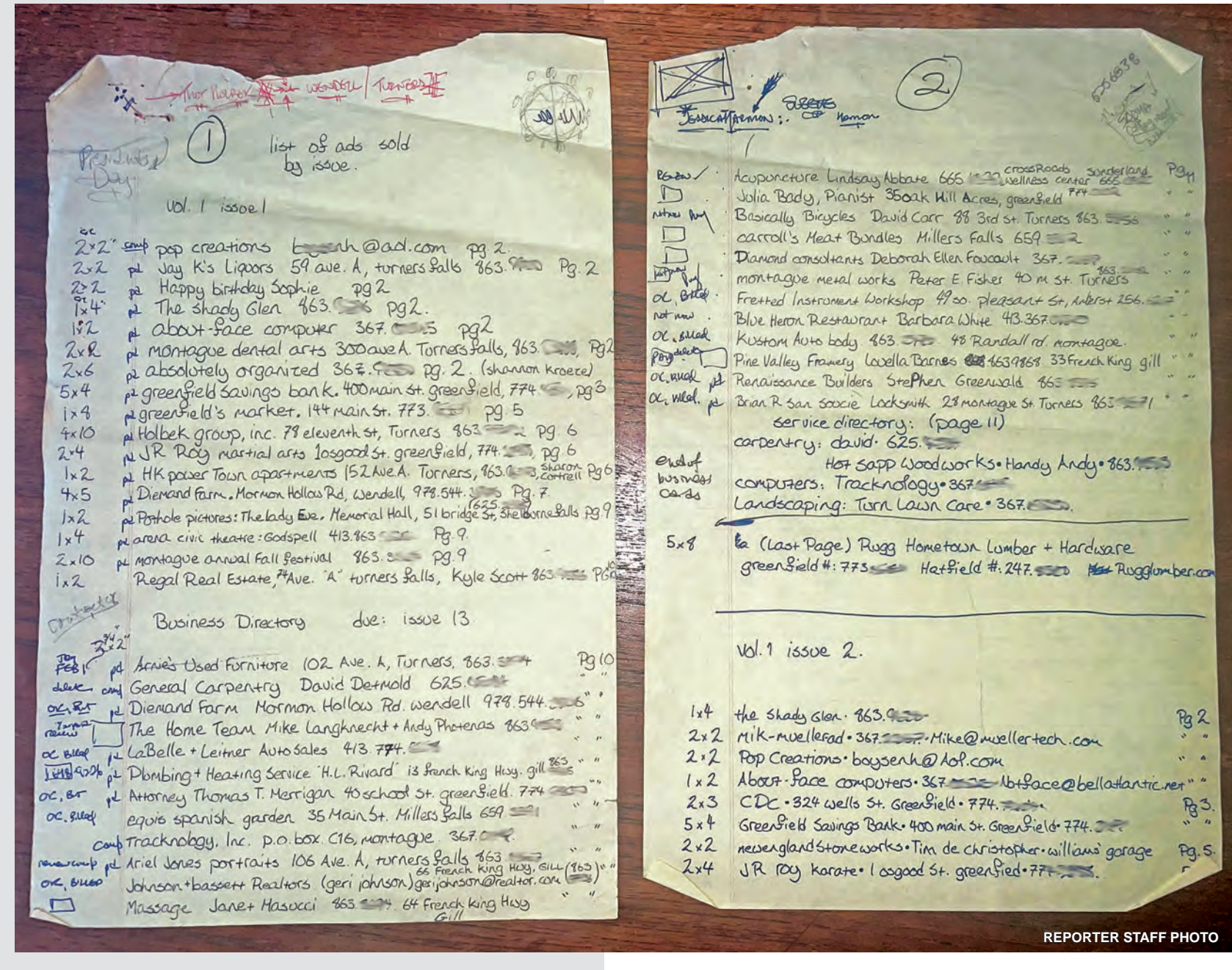
And we aren't sharing this document to make the point that advertisers constitute the newspaper, either. To us, the most amazing thing is the painstakingly handwritten work it also captures: the hands holding those pens, the idealistic crazy people pounding the phones or the pavement to sell those ads.

To them: Thank you. Thank you. *Thank you.*

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION / MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO



Molly Brooks, food service director for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, hands out meals for kids 18 and under at the Head Start daycare center on G Street in Turners Falls. Funded by federal and state money, the Summer Eats program passes out about 700 meals each weekday during the long school vacation at six Montague locations, giving often-frazzled parents a break.



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Eileen Mariani
Montague Center



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Brick House is hosting a **barbeque and backpack giveaway** tomorrow, Friday, August 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. They will be grilling up some eats in front of the historic firehouse on Third Street, and there will be lawn games in the alley and kids’ activities in the teen center.

Come learn about their programs, check out the new food pantry, and if you have school-age kids, stop by between 4 and 6 p.m. to pick up a free backpack loaded with school supplies. For more information or to reserve a backpack in advance, email hbertrand@brickhousecommunity.org.

During two recent workshops led by Malaika Ross for the Cancer Connection, participants created **artwork about their cancer journey**. This month, the Connection is showcasing their work at the Center for the Arts at 33 Hawley Street in Northampton.

An opening reception is planned for this Friday, August 9 at 5 p.m. for the show, called “Shadow and Light: An Expression of the Cancer Experience.” There will be readings from the Cancer Connection book, *Words to Live By: Poems and Images For Contemplation in A Time of Not Knowing*.

There’s been a change in the lineup for this Friday’s Great Falls Coffeehouse concert at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls – the concert with Michael Nix and Gloria Matlock has been postponed

due to illness.

Instead, the series will present **Michael and Carrie Kline**, performing country harmony duets from coal mining songs to gospel, family songs, front porch music, and songs of people in nature. Upright bass player Joe Blumenthal and Jim Armenti on mandolin will join the duo. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15, and refreshments will be available.

Adam Kohl and Bill Stubblefield will give a presentation on “Life In Wendell,” a multi-year project documenting the **biological biodiversity of Wendell**, this Saturday, August 10 at 1 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Insect collections and a list of species will be on display, Kohl and Stubblefield will present on the project’s history, process, and results, and there will be plenty of time to interact and ask questions.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield will hold a second anniversary reading next Wednesday, August 14 at 7 p.m. for their **Writers Read series**, featuring two of the writers who read their work at the inaugural event, Samantha Wood and Eirnin (EJ) Worth. Skyler Lambert, a recent Poet’s Seat finalist, will join them. Lindy Whiton hosts this series, and a \$5 donation is suggested to attend.

The **Millers Falls Community Improvement Association** is planning a block party for May 2025! They are looking for folks who want to be part of the plan-

ning process. If you have an idea or if you’re in a band that wants to perform, bring it to the table at a meeting next Thursday August 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Element Brewing.

It’s time once again for the **Montague Mug Race!** The 43rd road race starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 17 from the Montague Center common. It’s five and a half miles, but you can also choose a two-mile Mini Mug “race” – you can walk this one – that starts at 8:35 a.m.

Pewter mugs will be awarded to top male and female finishers, and top finishers in each division get a coffee mug, with t-shirts going to the first 60 runners. Proceeds benefit the Montague Fire Association and Congregational Church. Entry forms may be found at montaguemugrace.com and register at runreg.com.

Try your hand at papermaking during the next “Art Naturally” activity at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 17, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to make your own paper to take home, and also learn the history of paper mills in Turners Falls. The activity is for adults, teens, and children ages six and up accompanied by an adult. All materials will be provided.

The French/Breton jammers who’ve been regularly getting together at the Discovery Center invite folks to drop in and listen as they play what is known as “bal folk.” At their next session on Sunday, August 18 they will provide an informal **bal folk dance instruction**.

The jam runs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., followed by the dance lesson from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participants are asked to not wear street shoes for dancing – bring clean-soled shoes to protect the floors. This event is free of charge.

Local author Cathy Stanton discusses her new book, *Food Margins: Lessons from an Unlikely*

Grocer at the Montague Center Library on Wednesday, August 21, from 5 to 6 p.m.

Stanton is a writer and anthropologist who stumbled into the grocery business as part of a community effort to save a small food co-op in Orange; in June the *Reporter* printed three excerpts from her book’s history of Minute Tapioca factory. This presentation and conversation shares what she learned, and where she thinks the “local food” movement should go next.

Enjoy a **fresh approach to traditional Irish music** at a concert by Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna with special guest Seamus Egan on Thursday, August 22 at the Discovery Center. Lyn and Sanna are a Brooklyn-based fiddle and guitar duo, and Egan is a master multi-instrumentalist. The concert has been arranged by the Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill. You will need to buy tickets for this event at antennacloudfarm.com. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the music starts at 7:30.

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 supports youth soccer, and will hold a **soccer shoot** on Saturday, August 24 at 10 a.m. at the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. The event is open to boy and girl contestants ages 7 and under and ages 8 to 15 in separate categories. Ages are determined as of January 1, 2024. Please bring a copy of the contestant’s birth certificate, baptismal record, or passport. Winners of each contest will be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.

For any questions, call or text Linda Morey at (413) 522-3145.

Folksinger and storyteller **Tim Van Egmond** will give a **free concert** for all ages on Saturday, August 24 at 12:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library. The concert, “It Takes A Village,” celebrates the mission of the Big Brothers Big Sisters to empower the lives of youth through the creation of mentor relationships.

Van Egmond will accompany himself on guitar and hammered and mountain dulcimer. He also uses a limberjack, a dancing wooden puppet that taps out a rhythm on a paddleboard.

The community is invited to the Stone Soup Café’s **Annual Harvest Supper Celebration** on Saturday, August 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Greenfield Town Common. Celebrate the bountiful harvest of our region with local farmers, chefs, and community members at this open-air feast made with seasonal produce from local farms, prepared by over 100 volunteers and Stone Soup staff.

The meal is available on a pay-what-you-can basis, and over 800 people are expected to take part. Live music, a free farmers market, community art-making, and a Local Art Auction to raise funds for Stone Soup Café’s operations are planned. Online bidding has already started for artwork donated by over 30 local artists including Cameron A. Schmitz, Whitney Robbins, Jorie Morgan, Cara Finch, and more. The art will be viewable and remain open to bidding in person during the Harvest Supper event.

For more information, email info@thestonesoupcafe.org or call (413) 422-0020.

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JANE CAMPION
PASSIONLESS MOMENTS
HARRY SMITH
MIRROR ANIMATIONS
FRI. AUG 23 • 7 PM

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS



Photo correspondent Ed Gregory shared an infrastructure update from Montague Center: “The Sawmill river casually flows in a southwesterly direction beneath the South Street Bridge, which is undergoing a complete replacement by MassDOT,” he writes. “The \$4,000,000 project is expected to be completed by June 2025.... This view is from the southeast bank, looking north.”

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8/10 RISO Zines Workshop! \$55 6-8pm

8/15 STILL Life Social Club 8/29 \$10 6-8pm

8/16 Falling in love with community a conversation party 8/10 6-8pm

8/22 Figure Drawing! \$15 6-8pm

8/28 Botanical Posters Riso workshop! \$60 6-8pm

Buy tickets on our Website LookyHereGreenfield.com email US LookyHereGreenfield@gmail.com visit US 28Chapman Greenfield MA Wed-Fri 12-5pm & Sat 12-3pm

DRUMS from page A1

indigeneity are not the only unifying threads that bind together the tribal nations gathered at the Homelands Festival.

There are also the brutal histories of settler violence, treachery, and centuries of ongoing oppression to be reckoned with.

Many of the traditional hulas were offered in homage to Queen Lili'uokulani, the gracious world traveler, author, composer, and diplomat whose two-year reign as *Mo'i Wahine* ended with a coup organized by American business leaders backed by US Marines on January 17, 1893.

President Grover Cleveland acknowledged the illegality of her overthrow, but Lili'uokulani was imprisoned in her own palace. The insurrectionists formed a provisional government and plotted for US annexation. Lili'uokulani abdicated on January 24, 1895 to save her closest advisors from threatened execution.

In her 1898 book *Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen*, Lili'uokulani wrote, "Think of my position, – sick, a lone woman in prison, scarcely knowing who was my friend, or who listened to my words only to betray me, without legal advice or friendly counsel, and the stream of blood ready to flow unless it was stayed by my pen."

The dancers pantomimed love for their *Mo'i Wahine* with bold, synchronized arm motions, extending from their hearts to the sky. Their flaring red and orange skirts swayed with the rhythmic movement of their hips while their feet kept time to the ricochet beat of the *ipu hula* drum.

In the swelter of humidity and sunshine, against the sinuous backdrop of the moving river, their dances evoked the dazzling underwater dances of a school of Hawaiian *akule*.

Other hulas spoke of the reverence the Hawaiian people hold for Mauna a Wakea, home of the gods, tallest mountain on the archipelago.

Takamine told of the ongoing struggle of *kia'i mauna*, the Indigenous protectors who have been blocking construction of a giant telescope atop the sacred mountain since 2019 – when the governor called out the National Guard to arrest them.

"They already have twelve observatories on the mountain," Takamine pointed out. "Why do they need a thirteenth?"

Traditional hula dancers are not to be mistaken for some lightweight airport lounge attraction. They are ambassadors upholding the honor of their people. With the firm placement of their feet on the grass, centuries of finely honed craft leapt from Hawaiian shores to the banks of the Kwinitekw.

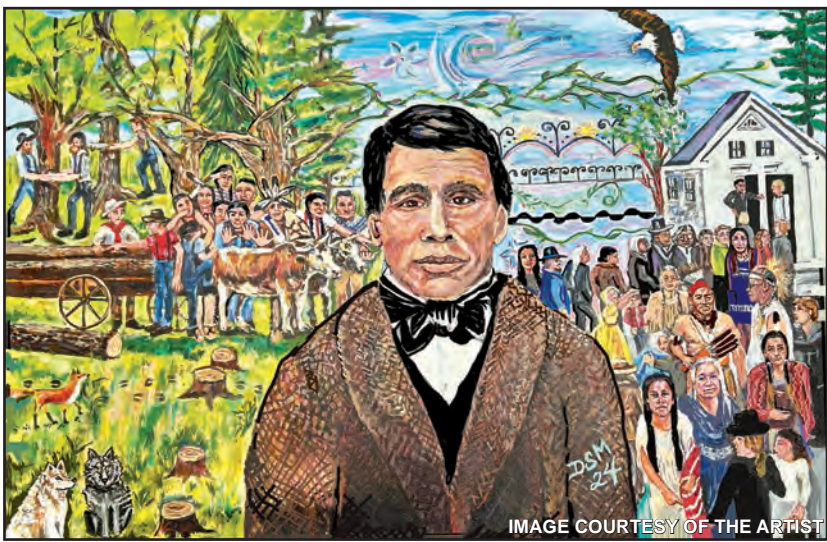
"It takes four stitches to attach each feather," to their intricately woven headdresses, Takamine noted.

As they learn each step, each stitch, the six women and one man of the Pua Ali'i ilima o Nuioka troupe were able to bring tropical brilliance and a storied past to life on Saturday – a kind of beauty we should see more of in our downtown village.

"Men wear flowers in their hair in Hawai'i," said Takamine. "You should try it."

II: The 'Indigenous Frederick Douglass,' William Apress

Floral beadwork designs from the Northern Woodlands tradition applied to earrings, medicine



Seekonk Pokanoket Wampanoag artist Deborah Spears Moorehead's painting of William Apress portrays the events of the Mashpee Revolt of 1833.

pouches, and clothing were in plentiful supply at 40 Indigenous craft vendor tables along both sides of the trail at the festival.

So were wampum and stone jewelry, gourd art and basketry, leather goods and quillwork, and birch bark art.

As the drums of the Iron River Singers percolated through the marketplace, families and friends strolled the shaded path, shopping and swapping news, sharing exploits from the powwow circuit, or questioning cultural historians, many of whom had books for sale detailing tribal lore and knowledge.

Across from the Happy Eating Grounds and Stone Soup Café's pop-up kitchen, Old Dominion University professor of Native American literature Drew Lopenzina was selling copies of his works, including *Through an Indian's Looking Glass: A Cultural Biography of William Apress, Pequot* (UMass Press, 2017).

Next to Lopenzina's table, Seekonk Pokanoket Wampanoag artist Deborah Spears Moorehead sold her vividly detailed paintings. Moorehead, a lineal descendent of Ousamequin, the Massasoit, teamed up with Lopenzina at the history tent to share her family's story along with her brilliant painting of William Apress at the Wampanoag town of Mashpee, as Lopenzina outlined Apress's history-making role as the central figure of the "Mashpee Revolt" in 1833.

Moorehead's family suffered the violence of settler colonialism long ago, and as recently as 1924, when two of her great-uncles were tortured and murdered, she said, by land speculators who gained title to their land, now the site of the T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Against this canvas, Lopenzina told the tale of Apress, a Pequot born in Colrain in 1798. Apress rose from extreme privation and indentured servitude to become the first Indigenous author to publish an extended autobiography in America, *A Son of the Forest* (1829), followed by four other books.

In the 1830s Apress gained a reputation as an itinerant Methodist preacher and orator, traveling from rural camp meetings to cities all along the Eastern seaboard, strategically reframing through a Native lens the historical narrative of colonial settlement, conquest, and cultural genocide of the Indigenous northeast.

Befriending editors at major newspapers including William Lloyd Garrison, who published notices of Apress's speaking engagements in his weekly emancipation journal *The Liberator*, Apress placed the suppression of Native sovereignty in Mass-

achusetts against the contemporary crises of South Carolina's nullification of federal tariffs and the constitutional violence of the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation from Georgia and North Carolina, in defiance of longstanding federal treaties.

Lopenzina, a graduate of Berkshire Community College in his hometown of Pittsfield, undertook years of painstaking field research to recover biographical details of Apress's life.

Though no copy of Apress's birth certificate has come to light, Lopenzina, accompanied by Abenaki scholars Lisa Brooks and Marge Bruchac, used details of an old Colrain map of Pocumtuck and Catamount Mountains to pinpoint the probable location of Apress's birth, "in what was then called the back settlements" of the Connecticut River, "where my father pitched his tent in the woods," as Apress wrote.

Apress grew to become the Indigenous equivalent of Frederick Douglass, in the years before Douglass began delivering his stem-winding lectures on emancipation.

In 1833 Apress, adopted by the Wampanoag in their major township of Mashpee, published a series of proclamations declaring null the laws of Massachusetts consigning the Wampanoag to a state of perpetual serfdom as wards of the Commonwealth.

On May 31, 1833 those resolutions, signed by more than a hundred tribal members, landed on the desk of Governor Levi Lincoln, informing him, among other things, that as of July 1, "We, as a tribe, will rule ourselves, and have a right to do so, for all men are born free and equal."

No longer would white overseers rule Wampanoag affairs, nor would white men be allowed on Wampanoag land to harvest hay, fish, or cut lumber. The white Congregational minister named Phineas Fish, funded and installed by Harvard University to preach to the Mashpee, had been stealing funds intended for the Wampanoag and prohibiting them from attending their own house of worship. Those practices, too, would end.

On July 1, when the local white Sampson brothers entered Mashpee land and began felling trees and loading up lumber, Apress and other Wampanoag men surrounded the wagon and unloaded the lumber. Apress made sure the newspapers knew of their nonviolent act of resistance, thereby deterring the governor's plan to send in the militia. He wound up in jail for leading what Lopenzina called "the first successful act of civil disobedience in American history," and used his month behind bars to begin writing his next book, *Indian Nullification of the*

Illegal Laws of Massachusetts. With the press in full halloo, the governor backed down, and within a year the Massachusetts legislature unanimously agreed to the main Wampanoag demands, acceding to the obvious truth that Native sovereignty and self-governance preceded the foundation of the colonial state, which had no right to revoke it in the first place.

III: What Tom Porter's Grandmother Told Him

Among the other books for sale at the Homelands Fest, Tom Sakokwenionkwas Porter's *And Grandma Said* (Xlibris, 2008) deserves special mention.

Porter, Bear Clan elder of the Mohawk Nation, gave the opening address at the Festival, as he has for several years running.

Like many Native youth across Turtle Island, his grandfather was forcibly removed from his family and taken from their home in Akwesasne, on the Canadian border, and placed in the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where the philosophy was "Kill the Indian to Save the Man."

Often they killed both, as US Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's heartrending report on the 417 federally-run boarding schools, issued last week, made clear. Haaland found that at least 973 Native children died at the hands of their boarding schools captors.



Tom Sakokwenionkwas Porter, Bear Clan elder of the Mohawk Nation, gave the opening address.

Porter's grandfather ran away from Carlisle in the dead of winter and made his way home by foot, nearly 500 miles, only to be recaptured and returned, not once, but three separate times.

But it was his grandmother who was hidden away in the woods when the government agents came. She was never forced to learn English, or to have the old traditions beaten out of her.

"That's how come we still have our ceremonies," said Porter. "Because my grandmother and her cousins hid out in the woods."

Because she spoke only Mohawk, Porter's grandma, Hattie Konwanataha Chubb, maintained cultural fluency in the Longhouse tradition, and passed along that ceremonial knowledge to her grandson, and now, through his book, if you would like to read it, to you.

Let me end this story as it began, with Tom Porter's words, as he gave thanks to the Creator, "the One that gave us the good fortune to come together here," for the eleventh annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

For that, we thank the Nolumbeka Project too.



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HEALTH from page A1

the ceiling, and in a small back room we encounter Ed Jarvis, working as site supervisor under general contractor Mowry & Schmidt, gazing contemplatively into a dirt pit dug beneath the flooring. A search for pipes, he explains.

“The worst is done,” Jarvis adds later. “We haven’t hit any snags, and now that the underground plumbing is done, you can of breathe easy.”

The building, on a Montague City dead-end, has always been a medical practice; it was built by Connecticut River Internists and then owned unsuccessfully for eight years by Baystate Health after CRI’s founding physicians retired. For the community health center, which was incubated in the once-nearby but now-demolished Farren Care Center, this expansion is a coming home of sorts.

“We’re going to be taking a lot of new patients,” van der Velden says. “I would love to really make a dent in the primary care access problem with this site.... I think within a year we can add 2,000 patients, and in the future, it could be 2,000 more.”

CHCFC now keeps its main offices in downtown Greenfield, and a satellite site near the Orange-Athol line, but van der Velden explains that the organization has a voracious need for space, describing medical staff packed “like sardines.” It plans to hire more providers as soon as the floorspace is available.

“With all of our previous expansions, we’ve been worried that we’ll have extra space, but within six months we’re like ‘This isn’t big enough,’” she tells the *Reporter*. “It’d be nice if people had all healthcare they needed.”

An initial scheme to only occupy half of the building with primary care, lease out the other wing at first, and then work toward setting it up with a special function – “urgent care or PT, or something more behavioral health-specific, dental even” – fell by the wayside as the demand for primary care mounted. “Just as soon as it’s open, we’re going to be filling it with staff and patients,” van der Velden says. “We’re going to move some providers here, and we’re also going to hire some.”

Community health centers receive federal subsidies in exchange for targeting underserved populations and helping them navigate barriers to care – insurance, disability, language, transportation, housing – though CHCFC serves patients from all walks of life.

As we come into an open central room in one of the building’s symmetrical wings, sunlit through broad skylights, van der Velden excitedly describes the vision behind the design for the space, rooted in the organization’s model of “team-based” care.

“In this location we’re hoping we’ll be able to have behavioral health clinicians really intermingled with the staff, to be able to do warm handoffs,” she explains. “A lot of times we discover, during the course of your primary care appointment, that you’ve got a behavioral health need we can help with – and your chances of actually following up on that care are way higher if you’ve already met the person.”

According to van der Velden, initial delays in the design and planning phase led to longer waits while the Department of Public Health reviewed the plans; as the timeline stretched on, material costs went up. “Mowry worked with us on cutting where we can,” she says. “Just cosmetic things.... We’re putting the priority on the patient spaces.”

CHCFC’s return to Montague is made possible by a combination of a state grant and a federal grant which both ultimately drew on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

“We’re at the end of the grant periods, and finally getting the work done,” van der Velden reflects. “It’s still COVID money, but, you know, they saw that we were going to need to invest in healthcare, in primary care and community health centers, so they gave us capital money to grow.”

And the organization’s best current estimate of when its doors will be open?

“We were hoping to have it open by March – it’s obviously not open yet,” she tells the *Reporter*. “I think we’re going to open in December. I’d love to open sooner than that, but I think, realistically, December.”



BATTERY from page A1

have raised concerns about fire safety, forest cutting, noise and light pollution, and chemical contamination of an aquifer located near the proposed site.

“As Chair of the Planning Board, I rest easier knowing that our Zoning Bylaws and the votes of our citizens are now back to having the strongest say of what happens in our town,” Molly Doody wrote to the *Reporter*. “And as one of those citizens, I hope they can hear our rejoicing all the way in Boston!”

Local concerns were not a reason New Leaf cited in its decision to withdraw its application. Torda’s letter pointed to changes in the federal regulations that govern how battery systems connect with regional energy grids.

“These regulatory changes are ultimately for the good of the market, but unfortunately eroded the Wendell project’s timing and cost advantages in a way that foreclosed a viable path forward,” Torda wrote. “Despite these market headwinds, we believe the project remained a strong candidate for permitting through the Department of Public Utilities and Energy Facility Siting Board.”

Several town officials who spoke with the *Reporter* said they were glad to hear New Leaf had pulled the plug.

“I’m actually not surprised about this,” said planning board member Doug Tanner. “[I]t is important to recognize that utilities related to alternative energy are needed and will need to be built somewhere. Hopefully the withdrawal of this specific proposal will help lead to a more productive way to plan and build in the future.”

“This is a huge win for biodiversity,” said Mary Thomas, Wendell’s conservation agent.

State representative Aaron Saunders told the *Reporter* he was glad New Leaf had withdrawn its proposal, and credited local environmental advocates for influencing his interest in energy siting reform on Beacon Hill.

“What I really think set their advocacy apart from other efforts regionally was that these folks, they had the facts on their side,” Saunders said. “There are real concerns when you site a project like this on top of an aquifer. There are real concerns when you are trying to do an end run around the town’s bylaws.”

A citizen’s group, No Assault and Batteries (NAB), formed last year to oppose New Leaf’s BESS proposal on the grounds it could harm human health and the environment. The group helped draft a town bylaw significantly restricting the size and location of BESS and petitioned for a special town meeting in May at which it passed overwhelmingly.

The attorney general’s office has yet to decide whether the citizen-initiated bylaw is permissible, and recently requested more time to rule on the issue. A decision is now due by November 14.

NAB member Anna Gyorgy said the group believes local support for the bylaw was “clearly an aspect” of the company’s decision.

“This is not over by any means,” Gyorgy said. “There’s still a lot to understand, and this may not be going away.... It’s a problem that so many communities are facing.”

Another reason New Leaf reportedly withdrew the project is because the Massachusetts legislature failed to pass a climate and energy policy bill before the end of the formal legislative session on August 1. The resulting delay prolongs “market uncertainty for the Wendell project and others like it,” Torda wrote.

“Ultimately Massachusetts will need energy storage projects like this one to meet its climate and energy goals,” he continued. “We are disappointed that the timing was ultimately not right to bring this type of investment to Wendell. We appreciate the engagement from the Town throughout this process.”

Attempts to reach New Leaf Energy representatives for further comment were unsuccessful as of press time.

Saunders said he hopes the legislature reaches a compromise and passes an omnibus bill when it reconvenes in formal session. One provision passed by the House would direct the state Department of Energy Resources to order electricity suppliers to procure 4,500 megawatts (MW) of battery storage capacity by 2027. Another would consolidate the municipal permitting process for large-scale energy projects, and expedite decisions through the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB).

“There had already been longstanding complaints from developers that the permitting process was too long, and there’s unnecessary aspects and duplicative aspects,” Saunders said. “There’s a bit of truth to that... but how do you take the red tape out of government?”

In May 2023, the EFSB determined that it did not have legal standing to regulate a proposed 150-MW energy storage project in Carver because the facility would not be generating electricity. The project went instead through the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) permitting process, which supersedes local zoning regulations, and was built.

Since that ruling, BESS laws in Massachusetts have gone through a sort of “whiplash,” Saunders said, that for a time left the facili-

INVITATION TO BID

CARNEGIE LIBRARY BASEMENT REHABILITATION

The Town of Montague invites bids for materials and construction services necessary to rehabilitate the basement of the Carnegie Library at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly labeled “Carnegie Library Basement Rehabilitation Project” and be delivered to the Selectboard Office, Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. This IFB is offered per M.G.L. c. 149 and work is subject to Prevailing Wage Requirements.

Sealed Bids must be received by Wednesday August 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM, at which time all bid packages will be opened and read at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at the same address listed above. No exceptions or allowances will be made for late submittals.

A mandatory bidders’ conference will be held on Monday, August 19 at 2:00 PM at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. The IFB is available at <https://www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS>. Registration is required. Once registered, any addenda or notifications will automatically be sent to the email address of registrants on record. Written questions can be submitted to the Project Manager, Chris Nolan-Zeller, at chrism@montague-ma.gov until August 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

Qualified proposers who are Minority/Women/Disabled Owned Business Enterprises (M/W/D/BE) businesses are encouraged to apply. Other qualified proposers are encouraged to partner with disadvantaged businesses. A listing of certified disadvantaged businesses can be found at www.mass.gov/sdo.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in total or in part as they may deem in the public’s best interest.

Walter Ramsey, Chief Procurement Officer

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spiritualism – a boutique farmers market, a village pie auction, and family activities such as free face painting, crafts, and music for kids.

The celebration will culminate with a time capsule ceremony and an Illumination Night on the historic Bridge of Names.

Village roads will be closed to through traffic. Free parking will be available at the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club on Lake Pleasant Road, with additional parking on one side only along Lake Pleasant Road. A complimentary FRTA shuttle will provide service to the event with multiple stops along Lake Pleasant Road. ADA parking is located on Broadway Avenue. Festivalgoers can also enter the event on foot from Broadway or Adams Street.

Kara Kharmah, a three-year village resident and one of the event organizers, said she is most excited about the walking history tour being organized by the committee. Residents have compiled historical documents and photos of their homes, and on the day of the event, each home will display a bulletin board with the history of each building.

"The history here just fascinates me,"

Kharmah said. People will be able to learn about the history of the Spiritualists, including events where over 8,000 people visited Lake Pleasant to see a spirit medium.

Bands scheduled to perform include Signature Dish, Force & Friends, Big Destiny, Baba Yaga's Vacuum Cleaner, and more.

Kharmah noted that while this event marks 150 years since Spiritualists came to the village, there are also thousands of years of presence of various Native groups in this location. "While the 50th and 100th anniversaries are special, this mostly gives us the opportunity to celebrate and share what we know is special about this place," Kharmah said.

Both Kharmah and Bordeaux mentioned that many people who live in the area often don't know about Lake Pleasant, so they hope the event will allow residents to show the larger community one of the less-visited villages in Montague.

More information about the event can be found at www.lakepleasant.net.

"This place is a little oasis. The light is different here. The land is different here," Kharmah said. "I am excited to share with others what we all know is a special place."



Reminder: Call for Artists!

TURNERS FALLS – The *Montague Reporter* announces a call for artists for the 2024 Wrapping Paper Edition. Artists from western Mass and southern Vermont are invited to submit designs and proposals for wrapping paper pages from now until the September 1 deadline.

Each artist will have the space of two full adjacent pages for their design, a double page measuring 20" by 22". Artists may design in full color or in black and white, in any style; designs do not have to reference holidays. The paper offers a **\$200 stipend** to each of seven chosen artists, thanks to several anonymous donors. Winners will be announced September 16 and will have until the end of October to submit final designs.

A submission form is available at tinyurl.com/more-wrap. Artists and designers may submit up to three designs. Those who can't use the online form may send their name, address, phone number, and up to three images or proposals to features@montaguereporter.org with "Wrap" in the subject line.

More information, including examples of previous winning entries and digital file preparation guidelines, is available at montaguereporter.org.

The Special Wrapping Paper Edition will be sold between Thanksgiving and the end of December in local stores and online, at the special price of \$5 each or five for \$20. All proceeds go to support our weird non-profit community paper!



Spiritualists, Dwindling, Vote to Take a Break

By BELLA LEVAVI

LAKE PLEASANT – In a letter published on July 25, The National Spiritual Alliance (TNSA) announced it will be closing the Thompson Temple for the winter beginning November 1 to allow its board to explore financially feasible options for reopening.

"Declining membership, declining attendance, declining service to spiritual siblings, and declining distribution of workload," the group wrote in a statement published on its website and Facebook page, "have led to the necessity to shut down – or go broke – to hibernate for a time, to research options for a viable future and execute them, or, failing that, to recommend permanent closure, a final 'real end.'"

Modern Spiritualists believe in two worlds, an "Earth plane" and a "spirit world," and believe that spirits, or dead souls, communicate with living people. Beginning in the late 1840s, the religion quickly blossomed, attracting many followers. It arrived in Lake Pleasant in 1874.

"It's a fringe religion now," David James, vice president and acting CEO of TNSA, told the *Reporter*. "This had as many as 250 associations. At this point, this building is not only the mother church, but the only church."



David James is one of only two Lake Pleasant residents still attending services regularly at the village's Spiritualist church. The congregation recently decided to close the early-19th-century building for the winter.

While most Lake Pleasant residents once practiced Spiritualism, today only two residents practice: James, who said he has been involved since 2001 after watching his mother die, and Kara Kharmah, who described being drawn to Lake Pleasant through an "act of the universe." Other TNSA members come from further away for regular services.

James recounted ongoing challenges the group has faced over the past year. Full Sunday services include a healing portion with group singing, an inspirational talk, and a half-hour of message giving from a spirit medium. These services required many members volunteering and performing roles. As fewer people were involved, volunteers became overworked and suffered burnout.

In April, the congregation switched models and began hosting an all-healing meditation. Attendance dwindled from about 25 people to about nine. After a month, they switched again to a spiritual roundtable discussion, which has attracted as many as 17 attendees.

"The minute things are not regular – when you have irregularly attending people – it plants a bad seed," James said, explaining that the continual changes have further hurt service attendance. "People anticipated it wasn't something that would be well-received."

"Everything is dependent on a brass collection plate getting passed," James added. "You have to have participants to pay the bills."

James indicated that about half the number of

people have paid their dues this year compared to last year. At the time of the meeting when the group voted to close temporarily, it had 12 dues-paying members, as well as six "life members" who do not pay annually.

The Temple, located at 2 Montague Avenue, becomes incredibly expensive to maintain in the winter. The second floor, with tall ceilings, has no insulation. Closing on November 1 ensures the Alliance will not have to pay to refill a propane tank and can flush out the water pipes before a freeze.

"An organization with its own building – Spiritualist or otherwise – is not just a religious and/or spiritual entity with its cosmic and one-worldistic principles and practices. It also has nitty-gritty earthbound responsibilities of sibling," TNSA's statement reads.

"I am dedicated to the spiritual home I have found at the Spiritual Alliance," Kharmah said in an interview. "I do think that will continue. There are a lot of people who are dedicated to continuing to provide that spiritual home. Now what version of what that will be is uncertain."

James has many ideas to ensure a reopening next spring. A document he shared with the *Reporter*, which he said he has not yet proposed to the organization, recommends recruitment and outreach efforts, a social media campaign, and an increase in groups renting the space as a

way to increase revenue. Currently, an Alcoholics Anonymous group and a writers' group, the Lake Pleasant Tea and Crumpets Society, rent the space to host meetings.

"I would like to explore the feasibility of partnering with musicians for TNSA benefit concerts at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls," James wrote in his letter, "as well as encouraging workshops and special events ranging from one-offs to multiple sessions involving workshop leaders with significant regional reputations and followings."

James also plans to propose making the building a secular meeting space that the Spiritualists can also use. Changing the use may increase access to grants. He said the building is already a *de facto* community space, having been used in the past by other village organizations, for meetings of the Montague selectboard, and even for hearings by the federal government about potentially closing the village post office.

When asked if he feels hopeful for the future, James responded positively.

For an up-to-date calendar of services, people can visit TNSA's website at spiritualallianceusa.org. James indicated that services will continue at alternative locations throughout the winter.

"One way or another," he wrote in his letter of proposals, "TNSA shall reincarnate ... and arise again."

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candidates to fill the seats, and called the problem a “time-management thing.”

“Everybody has family, and places they want to be,” Pierce said. “One of the last things they want to do on a Saturday morning is plan a whole day to be there.” She suggested a Wednesday meeting, with a potential second session the following night to handle any “overflow” business.

Pierce then cited a list of 25 Massachusetts municipalities with representative town meeting, noting that only two hold their annual meeting on a Saturday. The list did not include Montague.

Selectboard member Matt Lord said he thought moving the meeting from Saturday would be a “very good idea,” but also suggested reducing the number of members representing each precinct. He pointed out that many of the municipalities on Pierce’s list had larger populations and smaller numbers of elected members.

Pierce said she agreed with Lord’s analysis, but that her office “thought we’d start with something easier to work with.”

Precinct 1 town meeting member Ariel Elan said she was not convinced that “any of the problems” mentioned by Pierce would be solved by an evening meeting. Prospective members, she said, may find it as difficult to commit to two meetings in a row as one all-day session.

Precinct 5 member and assistant town planner Suzanne LoManto echoed this concern. “I don’t think there’s a realistic way we can do this in an evening,” she said, arguing that the proposal should be presented as requiring two nights’ attendance.

Pierce said she was “shocked” to learn how many cities and towns on the list “got it done in just one night.”

The selectboard did not take a vote on the issue, but chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested that the town poll existing town meeting members on different options. Town administrator Walter Ramsey agreed.

Any proposed change would need to go before town meeting itself, since it would involve changing the town bylaws.

Emerging Industries

On the cannabis front, the board approved a new agreement with Flower Power Growers, a pot-growing facility in the airport industrial park. The new host community agreement, submitted earlier this summer, was amended to address several provisions the state Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) flagged as “non-compliant.”

Two of the three changes corrected inconsistent dates for when the company began operations. The third concerned potential payments to the town for site cleanup in the case of the facility closing. The CCC ruled that this was not required of other businesses in town, and this provision was removed.

Ramsey stressed that the CCC did not object to extensive requirements for the company to respond to complaints about odor, including that the town may require the company to hire an engineer in response to complaints of “nuisance odors.” Such complaints have been raised in recent months by the Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts, which runs a theater and preschool nearby in the industrial park.

After the board voted to approve the agreement, Kuklewicz

was asked how the town will address the complaints. He said the issue would be on the agenda of the board’s next meeting, and that the town had been working with Flower Power CEO Ezra Hagerty to document the problem.

“There’s been some progress,” he said. Hagerty, who was in attendance on Monday, agreed.

New Accountant

The selectboard approved a contract with Angelica Desroches to serve as town accountant. Desroches, who has served as the accountant in Greenfield since June 2020 and also worked in a similar position in Leyden, was selected by the board two weeks ago at the recommendation of a hiring committee, but her appointment was held off for two weeks while the contract was negotiated.

The town accountant provides staff support to the finance committee and plays a major role in the development of the budget presented to the annual town meeting. Desroches’s official start date is August 19, which will provide over a month’s overlap with retiring accountant Carolyn Olsen.

This is the second major staff position in Montague this year to be filled by an employee from Greenfield. Last month the town hired Sam Urkiel, formerly deputy director of the Greenfield public works department, to serve as the Montague superintendent of public works.

Remainder of Rescue

The board approved a request by town planner Maureen Pollock to allocate \$20,200 of the town’s remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to investigate options for state grants for street and sidewalk repair. The board also voted to hire the planning firm VHB to conduct the investigation, with an initial focus on calming traffic in Montague Center.

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller then reviewed the status of projects funded under ARPA in order to estimate the remaining funds, which must be allocated under contract for projects by the end of this calendar year.

After going through a lengthy list of projects at various stages, Nolan-Zeller said that of the \$2,454,622 in ARPA funds received by the town, \$78,806 had not yet been allocated, and an additional \$70,706 surplus remained from projects completed under budget. He also noted that a \$209,000 “contingency” fund for the installation of a generator at the Clean Water Facility, which “might not be ready in time” to make the deadline, might be “a good candidate for reallocation.”

Adding in other miscellaneous sums from projects that may not use allocated expenses, Nolan-Zeller estimated that a maximum of \$488,849 may be available for projects in the fall. That total did not take into account the \$20,200 allocated to VHB.

“We need to keep on top of this, and start looking at our priorities,” said Kuklewicz, suggesting a discussion at the first meeting in September.

Primary Schedule

The board approved the warrant for the September 3 primary election. The ballot includes candidates for President, a senator and representative in Congress, a senator and representative on Beacon Hill, the Eighth District representative on the

Governor’s Council, and the Clerk of the Courts and Register of Deeds for Franklin County.

The warrant also lists the local polling locations. Precincts 2, 3, 4, and 6 will vote at the Franklin County Technical School on Industrial Boulevard from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Precinct 1 votes at the Montague Center fire station at 28 Old Sunderland Road, and Precinct 5 voters cast their ballots at 62 Fifth Street during the same time period.

The last day to register to vote in the primary is August 24. More details, including a precinct map, are available on the town website, www.montague.net, under “Town Elections.”

Residents wishing to vote by mail must request a ballot by August 26 from the town clerk’s office, either by mail or in person, or from the Secretary of State. Completed ballots must be received by September 3, and will not be accepted at the walk-in polling locations. The drop box in front of town hall at 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls may be used for both ballot requests and completed ballots.

Voters may also vote early, town hall at the annex, on five dates: Saturday, August 24 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., or Monday through Thursday, August 26 through 29, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Early voting is extended to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28.

Other Business

After approving an \$11,160.88 increase in a contract with Clayton Davenport Trucking for the ongoing flooding mitigation project on Montague City Road, the board approved a request by that company to use the former Farren Hospital land on Montague City Road, now owned by the town, as a staging area for work at Cabot Station, the adjacent hydroelectric facility owned by FirstLight Power. Davenport agreed to make “minor improvements” to the Farren site as repayment for its use.

In response to a question from this newspaper, Nolan-Zeller said he had no information about the project at Cabot Station. Attempts to reach FirstLight for comment were unsuccessful as of press time.

The board authorized Nolan-Zeller to apply for a grant to investigate reducing the carbon footprint of town hall and, at Ramsey’s request, approved a \$197,700 contract with the engineering firm Tighe & Bond to make plans for the demolition of the Strathmore factory complex.

Ramsey also announced that the town had been awarded a \$938,328 federal Community Development Block Grant. The funding, which the town receives roughly annually, covers housing rehabilitation, parks, parking, and streetscape improvements, and social services.

A request by the First Congregational Church in Montague Center for the use of that village’s common for a festival on October 12 was approved, as was the use of public property and a street closure in downtown Turners Falls on September 22 for the Northeast Unity Car Show.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, who made the latter request, also received approval for a “music event” at Peskeompskut Park on September 14.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held August 19.



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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS TOWN OF MONTAGUE

On or about August 16, 2024, the Town of Montague will submit a request to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the release of Town of Montague Community Development Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383) as amended, to undertake the following projects:

- **Montague Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$490,000.00):** A project for the purpose of providing technical assistance and deferred payment loans to rehabilitate distressed properties owned by low and moderate income eligible owner-occupied single or multi-family properties located in the towns of Montague. The goal of the program is to rehabilitate to code at least 7 housing units.
- **Montague Public Parking Lot Re-Paving Project (\$125,953):** The project will re-pave two town-owned, free, Public Parking Lots in the Village of Turners Falls, MA. The focus of this project will be to repair pavement cracks, potholes and tripping hazards so that residents can benefit from clearly defined parking spaces, accessible spaces, unobstructed surfaces and no safety hazards.

The proposed activities are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects is on file and may be examined or copied at the following locations during the times indicated:

- **Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA),**
241 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376. (413) 863-9781 x 125
(Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- **Montague Town Hall, Office of the Select Board,**
1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3200
(Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Walter Ramsey, Environmental Certifying Officer, Office of the Select Board, Town of Montague, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. All comments received by 4:30 pm on August 15, 2024, will be considered by the Town of Montague prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS: The Town of Montague certifies to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, that Walter Ramsey, in their capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer for the Town of Montague, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Town of Montague to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Montague’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Montague; (b) the Town of Montague has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or (d) another Federal Agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Community Development Fund Program, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Walter Ramsey, Environmental Certifying Officer
Town of Montague, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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FARM from page A1

an unannounced site visit six days earlier to the farm and adjacent properties, and that based on their observations they offered to take over the investigation. MassDEP can address Falls Farm as a single property, and if it orders the farm to stabilize eroding soil, mitigate damage, or restore impacted wetlands, its orders can be enforced with substantial fines.

The Sunderland board voted to accept the agency’s offer.

On July 30, Montague’s con com voted to do likewise. Montague town planner and conservation agent Maureen Pollock revealed that she had contacted MassDEP on July 8 to formally request it assume responsibility for the case.

Pollock described the agency’s July 19 site visit, informing the commission, Falls Farm representative Diane McClellan, and an audience including several Sunderland con com members that MassDEP had observed in Montague “unpermitted work in wetlands resource areas and buffer zones, a sediment plume in the Connecticut River, unpermitted work in land-under-water and bordering vegetative wetlands, and additional unpermitted work in Sunderland.”

Once official paperwork is delivered Michael McHugh, MassDEP’s wetlands enforcement chief for the western region, will be in charge of all further investigation, reducing each con com’s role to providing a conduit of information between the agency and concerned townsfolk.

According to Pollock, neighbors have played an important role in observing potential violations from public thoroughfares such as Old Sunderland and Meadow roads. On July 25, one neighbor said he saw Falls Farm site manager Bob Liebler using a snergelly irrigation hose to flush silt through the bed of an intermittent stream, which runs past the farm’s old tobacco barn and has repeatedly flooded a culvert basin at Meadow Road.

The next morning, another neighbor observed Liebler with a crew of three farmworkers in the Meadow Road culvert basin – which sits in a protected wetlands area, on private property not owned by Falls Farm – shoveling mud into a front-end loader and bringing it back uphill.

Photographs submitted to town officials, which Pollock displayed at the meeting, led her to demand Falls Farm cease all activity of any kind in or near wetlands areas or buffer zones.

Tobacco, Trout, and Trees

In 1774, Daniel Whitmore moved from Connecticut to “North Sunderland,” and for over 240 years he and his descendants would live on what is now Falls Farm. They built a dam of earth and stone at the top of a waterfall on Slatestone Brook, and a grist mill and sawmill at its base.

A small village flourished around the mills, including a hotel which regularly received visitors from the west who crossed the Connecticut River by the Whitmore Cross Ferry – a service which for 120 years was free on Sundays for residents of South Deerfield attending the village’s Baptist Church. For a

few years a small power station in the village generated electricity for Sunderland.

And from the wide Connecticut River plain, where the Smiarowski family now farms asparagus, to the top of the hill above the falls, and further north across Old Sunderland Road into the town of Montague, six generations of Whitmores ran a farm.

In the early 1900s, Frederic Lee Whitmore raised dairy cattle and farmed silage and tobacco. Much of the land between Fosters and Old Sunderland roads was then a pasture for the cows, while tobacco was grown further to the south, as recalled by Jessie White, a farmhand from 1897 to 1962.

“We were proud of our tobacco on the Whitmore Farm,” White recalled in 1968 to the *Greenfield Recorder Gazette and Courier*. “I remember how pleased we were when an agent for one of the tobacco companies praised the fine quality of our crop.”

When Frederic died in 1927, his son Philip inherited the southern half of what would one day become Falls Farm, and his son Ralph the northern half. Ralph Whitmore was not interested in farming and got out of the dairy business, letting nearly all of his pasture become a dense forest of white pine.

Philip Whitmore is best remembered as a UMass Amherst trustee and state legislator, but he was also a gentleman farmer who continued to grow shade tobacco as well as tomatoes and other vegetables, which he sold at markets in Boston and White River Junction.

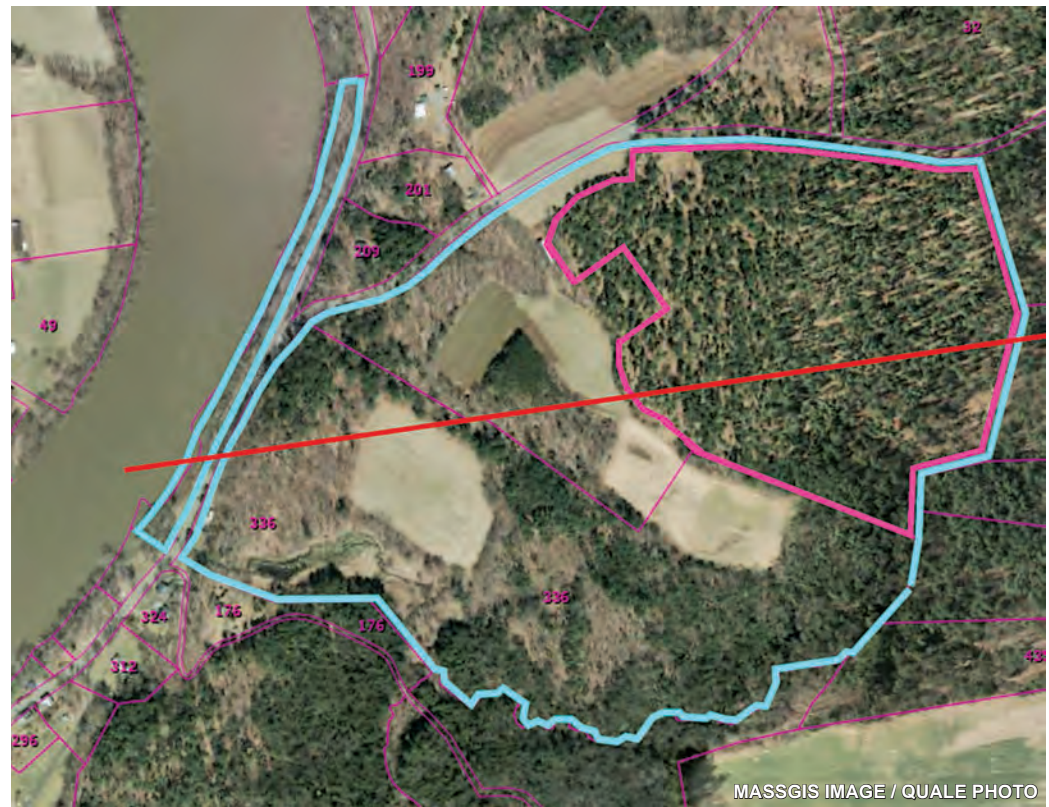
Jessie White’s grandson, Sterling Clark, grew up next to the waterfall in the 1940s and ’50s. He told the *Reporter* of his childhood and the joy he took from skating on the pond above the falls in winter and fishing there in summer: “You’d have five trout in five seconds! They were on top of one another. Eight, nine, ten, eleven inches, and plump. God, were they tasty!”

In those days there was a bridge across the top of the dam, and on the far side of the pond – now a troutless marsh, since the dam was removed in 2017 due to safety concerns – was a pump house with which Philip Whitmore drew water for his crops.

In 1962, Ralph Whitmore sold his land – the new forest, as well as fields north of Old Sunderland Road which grew silage – to William and Barbara Craven. The Cravens entered the forest into a planned management program in 1963, engaging in modest timber production, though in practice it served as “a sort of deer preserve, a refuge for deer seeking to escape the guns,” according to a 1965 *Boston Globe* profile.

Craven, then the director of the Pioneer Valley Association, had been discovered as the author of nationally syndicated newspaper stories extolling our region’s fabulous deer hunting under the pen name “Buck Masters,” a fictional “tough, fearless man of the woods” of her own devising. (“Somebody’s got to protect the deer,” Craven told the amused *Globe*.)

Also in 1962, Philip Whitmore died. His son William was not interested in farming, and rented his fields to Mount Toby Farm, the dairy farm run for seven generations by the Williams family. For nearly 60 years, Bob Williams farmed silage for his cattle – main-



Top: Aerial imagery from 2019 accessed via MassMapper, with a blue outline indicating the land purchased to form Falls Farm, a pink outline showing a 35-acre stand of white pine enrolled under the state’s Chapter 61A program in 2020, and a red line to mark the Montague-Sunderland border.

Above: The same image, with sections of recent aerial photographs obtained by the Montague Reporter superimposed to illustrate forest clearance.

ly hay and alfalfa – on this land and on the Cravens’ remaining fields, surrounded by managed timber forest. William Whitmore entered his own section of the forest into planned management in 2004.

According to her 2007 plan, Craven’s land had been managed “intensively” since 1962, with stated goals including enhancing habitat for animals and birds and preserving scenic beauty. William Whitmore may have managed less intensively out of love for his trees. “He had foresters come in and suggest that he cut more: they’d say ‘You have three trees close together here, keep the best and cut two,’” said his daughter Jane. “And he’d not follow through.”

By maintaining managed forests, both the Cravens and the Whitmores qualified for state programs under which landowners promise not to clear and develop their land, and moreover to follow established management plans, in exchange for substantially reduced property tax assessments.

After Dr. Arcoleo purchased six parcels from the estates of Barbara Craven and William Whitmore to assemble Falls Farm, he continued to make use of these programs.

Speaking for the Trees

Since a 1918 constitutional amendment, the state legislature has been directed to “prescribe for wild or forest lands such methods of taxation as will develop and conserve the forest resources of the commonwealth.” Classification of land by assessors for this purpose is regulated by M.G.L. Chapters 61 (purely forest), 61A (agricultural forest), and 61B (recreational forest).

Forest resources which may be taken from

land enrolled under Chapter 61 include wood, timber, and Christmas trees, but not agricultural products – including tree products such as nuts, fruit, or syrup – which may only be taken from land under Chapter 61A.

To enroll property in these programs, the first step is to file a management plan with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (MassDCR) Service Forestry Program. Each eligible stand of trees must be surveyed and described; developed or open land – or any land intended to be cleared – is not eligible.

For each stand, a licensed forester must write a 10-year management plan describing intended activities and long-term goals. Once approved by the state service forester, the plan is submitted to the town’s assessors, who re-assess the property accordingly. Filing land under Chapter 61 can reduce the property tax owed by as much as 99%.

A landowner’s intentions may change within the plan’s duration, but if so, an amended plan must be filed with MassDCR and the assessors, as it may affect eligibility for the program. Land can be withdrawn from the program early, though tax penalties may be assessed, or re-enrolled under a different chapter by a prescribed process.

Approval of a management plan describing intended cutting does not itself confer permission to cut trees. Logging must not only follow the plan, but is also regulated by M.G.L. Chapter 132, the Forest Cutting Practices Act.

Under this act, landowners must file cutting plans with MassDCR, which determines whether to grant permits. The agency may

see **FARM** next page



Whitmore Farm circa 1907, in an image from a postcard, with Old Sunderland Road in the foreground and Mount Toby in the distance. By the 1950s much of this cow pasture would become a dense forest.

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Eco-tourism: A cyclist looks on as Montague public works employees again unclog the Meadow Road culvert basin on Sunday. The highway department has been instructed to track staff time spent attempting to prevent flooding in the area.

FARM from previous page

forward the plan to the Division of Fish & Wildlife for review, if any species or habitats under the purview of the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program overlap with the proposed cutting.

In 2020, Dr. Arcoleo filed a new 10-year Forest Management Plan for the parcels he purchased from the Cravens in 2019. The plan described a 35-acre stand of “good to excellent” white pine east of the old tobacco barn by Old Sunderland Road, 29 acres of which were in Montague and the rest in Sunderland. The plan requested to convert this parcel from Chapter 61 to 61A, but stated that the “desired future condition” of these 35 acres was “large high quality white pine sawtimber.”

“The owner cannot diverge from the approved silvicultural prescriptions in the Chapter 61/61A/61B management plan without prior written permission of the State Forester,” the MassDCR website cautions. “If the owner diverges from the approved treatments, the State Forester may decertify or deny recertification of the property.”

Neither Montague’s assessors nor MassDCR regularly inspect properties enrolled in Chapter 61 or 61A to ensure they remain in compliance with these 10-year plans. Montague director of assessing Karen Tonelli told the *Reporter* that her job is to assess land according to its certification by MassDCR, assuming that if an owner’s intentions change, the town will receive the new plan from MassDCR.

When informed that nearly 10

of the 29 acres in Montague which were promised to remain “large high quality white pine sawtimber” have apparently been felled, and that Arcoleo has stated at public meetings and to the *Reporter* that he intends to plant 6,000 apple trees on them, Tonelli confirmed that her office has not received an amended plan, and expressed interest in the situation.

In 2023, Arcoleo filed a separate 10-year management plan for forested land enrolled in Chapter 61A he acquired from the Whitmore family. The stated “desired future condition” of each stand of trees – including 35 acres of pine, oak, and maple in Sunderland – was to perpetuate forest.

Seven of those Sunderland acres have since been cleared, according to recent aerial photographs reviewed by the *Reporter*; they now include a partially-built 25,000-square-foot structure, but otherwise remain barren.

Falls Farm accounting manager Diane McClellan confirmed to the *Reporter* this week that amended forest management plans have not been filed with MassDCR, but added that Falls Farm intends to do so. The farm has recently hired a new forester, she said, as its former forester passed away in 2023, and she has been assured by the state’s regional service forester Andrew Racliffe that “we were doing everything right, being engaged with a new forester.”

McClellan said she was uncertain whether the amended management plans will differ in substance, as they have not yet been written,

though she previously characterized them to the Sunderland con com as a “necessary paperwork amendment.”

When asked if Falls Farm had a forest cutting plan, McClellan replied that it has undertaken “pre-commercial trimming” as described in its management plans. Asked specifically whether this work followed a Chapter 132 cutting plan filed with MassDCR, she cited the annual agricultural income statements the farm has filed with Montague’s assessors as required by Chapter 61A.

Pollock told the *Reporter* that she is also “engaging with MassDCR about the Chapter 61 program in context of the [Falls Farm] parcels.” She said that she was not aware that any cutting plan had been filed or approved.



An allium, seen among the debris removed from the culvert basin on Sunday.

Additional reporting was contributed by Jeri Moran.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on July 31, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Battlefield Grant

The National Park Service has awarded the town of Montague a \$60,000 American Battlefield Protection Service Grant, \$20,000 more than requested in the application that NPS rejected last year.

The grant enables the town and Native Americans to conduct an extensive survey of the 1676 Turners Falls/Peskeompskut battle site in which Captain Turner and Lieutenant Holyoke led an attack on the Native Americans encamped at Great Falls.

The ultimate objective is to protect the site and to gather information and artifacts to create a Great Falls Native Cultural Park.

According to David Brule, the liaison between the town and the Indian tribes, the grant is highly significant as this is the first time that modern technology, such as GIS mapping, and ancient methodologies will be used to establish definitively what took place on that fateful day.

Major participants whose commitment to the project was crucial in securing the grant include the Nipmucks, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mashpee Wampanoags, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 5, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Restore the Sidewalk

The showdown over sidewalks on the corner of Bridge and East Main in Millers Falls heated up at the selectboard meeting Monday with the board moving to clear obstructions and replace the sidewalk surface, and Powers Block owner Richard Conley declaiming “I want an instrument from the town proving you own the property.” Conley said he erected the fencing to protect the public during repairs to his building, which he has been working on for nearly seven years.

Copycat Crime Blueprints

Gill police chief David Hastings informed the selectboard that a Public Broadcasting Service crew would be in town on August 3 to film interviews on Hoe Shop Road, at a location where some years ago local youths were caught setting off explosive devices in a mailbox.

Hastings had initially questioned the wisdom of the project, since the boys involved had built their explosive devices using readily available materials, and he did not want the documentary to provide a blueprint for copycat crimes. But, after the filming took place, he said he believed the resulting program on juvenile crime would be very educational for kids.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 5, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Local Matters

N.D. Allen has added another fine pair of Vermont colts to our local horse-flesh.

Campbell & Hazleton have got the walls of the German M.E. Church ready for the timbers.

The work on the K street sewer progresses. Well, it will be a satisfaction to know that when it is done this time it will amount to something.

Messrs. T.F. Sibley and Add D. Welch have taken the fine new building erected by Thomas Kelly of Amherst, on Fourth St. It is without question one of the finest residences in the town and Mr Kelly is deserving of thanks for the liberality of his expenditures to make it what it should be.

Dr. Somborger has corn at Riverside that is thirteen feet high. Almost as high as it is in market. We don’t know the exact altitude attained at the latter place, but are willing to swear that it is out of our reach.

The Social Hop at Colle Hall on Saturday evening was a pleasant affair. About forty couples were present enjoying themselves on the “light fantastic,” to the music of the Greenfield Quadrille Band, passing away the time until 11:45.

Fishing Parties are in order. Last Thursday evening some ten of our sports spent the night at Green Pond. They are reported as having a jolly, social time, but we did not receive any of the fish, and so decline to puff them. Wonder if L. has caught that eel yet. The last we heard from him, he was busily engaged picking off native leeches. Johnny’s boat leaked badly, and so interfered with his comfort and success. It is hinted that it was a “put up thing” on the part of the Doctor to get a fresh supply of blood suckers; he and Charley being caught down in the bushes trying to drive a trade – or something. Our devil was there, too.

Dr. P.J. Flanagan, M.D., has attached himself to the “Farren House Regulars,” and is prepared to minister to bodies, if not minds, diseased. The doctor comes well recommended.



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Montague Community Television News

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By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Are you interested in getting involved with Local TV production? *Customers From Hell*, an absurdist comedy series by and about customer service, is seeking volunteers for their film crew. Shoot dates are August 22 and 23. Contact Alexis at alexiskhott@gmail.com for details!

Do you have your own idea for a show? MCTV is always available to assist in local video production. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided at no cost to you.

All MCTV videos are aired on

Channel 9, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. This week, our Vimeo has new uploads from the Montague Selectboard, a “Local Business Spotlight” on Mohawk Shawarma, a concert by Led Zepelin tribute band Four Sticks at the Shea Theater, and Smokey the Bear’s 80th Birthday Celebration at the Discovery Center.

If you know of any community events that you would like MCTV to cover, reach out! Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or 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.

LEVERETT from page A1

across the town line.

Hankinson characterized the new proposal to the *Reporter* as an effort by Wallack’s firm to address Leverett’s primary concerns with the earlier plan.

After meeting with the developers, Hankinson said at last week’s meeting, he felt they were prepared to negotiate at the town’s pace, but that the outcome was “very important to the town,” and the board needed to take steps as “deliberately as we can.”

Leverett’s population, according to the 2020 census, is 1,865.

Two steps requiring special town meeting (STM) approval are the town adopting the state’s “Mullins rule,” which Hankinson explained would give the zoning board of appeals greater flexibility in attending hearings, and funding for an attorney specializing in Chapter 40B, the state law that allows developers of affordable housing to circumvent town zoning if less than 10% of the housing in town qualifies as affordable.

Hankinson and board member Jed Proujansky said the developers seemed amenable to using the Local Initiative Program (LIP) as part of their proposal. The LIP is a state program that provides technical assistance to communities and developers working collaboratively to create affordable housing.

Proujansky said the program would promote mutual understanding, and that “no one wants” an adversarial process. He added that while it made sense to focus on the LIP, the board should understand there is a potential for an adversarial process, and “line things up” so the town isn’t “blindsided.”

Hankinson commented that his understanding was that negotiations over zoning approval were in the purview of the planning board, but that the selectboard could support them politically. He added a reminder that the landowner has rights, just as the town does.

“The board will be working very hard to come up with a solution that’s amenable to both sides,” he said. “That’s what we’re all about.”

Board member Patricia Duffy commented that developers were going to do “something,” and that the town needed to “figure out our stance.” She described the LIP as a “friendly 40B” approach in which community input plays a “big part.” Resident Carol Heim said she

thought the town “really can” limit the size of the development to 48 units if it chooses to, and that it was “not clear” the process would be expensive. She clarified that while she was not advocating taking this position, she felt it was something the town should talk about.

Throughout the discussion, board members and attendees commented on their desire to see strong public input in the project. Hankinson said that scheduling a STM could be used to “gain some sense of general opinion, on the part of the town,” and noted that the planning board intends to hold hearings in the near future to inform and hear from residents about the proposal.

Proujansky suggested the selectboard and planning board could also hold joint hearings, with more “open” dialogue than standard selectboard meetings.

No date was set for the STM, but September was mentioned as a possibility.

Other potential articles for the meeting include an “off-schedule” grant application to the Community Preservation Commission seeking funding toward the replacement of the athletic track at Amherst Regional High School, and an eminent domain item possibly related to accessing a blueberry patch.

Problem Sprinklers

Leverett Elementary School head custodian Christopher Cole updated the board on the status of a leak in the school’s sprinkler system that occurred two weeks prior to the meeting.

Cole said it had been repaired, but noted there had been a history of problems with the system. He said the sprinkler company recommended two options for a long-term solution: a complete system replacement for \$1.125 million, or a \$225,000 upgrade to prolong the current system’s life.

Choosing a solution was “probably not in the board’s bailiwick,” said Hankinson, and he suggested the school administration form a committee. He commended Cole for coming in on his day off on Saturday and discovering the leak after noting something wasn’t right on Friday.

Library Landscape

Library director Hannah Paessel and several library trustees provided an update on a project to improve the library grounds. New features

will include an ADA-compliant walkway, or trail, a performance platform, benches, and landscaping.

Paessel said no municipal money was being allocated or sought for the project, which is funded through donations and anticipated grants. She said a preliminary design had been completed, and that the library had hired a project manager and was seeking engineering quotes.

A next step is to schedule focus groups to receive feedback on the design from neighbors and people with disabilities.

Joan Godsey, a library trustee who also serves as a trustee for the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT), commented that none of the 10-plus miles of managed trails funded by the conservation commission and the RGT in Leverett was ADA-accessible. She said both groups had been “constantly approached” to create an accessible trail, and touted the library as the most “ideal and centralized” location for one.

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Tim Shores as a representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Council.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis informed the board that the town had been billed \$30,000 more for a paving project than it had contracted for. She said she had sent a reply stating that the town agreed to pay the contracted amount, and would “see where it goes.”

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Above: Blue hydrangeas, like this one in Turners Falls, are reportedly enjoying a particularly good summer.



RECIPES

A MOST SATISFACTORY VEGETABLE!



By **CLAIRE HOPLEY**

LEVERETT – Local asparagus wins warm welcomes and local tomatoes get rave reviews, but no vegetable plaudits match those lavished on summer’s local corn. To enjoy it at its sweetest, experts suggest you speed to your kitchen, shuck the corn, and drop it in boiling water. Or grill until it’s patched with tasty charred bits. So yum!

Such enthusiasm was not always in evidence. The first 17th-century English colonists admired corn for its speedy growth and usefulness, but as grain it was always second best to wheat. 18th- and 19th-century recipes for cornbreads and pancakes invariably cut cornmeal with wheat or rye, or both. As for rushing it into boiling water, that rarely happened, because until the late 19th century there were no hybrids that made corn a tasty vegetable.

As late as 1896, Fannie Farmer declared “corn is the most unsatisfactory vegetable” in her *Boston Cooking-School Cook Book*. She gave dozens of recipes for cornmeal breads and muffins, but only five vegetable recipes for corn, two of them using canned corn.

A century later the Boston chef Jasper White totally disagreed. In his *Jasper White’s New England Cooking* (1989) he announced “Sweet corn is unquestionably America’s favorite vegetable... No vegetable, or for that matter any food, is better than corn on the cob at its best.”

White singled out the hybrids Butter and Sugar and Silver Queen as tops for taste. Conveniently, local farmers grow both. Butter and Sugar is an early-season corn, while Silver Queen comes late.



The corn runneth over at Ciesluk’s farm stand in Deerfield.

Because corn is so good simply boiled or grilled it’s easy to ignore other possibilities. Corn chowder made from onions, diced potatoes, and corn in a milky broth is lovely. To make it into a summery main dish you can add more vegetables – leeks, zucchini, or green beans. Fish and seafood are excellent additions too.

The first corn chowder recipe was published in 1884 by Mrs. Mary Lincoln, who preceded Fannie Farmer as see **RECIPES** page B5



Quebec’s Eastern Townships are Charming... and Nearby!

SOUTH DEERFIELD – Once again, readers, the North is where you should travel this summer for the best bargains. Canada offers you a 70-cent dollar and more attractions, vistas, beaches, lakes, oceans, and wineries than anywhere. The fun part is that you will feel like you’re in Europe with the French road signs, yet your high school French will be met with perfect English.

The view of Lake Memphremagog from Magog.

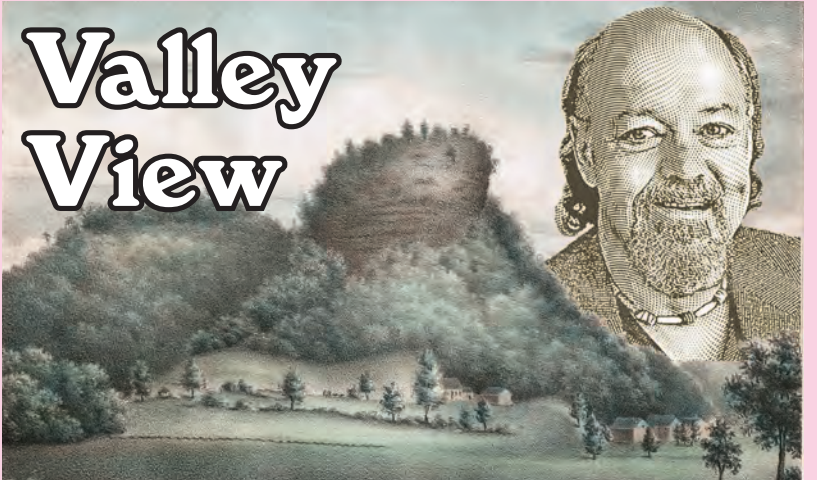
Last week my partner and I explored the region of Quebec, Canada’s largest province, just over the border from Vermont.

These are the 15 Eastern Townships, neatly divided, mostly square regions with names like Dunham, Austin, and Magog. Each township offers its charms, from well-established vineyards with luxurious tasting rooms to small roadside farms specializing in the finest cheese. Twenty miles north of the US’s Vermont border, you’ll come upon charming Sutton, located in the Brome-Missisquoi Township, with 3,488 inhabitants and a ski mountain as a tourist anchor.

The Eastern Townships attract tourists from Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, as well as the US. The border crossings are easy and friendly but don’t try to bring back those joints you bought in Quebec’s state-run marijuana stores, or any house plants.

Getting to the townships is an easy drive up Interstate 91, and what a contrast between the trip north and what awaits you when you drive south on this interstate. Smooth sailing and greenery, all the way to the

see **TRAVELS** page B8



A Singular Stream?

By **GARY SANDERSON**

GREENFIELD – A sharp, irritating, old thorn again found its way to my paw recently, placing me on a path I have previously traveled but never discussed in print.

I guess now is the time to go there. So, let’s venture off on a little discovery mission to set the record straight and put a vexing question in the rearview. I’ll try to keep it tight.

The topic is a trout stream that rises in the hills of Guilford, Vermont. Its path then meanders through Bernardston meadows, divides Greenfield and Gill, flows under Route 2 through the Factory Hollow gorge, and empties into the Connecticut River below the Turners Falls dam.

What we’re searching for is its proper name: Is it Fall River, or Falls River?

This issue has for me been a personal source of journalistic uncertainty for nearly a half-century. Whether writing about the stream from a fishing or historical perspective – both of which offer many interesting tendrils – my goal has always been to name it right. The problem is that the spoken word confuses matters, tangling the answer in doubt.

Which brings us to my most recent stumbling block, which popped up unexpectedly during map research unrelated to the Connecticut River tributary itself. It was just there, running down the periphery.

I was at the time attempting to plot the path through my Greenfield neighborhood of the so-called Seven-Mile Line, which had established Deerfield’s 12-mile western boundary in 1717. Viewing an 1894 topographical map, I noticed that the stream marking the town’s eastern border was spelled “Falls River,” plural form. This discovery immediately stirred my curiosity, compelling a deeper dive to a modern topo map that named it Fall River, singular form.

Hmmmmmm, I pondered. Did I really have to go down that road again?

I thought the question was set-

tled decades ago, when I decided upon “Fall River” without the *s* at the end. I had to choose a spelling for the sake of consistency because I often named the stream in columns about trout fishing and pheasant hunting, not to mention various historical subjects, such as but not limited to the fabled May 19, 1676 “Falls Fight” of King Philip’s War fame.

Despite making my Fall River decision out of professional necessity decades ago, I have had many informal conversations over the years with local yokels who grew up on the river and use the plural form, “Falls River.” Although our slightly different pronunciations were glaring to me but rarely discussed, I to this day find it awkward.

Who was I to argue in favor of the singular form, Fall River, when community language in Turners Falls, Gill, and beyond seemed to favor the plural form, “Falls River”? It was their river. Not mine. I grew up fishing primarily Southern Franklin County trout streams in the Deerfield and Mill River watersheds. Not Fall River.

So, when I recently read “Falls River” on that 1894 topo map, I revisited the issue to clear the air of uncertainty after six years of retirement and a lighter writing workload. I wasn’t sure how thorough my earlier investigation had been.

It never hurts to double-check. My latest fact-checking process began online, where I looked at the list of Connecticut Valley District trout streams stocked by MassWildlife. There it was in bold black letters: “Fall River,” confirming what I had already seen on the modern topo map.

But I wasn’t done yet. I had to back it up with additional proof.

I went to my bookcase and dug out the published histories of the three Franklin County towns the stream in question flows through – Bernardston (Lucy Cutler Kellogg), Greenfield (Francis M. Thompson), and Gill (Ralph M. Stoughton). All three agreed on the singular “Fall River,” without the *s*.

Deerfield historian George Sheldon also chose the singular see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

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Meet Vidalia, a lively one-year-old mixed breed hailing all the way from Alabama. This little bundle of joy is looking to bring her zest for life to a new family.

Vidalia’s love for people is as big as her love for playtime, especially if it involves other dogs. She’s always ready for a game of chase or a romp in the yard with her canine pals. Vidalia’s favorite pastime? Playing with water! Whether it’s splashing around or chasing the hose, she’s your go-to girl for water-based fun. She’s also crate trained, which makes her a great companion for those moments

when you need her to settle down.

Vidalia is diligently working on her house training and is making good progress. With a little patience and consistency, she’ll be a pro in no time. If you’d like to learn more about, meet, or adopt Vidalia, call Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Want your pet featured in *The Montague Reporter*? We accept reader submissions! Just email a high-resolution photo to jae@montaguereporter.org along with a paragraph or two about why your pet is simply the best.

AUGUST LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

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

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE

All month: *Art Exhibit.* Landscapes: Endangered and Preserved by Meg Ricks. Montague Center.

All month: *Grab & Go Bags.* Craft: recycled magazine butterfly. At all branches while supplies last.

Every weekday, August 1 to 16: *GMRSD Free Meals.* Ages 0 to 18. Carnegie, under the tent. Breakfast 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 8: *Bilingual Music & Movement.* Sing and move with Tom and Laurie. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Thursday, August 8: *Book Club.* Italo Calvino, *If on a winter's night a traveler.* Ages 17 and up. Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 9: *No Strings Marionettes.* Peskeompskut Park, 10:30 a.m.

Every Saturday: *Chess.* All ages. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to noon.

Monday, August 12: *Friends of MPL Meeting.* Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *LEGO.* Carnegie, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 17: *Paper-making Workshop.* Ages 6 to adult. Discovery Center, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 21: *Local Author.* Cathy Stanton, *Food Margins: Lessons from an Unlikely Grocer.* Montague Center, 5 p.m.

Thursday, August 22: *Graphic Novel Book Club.* Kate Petty, *The Leak.* Ages 7 to 11. To register, email gracem@montague-ma.gov. Carnegie, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 22: *Family Crafts and Story Fun.* To register, email slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or call (413) 800-2496. Millers Falls, 4 p.m.

Friday, August 23: *Home-school Hangout.* Carnegie, 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 24: *Community Gardens Walk.* Meet at Discovery Center, 10 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Play-group.* Ages 0 to 5 with caregiver. 10:30 a.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: *New In-Library Kids’ Scavenger Hunt.*

All month: *Spice Club pickup.* Sample and recipes while supplies last. This month: tarragon.

Thursday, August 8: *Environmental Book Group.* Andreas Malm and the Zetkin Collective, chapter 9 of *White Skin, Black Fuel.* Pick up at the library. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 9: *Take-and-Make.* While supplies last.

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

Wednesday, August 14: *Readings Group.* Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge.* Pick up at the library. 3 p.m.

Friday, August 16: *BINGO Friends’ Fundraiser.* Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 17: *Appalachia Concert.* 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 29: *Book Group.* A book whose title starts with the same letter as your birth month. 5:30 p.m.

Friday, August 30: *Teen Night.* Pizza, games, crafts for middle and high schoolers. 6 to 8 p.m.

ERVING

Sunday, August 11: *Puzzle Swap.* All ages, no puzzle required. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 11: *Genealogy Drop-In Help.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 18: *Craft Day.* Materials provided, RSVP required. 1 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20: *Local Expert Plant Panel.* 5 p.m.

Thursday, August 29: *Book Club.* Northfield Library, 5:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: *Art Exhibit.* Quilts of Leverett History. LES student quilts and a historic quilt.

Every Thursday: *Mah-jongg.* Beginners welcome. 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Every Saturday: *Tai Chi.* Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m.; beginners 11 a.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong.* See leverettlibrary.org or email communityqigong@gmail.com for info. 10:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday: *Music on the Patio.* August 13, Bruce Colgrove; August 20, Juggler Meadow String Band; August 27, Duo Thomas-Fownes.

WENDELL

All month: *Art Exhibit.* Nature studies by Timothy Sheehan.

Multiple days: *Yoga.* All levels, pay what you can. Every Sunday 10 a.m., every Monday and Wednesday 6 p.m.

Every Friday: *LEGO.* 4 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, August 10: *Life in Wendell.* Biodiversity project results. 1 p.m.

Every Tuesday: *Art Group.* 5 p.m.

Tuesdays, August 13 and 20: *STEM Programs.* August 13, Paper circuits lightning bug card; August 20, Edible soil layers. Registration required. 3 p.m.

Saturday, August 17: *Community Indigo Dye Vat.* 11 a.m.

Senior Center Activities AUGUST 12 THROUGH 23

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 8/12

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

Tuesday 8/13

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/14

Foot Clinic (by Appointment)
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/15

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 8/16

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

Monday 8/19

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
6 p.m. Cemetery Commission

Tuesday 8/20

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Money Matters
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday

3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 8/21
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
1 p.m. Food Pantry
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/22

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 8/23

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

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 Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 8/12

9 a.m. Interval
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday 8/13
8:30 a.m. Nails

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
Wednesday 8/14
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/15

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 8/16

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

Monday 8/19

9 a.m. Interval
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday 8/20

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 8/21

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/22

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 8/23

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

LEVERETT

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

Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or coa@leverett.ma.us

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1
form, “Fall River,” in his *History of Deerfield*. Maybe the other three historians, who published their works slightly later than Sheldon, followed his lead. That will never be known.
Although it appeared the case was closed and no additional fact-checking was needed, there is a little wrinkle.

Fall River was most likely first encountered by colonial scouts and fur-traders during the second half of the 17th century, when Northampton, Hadley, and Hatfield were being settled, and the stream had an important indigenous name that has not survived. Then came ancient Deerfield, which began as an 8,000-acre grant in 1663 and was expanded to seven miles square in 1673 – adding acreage that included Deerfield Fishing Falls and what would become the towns of Greenfield and Gill during the second half of the 18th century.

Although it’s unknown precisely when Fall River was named by colonials, most likely the name evolved over time, starting with the descriptive *stream entering the*

Connecticut River below the falls, to Falls River, to today’s Fall River.

It’s important to note that although Deerfield was expanded in 1673, the seven-miles-square parcel wasn’t mapped until 1717. So, the river probably had no official European name before 1717, and most likely acquired one years later, sometime after 1750 when southern Gill, then referred to as the “nook of the falls,” was being cleared for settlement.

Greenfield split off from Deerfield in 1753 and Gill split off from Greenfield in 1793, and by that time the plural “Falls River” was probably in universal use. Still today that old plural form is alive and well in community memory, and widely used by deep-rooted “townies” and those who converse often with them.

So, who am I to challenge them? Though I intend to continue using the accepted, official, modern singular form, “Fall River,” in print, I’ll readily accept the plural form in informal conversation. In fact, I’ll probably even use it myself to keep the conversation rolling.



GREENFIELD SCENE

Crankies and Commoners

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – On July 12, from 7 to 10 p.m., there was a show at the **Looky Here** craft store on 28 Chapman Street in Greenfield. Bella Levavi, one of the artists, suggested I review it. It turns out she had read some of my work in the newspaper.

Levavi is a crankie artist, which I believe involves telling stories using props. Two other artists that were on the show were Isaac Fosl-Van Wyke and Nicolas Panken, but I stayed just to watch “How to Throw a Lobster Party,” which was the name of the show Levavi was putting on. I also discovered that she wrote a self-published book with another individual called *Ha Sof Ba!*

I was right about a crankie artist using props to tell a story. Levavi uses a screen that has images on it. They were drawn by her, I believe. She uses a lever on it to move the screen forward.

She ended up telling two stories like that. With “How to Throw a Lobster Party,” she used a screen like that, and it also had a phone as another prop. Both stories were narrated by someone. However, the Lobster one had an option to sing along with a song.

The audience there laughed nicely, and a lot, to the two stories.

Levavi and her other associates involved in this show performed well. Part of that includes the narrating I mentioned. Levavi did that job the first time. I found the second narrator to be more animated and dramatic. It was actually quite enjoyable to hear. I would say that the audience felt the same due to a very enthusiastic applause they gave the story at the end.

Needless to say, I found this to be a fun and interesting show to watch. Because of the response she got from the audience at this one, I believe Levavi draws crowds to her shows at other places as well. Doing shows where her stories are comedies seems to be her thing. I can’t think of a reason to disagree with that.

The **Hawks & Reed Perform-**

ing Arts Center decided to have a series of free concerts starting in June called “Off the Common.” This idea sounded interesting, and I have enjoyed going to concerts there previously.

On July 26 I went to one where the headliner was Madison McFerrin. The other performers were Kendra McKinley, Kimaya Diggs, and Daisy Skelton. They also had art vendors as part of this event, and a truck to get food from. It gave the whole deal a very nice appeal. Before the concert, I enjoyed looking around at the art vendors, and I met one I want to write about.

The first performance was by Kendra McKinley. She sounded to me almost like a pop/blues singer – that is what came to mind when I first heard her. She performed by herself, with no band on stage with her. The audience seemed to like her very much. I say that because they gave her a decent amount of applause after the first song. She continued to sound to me like a pop/blues singer as she performed, and she played an electric guitar while singing at one point. Both that and her singing were good. She suggested that people get up and dance to one of her songs. I would call her a good entertainer.

Kimaya Diggs was after her. She wasn’t the sole person on stage during her performance – she had a guitarist and drummer with her, and two female backup singers. She also played the electric guitar herself. The whole thing sounded very nice together. This time around, some people did dance to the performance. Like me, it appeared many people liked them better than McKinley.

I don’t know what kind of music they were playing, but I felt I could listen to them repeatedly. The audience certainly seemed to be continually enjoying them throughout the performance.

I ended up staying only for these first two individuals. However, if the next couple of “Off the Common” shows are filled with performances like this, they also will have a nice turnout to their names.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sheep Not Seen; Upsetting Skunk; Phone-Free Weekend; Stuck Fingers; Naked In The Meadows; Waves; Flooding

Monday, 7/22

7:39 a.m. Multiple calls about a dead fawn on North Leverett Road. DPW advised.

1:25 p.m. Caller advises there is a branch that blocks the yellow light at the intersection of Avenue A and Seventh Street when it is windy. Red and green are still visible. Referred to an officer.

5:35 p.m. Multiple swimmers in Lake Pleasant area. Officer advises crowd dispersed; unable to locate any vehicles.

Tuesday, 7/23

9:16 a.m. Deerfield PD requesting MPD check a Turners Falls Road address for a party who has been harassing a Deerfield resident. Family member advised of complaints.

10:01 a.m. Caller states that there is a tree down across M Street. Officer advises large tree down across road; no wires. DPW notified.

10:03 a.m. Caller would like to speak with a supervisor about the lack of police action in apprehending someone. No answer on call back.

4:37 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road states there is a 600-pound bear at his front door, though he understands that there isn’t much the PD can do. Officer advised.

Wednesday, 7/24

5:09 a.m. Caller from Second Street states that a nearby male has his music turned up loud to aggravate her, and states that this occurs frequently. Officer advised party to lower his music and advised caller of her options.

6:30 a.m. Caller reports several sheep scattered in the Hunting Hills area. Officer checked area; no sheep seen.

9:56 a.m. Nouria employee requesting officers check on a vehicle that has been in the parking lot all night; the driver seems to be nodding off. Manager will allow car there a little longer. Vehicle owner advised he would get it out of there very soon.

12:13 p.m. Employee reporting a break-in to the storage garage inside the Turners Falls High School football field. Nothing missing; door damage may have been from maintenance.

4 p.m. Officer flagged down by party advising he was having a dispute with his roommate. One male complaining about a smell in the house. ServiceNet advised of complaint.

5:39 p.m. Caller from town hall states that a board member just realized his keys are locked inside his vehicle. Services rendered.

5:54 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states that a fe-

male pushed and scratched her. Officer requesting EMS for welfare check on one party. Refusal signed; caller advised of options.

7:54 p.m. Caller states that there is a car parked on the side of Green Pond Road and two males and a female got out and appear to be heading towards the lake. Unfounded.

8:52 p.m. Caller reports he hit a deer on Turners Fall Road near the environmental police office; he believes the deer went off the road and is dead.

Thursday, 7/25

7:36 a.m. DPW employee reporting that a male party has been showing up on the property and being aggressive towards staff; party has come into the building and sat in the employee break room. They do not want him on the property anymore. Officer checked areas where male is known to be, including his home. Party located at Cumberland Farms and told he is no longer welcome at the DPW unless it is official business.

12:46 p.m. Caller can hear a loud argument/fight going on in the First Street parking area. Male and female arguing; nothing physical. Parties separated for now.

2:06 p.m. 911 caller reporting a car just crashed on Industrial Boulevard and a female is injured. PD and FD responding. PD advises female not injured and no fluids in road. Vehicle owner came and took possession of the vehicle, which was able to be driven.

5:30 p.m. Gill officer advises he is at Nouria and was stopped by two females who state they were robbed in the Third Street alley behind the Pizza House. Requesting officer to meet him and the females. Parties filling out statements; unable to locate suspects.

6:06 p.m. Caller from Park Street reports that an 18-wheeler has been idling in front of her house since 3 p.m.; reports she has Long Covid, and small noises trigger reactions. Officer spoke at length with multiple people in the neighborhood; no other parties bothered. Caller called truck company, who contacted owner; truck was moved.

6:13 p.m. 911 caller reporting driving by the brewery on Third Street and seeing two juveniles fighting near the baseball field while other kids filmed it. Officer checked area; nothing found.

6:21 p.m. Caller reporting a male party, possibly teenaged, yelling, dancing, and jumping in the middle of Avenue A near

the Shea. Officer advises no one in roadway; party may have been waiting for the bus, which is picking people up now.

6:48 p.m. 911 caller reporting a party of 12 juveniles fighting in the baseball field; reporting she and others from the brewery broke up the fight once before, but it restarted. Officer spoke to group of juveniles, who state no fighting was going on. Advised of complaints.

7:14 p.m. Multiple calls reporting a skunk in the area of Ivy and Elm streets that seems to be hurt. Environmental police have not responded to calls. Callers report the skunk is not spraying, but is moaning loudly, and is upsetting everyone in the area. Caller advises she was told that an officer could dispatch the skunk. Message left for ACO. Additional caller states PD must respond and dispatch the skunk before a child gets hurt. Officer advised.

7:27 p.m. Caller reports a red quilt in the river off Power Street; nervous that kids might try to get it. Referred to an officer.

8:49 p.m. Officer checking on skunk at Ivy and Elm streets. Skunk died prior to arrival.

Friday, 7/26

11:12 a.m. Store owner reporting a shoplifting incident that occurred at Connecticut River Liquor and Wine this past Tuesday. Summons issued.

3:48 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that a male party, his girlfriend, and their baby are in front of her house doing whatever they want, threatening her, and she has it on video. Responding officer advises no one is outside. Called caller back and clarified where her front door is. Several additional communications among caller, officers, and dispatch; caller is unhappy with response. Greenfield PD advising caller is now calling them; they advised her that if she is not happy with MPD’s response, she can call state police.

9:06 p.m. Car vs. deer on Federal Street. Deer ran into the woods; front-end damage to vehicle. Officer will follow car home to make sure it arrives safely.

Saturday, 7/27

9:55 a.m. Caller from Federal Street wants on record that his mailbox has been vandalized for the fourth time in two months. They will be getting a PO box.

9:06 p.m. 911 caller concerned about a male party standing alone behind a building near the old police station off First Street. Party had some type of

blinking device near him. Male party located. No issues; just flying a drone.

Sunday, 7/28

8:17 a.m. Nouria employee reporting there was a man in the store covered in blood, just standing there, not hurt. She asked him to leave and he is now standing behind the propane tank outside. Would like a well-being check and party removed. Officer requesting EMS. Shelburne Control advised. Subject left heading west on Third Street toward Avenue A. Unable to locate; officer will continue to look for the suspect.

1:31 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting assistance in locating a cell phone; officers trying to locate two kayakers last heard from on Friday. Last ping as of Saturday evening was near the river bank on Greenfield Road just south of They Keep Bees. Last known location checked; nothing found. Officer spoke with Deerfield PD, who had spoken with one of the kayakers who just got to his phone. They were having a phone-free weekend.

3:19 p.m. Report of a Dodge pickup with its windows smashed out parked in the Plains. Spoke with Control; vehicle was reported stolen from Charlemont, but was not entered as stolen. Charlemont PD contacted. Tow truck *en route* with flatbed. Report taken.

7:46 p.m. Caller reports finding a bag of hypodermic needles in Peskeompskut Park. Services rendered.

10:03 p.m. Caller reports a blown transformer behind the Shea Theater. No smoke or fire seen; street lights are out. Shelburne Control notified.

Monday, 7/29

7:27 a.m. Walk-in reporting that a tractor-trailer unit is parking in front of their house on Park Street and idling very loudly. Truck owner notified of complaint. He states that he will move the truck and if he can’t find a suitable place, he can shut off the equipment that makes the noise.

10:25 a.m. Employee from Turners Falls High School reporting a student pulled the fire alarm. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

12:26 p.m. Motorist concerned about high grass/weeds at an intersection on Turners Fall Road making it hard for cars to see when pulling out. Resident advised of complaint; said they would take care of it.

4:45 p.m. Report of strong odor of propane in area

see MPD next page

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MPD from previous pg near the Elks on L Street. Call given to control.

7:25 p.m. Caller states she just got a call from someone saying they are with the police and looking for donations. She didn't give any information but wanted PD to be aware it was happening.

7:36 p.m. Greenfield PD responding to a single-vehicle accident on the bridge below Turners Falls Road; requesting MPD stop traffic on Montague side. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 7/30

5:28 p.m. Caller from Grove Street states he is a couple of hours away, but has a doorbell camera, and sees someone has parked a small excavator on his front lawn. Spoke to excavator owner, who advises they are working on a water line in that area tomorrow morning. Excavator moved to correct address; party states he is willing to fix the lawn where the machine was parked.

5:41 p.m. Caller states that an older male is yelling at juveniles and spitting on them at Peskeompskut Park. Juveniles are under the bandshell and could be heard talking about beating up the male, who is at St. Stan's. Received a call from the male party stating the kids threatened they were going to kill him. Officer advised. All verbal; nothing physical. 7:07 p.m. Caller states her son was just assaulted by another juvenile on the bike path. Investigated. All parties advised of options.

Wednesday, 7/31

3:54 a.m. E-911 caller advises he hit a stop sign and pole at North Leverett Road and Federal Street; declines medical services. Vehicle moved to the side of the road, awaiting PD. 8:50 a.m. Walk-in reporting vandalism to his vehicle by a juvenile who lives nearby.

8:55 a.m. Employee from TFHS requesting PD assistance removing a parent who is being aggressive and making threats. School advised to get a trespass order against the involved female.

9:21 a.m. Caller from Second Street would like to speak with an officer about an incident this morning; a male party walking around with a stick approached the caller and his elderly mother in an aggressive manner. Advised of options.

11:13 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that some items on the back porch have been tampered with/vandalized. Officer met with caller and investigated the complaint. Advised of options.

9:04 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that her neighbors have been playing loud music for over an hour, and she cannot get her children to sleep. Second caller reporting similar. Music has been turned off.

11:31 p.m. Caller states that a male party outside of the Cutlery Block has a baseball bat that he keeps hitting against the ground. States male is directly outside of her window and is laughing; is concerned male may harm the next individual who walks by. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival; no body seen in area.

Thursday, 8/1

3:10 a.m. Shelburne Control advises that a black pickup truck in the Pratt Street area of Erving was doing burnouts and the operator was screaming obscenities. Truck last seen heading towards Bridge Street. Units advised.

10:18 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that a male broke in a couple of weeks ago and was selling the stolen goods out in front of the gas station. States the male broke in again yesterday and she has him on camera; states an employee who works at the gas station was a witness and is willing to speak with officers. Summons issued.

10:48 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road states that there is a cat that is alive somehow stuck in a wheel well. Officers advised; FD and ACO en route. Located animal in vehicle; waiting on ACO; animal will probably need medical attention. ACO has the animal.

2:57 p.m. ACO requesting officer respond to the back alley of a Third Street address to check on two dogs who have been in a red truck for two days now. Owner's brother came as dogs were being loaded into cruiser. He comes over every hour to take the dogs out. He will see about bringing them inside. Resident took dog into her apartment.

8:18 p.m. Caller from Central Street reporting that a party has shoved his hand into a container

of some sort and is wandering around the neighborhood asking people to pull it out. Officer requesting EMS. Party has his fingers stuck in a can. AMR transporting; officer following.

Friday, 8/2

3:49 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reports that her neighbor is making noise that is keeping her up and she has work in the morning. Caller advises the involved female does this intentionally, and requests an officer tell her to stop for the night. Caller states there is supposed to be a mediation between herself and the involved party tomorrow. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival.

5:25 a.m. Caller reports deceased cat in roadway in front of Cutlery Block. Message left for DPW.

6 a.m. 911 caller states that someone stole his backpack, which contained his ID, his phone, a methadone bottle, and roughly \$1,000. Report taken.

8:09 a.m. Report of a dead cat in a blue bin outside the community garden. ACO advised. Caller called back, stating she picked up the cat and disposed of it as "the town didn't," and left the bucket of blood on the sidewalk. ACO advises he picked up the blood but is leaving the trash that the party left.

8:33 a.m. Caller reporting an injured goose in the field next to Sheffield Elementary School since yesterday. ACO advises goose has an injured leg, but is fine to fly.

1:32 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting that on Tuesday her HelloFresh delivery was stolen prior to her arrival home; she spoke with her landlord and was able to view footage of the person stealing the package. Report taken.

2:36 p.m. Caller reporting a naked male and female lying on the beach in the river access area off North Street; lots of children in the area. Area checked; negative findings.

6:39 p.m. Caller reports that at approximately 2 p.m. he was with a group of kayakers and canoers between Unity Park and Turners Falls Rod & Gun, and someone on a boat yelled to them that a WaveRunner was coming and everyone needed to get out of the way. Caller advises the kayakers/canoers were able to get

to a piece of land, but wanted to report the incident. Advised caller this would be on record; also referred caller to environmental police.

7:40 p.m. Report of 6 to 10 subjects trashing Peskeompskut Park; caller states they are throwing trash all over and making graffiti. Youths cleaned up their mess and were moved along.

Saturday, 8/3

1:14 p.m. Strong odor of marijuana in area of Industrial Loop Boulevard. 6:55 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting that while she was not home, a neighbor who came to check on her horses informed her that buckets left by the barn had been moved close to her house. Caller is concerned that someone may have been trying to look in her windows, and states she has had issues recently with people sitting in her driveway. Requesting extra patrols.

7:07 p.m. Caller reports that while walking on Old Sunderland Road, an off-leash dog pounced on her dog. Caller advises she exchanged minimal information with the other dog's owner. Caller advised of options. Caller called back advising she located a puncture mark on her dog's leg. Advised caller to consult with her vet and that an officer would call her back. Owner of other dog advised she was housesitting and does not live where the incident took place, but will forward vaccination records and is available to speak with an officer. Message left for ACO.

Sunday, 8/4

10:12 a.m. Report of a sick fox lying on the edge of Dry Hill Road. Officer reports fox was not acting unusual, and that it ran off.

1:29 p.m. Report of large sinkhole in Millers Falls Road. Found to be water backed up at storm drain; no sinkhole located.

1:31 p.m. Reports of flooding on Federal Street. One vehicle disabled due to water in street. Tow company responding at owner's request.

2:30 p.m. Male moved along from Nouria; was sleeping under the overhang. Officer also speaking with a Third Street resident about trespassing.



EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Work by Molly Almeida, Lydia M. Kinney, and Judith Bowerman. Drawings, paintings, and prints.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Allen Fowler*, small mixed-media collage work from several recent series, through mid-September.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Mark Majeski*, local birds in colored pencil. Through September 2.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Studio Feeler*, ceramics by guest artist Akilah Scharff-Teoh, through August.

Montague Center Library: *Landscapes: Endangered and Preserved*, paintings by Meg Ricks, through August.

Leverett Library: *Quilts of Leverett*, four quilts by LES sixth-graders plus a Leverett bicentennial quilt from 1974, through August.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *LCA Artists Group Show*, work by artists at the LCA including board members and Mudpie Potters, through August.

Greenfield Library: *The Day After Yesterday*, portraits of dementia by Joe Wallace. Through September 28, with a reception Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

day, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Sequence*, artworks by daughter and father Jessica and Daryl Beck. Through August, with a closing reception Friday, August 30 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Impermanence*, juried group show of over 36 regional artists, through August.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Flowers All Around*, exhibit by member artists, through August.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Watercolor Whimsey*, paintings by children's book illustrator Astrid Sheckels. *Colorful Countenance*, masks and sculptures that create unusual characters by Dana Schildkraut. Both on view through August.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *Frida Kahlo, Her Photos*, images from Kahlo's personal collection which were locked up in a bathroom at the artist's residence for more than 50 years, through September. *Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women*, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo, through February.

PORTENTS



SARAH ROBERTSON PHOTO

Sarah Robertson captured this shot last week of a young barred owl at the Barton Cove campground in Gill, reportedly one of a family of juveniles roosting together this season at the cove after becoming orphaned. Check them out at dusk near the picnic area and day-use parking lot.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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PREMIER DEALER

RECIPES from page B1

principal of the Boston Cooking School. Interesting corn recipes from the same era come also from Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield. They had an unusual corn fritter recipe that included a big can of shredded pineapple along with the corn. A recipe for Corn Wafers makes thin cornmeal crisps flavored with various sorts of seeds.

Cornmeal was once essential households for making cornbread, corn cakes, and hasty pudding, but by the late 19th century factories were making white wheat flour with metal rollers rather than millstones. Other factories were baking it into bread, and by 1928 sliced bread arrived. White bread had always been more expensive and luxurious, but the price fell as factories turned out huge volumes. Cornbreads were soon abandoned in its favor.

At the same time people were falling in love with the new sweet

corn hybrids, so corn got a new role as a popular vegetable. And not just in corn season: canning and freezing kept it available year round.

We now have lots of recipes for corn dishes. One of the very best of the myriad delicious things you can make with it is *humita*, an indigenous South American mixture of corn and vegetables traditionally cooked in corn husks. From its ancient Andean origin it has now spread throughout Latin America, with recipes varying tremendously from country to country.

Almost any kind of vegetable can be added. In Argentina grated winter squash is a favorite; it's even sometimes served in the hollow of an acorn or buttercup squash or in peppers. Argentinians also often tuck cheese into humita – an innovation credited to its large population of Italian immigrants.

The result is delicious. Here (*at right*) is the recipe.



CORN CRISPS

This recipe comes from a Shaker recipe called “Corn Wafers.” You can make two or more sorts at once by using different seeds. Serve with soup, or as munchies.

2 to 3 tsp. of seeds: fennel, celery, caraway, cumin, white sesame, or poppy
⅔ cup cornmeal
1 Tbsp. sugar
¾ tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. butter
water as needed

Cover two baking sheets with parchment paper or grease them. Turn the oven to 400 degrees.

Mix the cornmeal, sugar, and salt in a medium bowl. Cut the butter in 4 or 5 pieces and drop them in. Stir in ¾ cup boiling water. Stir to melt the butter and make a batter, adding extra tablespoons of water until it is a bit thinner than a pancake batter.

Spoon a tablespoon of the batter onto the prepared sheet. It's runny, so leave space for spreading as you spoon out the rest of the batter. Sprinkle the seeds on top. Bake high in the oven for 18 to 22 minutes.



Check often until the edges are browned and the centers deep gold. Let firm on the baking sheet. Serve with dips or drinks.

Makes 18 to 24.

HUMITA IN ACORN SQUASH

1 acorn squash, about 1½ to 2 lb.
2 large ears of corn
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 to 2 cloves garlic, minced
½ red bell pepper
2 Tbsp. butter
1½ tsp. powdered cumin
½ tsp. powdered chili
pinch red pepper flakes
about ½ cup milk
salt to taste
2 or 3 basil leaves, cut in strips
2 cups (about 4 oz.) grated Asiago, or other mild cheese
2 Tbsp. Parmesan

Cut the squash in half through the middle, not from stem to tip. Discard the seeds. Bake in a microwave with paper towel protecting the cut surface for about 7 or 8 minutes, or until you can slide a knife into the flesh. Remove. When cool enough to handle, scrape away some of the flesh to enlarge the central cavity. Keep the flesh.

Grate the kernels from the corn cobs, then scrape the cobs with



a blunt knife to get the juice. Set aside.

To make the humita, heat the oil in a pan over low heat and gently cook the chopped onion in it for 4 to 5 minutes without browning. Cut the red pepper into thin 2-inch strips, add most of it along with the garlic, and cook another 2 minutes. Stir in the butter, then the corn,

cumin, powdered chili, red pepper flakes, and ½ teaspoon salt. Stir well, then add half a cup of milk. Cover the pan, and cook over low heat for about 20 minutes or until thick and soft, stirring occasionally and adding a little extra milk if needed to prevent sticking.

Meanwhile, turn the oven to 350 degrees, and grease a shallow baking dish.

When the corn mixture is ready, remove from the heat and stir in half the basil strips and the cheese. Fill the squash halves with the mixture, and place them in the dish. Sprinkle a tablespoon of Parmesan on top of each half and garnish with the remaining pepper strips. (Put any leftover humita in a small greased dish and cook alongside the squash halves.)

Bake for about 15 minutes, or until the tops are golden. Let rest for 3 or 4 minutes. Scatter on the remaining basil strips for serving.

Serves 2, but can easily be doubled or trebled.

CORN CHOWDER with SALMON & LEEKS

Adding salmon to corn chowder turns it into a tasty main dish. The yellow corn, pink salmon, and green leeks and herbs look pretty together.

3 or 4 ears of corn
2 Tbsp. butter
3 cups potatoes in ½-inch pieces
salt to taste
3 or 4 medium leeks
1 lb. salmon, cut in 4 pieces
2 cups whole milk
2 Tbsp. snipped chives or parsley
1½ cups water

Stand the corn cobs on their wide ends and remove the kernels by grating or cutting them off. Scrape the cobs to remove the liquid and reserve it with the kernels.

Melt the butter in a large pan and add the potatoes. Stir them around, season with salt, and cook over low heat for 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the 1½ cups of water,

then simmer for another 3 to 4 minutes while you clean the leeks by discarding the coarse top and outer leaves and splaying the leek tops under cold running water to remove soil. Cut into 1-inch pieces and add to the pan.

Pour in the milk and half the chives or parsley, stir, and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Place the salmon pieces on top and simmer for 5 more minutes. Check for seasoning and add salt as necessary.

When the potatoes are tender, add the corn kernels and their liquid. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes more. Serve in shallow bowls with a salmon piece in the center and the remaining chives or parsley showered on top.

Serves 4.



HOPLEY PHOTOS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Bear Cub Help; Vaping Patron; Naked Subject; Boat Ramp Scene; Overflowing Toilet; Many Crashes

Saturday, 6/1

5:33 p.m. Multiple calls reporting a collision on the French King Highway. All occupants appear to be out of vehicle.

Sunday, 6/2

5:49 p.m. Barton Cove Road caller requests officer for a subject who refuses to leave property.

Monday, 6/3

11:24 a.m. FirstLight employee reporting a stray dog wandering around the dock area at Barton Cove Road. Had captured it, but it got away.

6:11 p.m. French King Highway caller requesting an officer as there are people fishing on the boat launch; he is worried as he has an inflatable boat.

6:27 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with alarm at Greenfield Savings Bank. 6:34 p.m. Main Road caller looking to speak to an officer in regard to used pellet gun ammo he discovered in his driveway.

7:42 p.m. Hill Drive caller advises a skinny male came to the door asking for a ride to the boat ramp.

Tuesday, 6/4

10:49 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD with a bear cub in the roadway, French King Highway and Factory Hollow.

4:46 p.m. Report of scam, Riverview Drive.

Thursday, 6/6

1:08 p.m. French King Highway caller states an older male party is knocking on his door; there may be a female with him. Would like an officer.

7:22 p.m. French King Highway caller advises that a white BMW with Connecticut plates went off the road, hitting a mailbox and some mile markers, then got back on the highway westbound. 8:18 p.m. Pedestrian on French King Highway flagged down an officer asking for transportation to Greenfield. Transport-

ed to Greenfield.

Friday, 6/7

4:28 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a reported disturbance, Avenue A.

Saturday, 6/8

1:34 a.m. Dole Road caller reports a car vs. pole.

Sunday, 6/9

2:16 p.m. Barton Cove Road caller advises there is a loose German Shepherd barking at people.

2:32 p.m. Suicide threat, French King Bridge.

Monday, 6/10

1:47 p.m. Served warrant, Main Road.

8:36 p.m. Lyons Hill Road caller reporting loose cow.

Tuesday, 6/11

11:29 a.m. Motor vehicle accident with injury, Route 10 in Northfield.

Wednesday, 6/12

1:03 p.m. Motor vehicle accident with injury, French King Highway.

2:47 p.m. Complaint, French King Highway. Issue with a manager not letting a person leave.

10:36 p.m. Main Road caller advises she was in a store and the patron ahead of her was vaping.

Thursday, 6/13

3:24 p.m. West Gill Road caller reporting that his toilet is overflowing; he doesn't know what to do.

Friday, 6/14

9:03 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with a person threatening to jump, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Sunday, 6/16

12:13 p.m. Caller from the state boat ramp reporting two males yelling at each other and almost coming to blows. Verbal argument over ramp etiquette.

Monday, 6/17

11:20 a.m. Loose dog, Set-back Lane and the French King Highway.

2:34 p.m. Served papers, Munn's Ferry Road.

Tuesday, 6/18

8:22 a.m. Parking complaint, Riverview Drive. 2:01 p.m. Chappell Drive caller would like to speak

to an officer about an ongoing neighbor issue.

Wednesday, 6/19

7:44 a.m. French King Highway caller reporting a couple in a vehicle look as though they "OD'ed." 4:39 p.m. Chappell Drive caller requested an officer about a neighbor issue.

Thursday, 6/20

9:15 a.m. Individual stopped at station to report people camping near Pisgah Mountain Road. 3:12 p.m. Main Road caller reported a tree came down and pulled primary wires from her house.

9:17 p.m. Harassment reported, Riverview Drive.

Friday, 6/21

12:09 a.m. Suicidal female locked in the bathroom, French King Highway.

9:58 a.m. Party slumped over in his vehicle, French King Highway.

9:26 p.m. Main Road caller concerned with a group of males walking in dark clothes on the road.

Saturday 6/22

8 a.m. French King Highway caller reporting Friday evening shoplifting. 9:58 a.m. French King Bridge caller reports a naked subject on the embankment across from the restaurant.

2:01 p.m. South Cross Road citizen reporting a past suspicious person.

4:13 p.m. Caller reported erratic operation with lane changes, varying speeds, and braking. Made contact with subject who just got his license today and is learning to drive.

4:47 p.m. Larceny reported, Ben Hale Road.

Sunday, 6/23

9:56 a.m. Welfare check requested, French King Bridge. A sedan stopped in the middle of the bridge and an older female is on the sidewalk.

Tuesday, 6/25

11:25 p.m. Took fingerprints at station for a background check.

3:15 p.m. Caller observed a motorcycle crash, Hoe Shop and West Gill roads. Rider got back on bike and went down West Gill Road; beer cans came out of a side container.

4:44 p.m. Two-car accident, French King Highway. No injuries.

Wednesday, 6/26

4:52 p.m. French King Highway caller reports a subject fishing at the boat ramp. He has a scooter, appears to be intoxicated. 5:30 p.m. West Gill Road caller reports an injured bird on their porch.

Friday, 6/28

9:51 a.m. Caller inquiring about traffic congestion and paving on Route 2.

6:21 p.m. Juvenile offenses, River Road.

Saturday, 6/29

11:47 a.m. Two-car crash, French King Highway.

9:06 p.m. Main Road caller advises she and her boyfriend were jumped last night.

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The Children's Page

The Lovelights & Dot's Perfume
...CONTINUED...
WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCHA PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



ELDA WALKED THROUGH TOWN, AND EVEN BAREFOOT WITH FLOWERS IN HER HAIR, SHE SEEMED TO HAVE THE AIR OF AN IMPORTANT TOWN OFFICIAL. THE STRANGE STATE OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION, LOST IN DREAMS AND REVERIES, LEFT HER THE TOWN'S ONLY CITIZEN ABLE TO SEE THE TRUE STATE OF DISARRAY.



SHE PUT HER HAND ON HER CHIN AND PEELED AROUND AVENUE A WITH DEEP CONCENTRATION AND DETERMINATION. JUST THEN, THE NORTH WIND BLEW, AND SHE LOOKED UP AT THE WIND'S FACE IN THE CLOUDS. THE RUSTLING BREEZE SHOOK A CLUSTER OF FLOWERS BLOOMING UNDER A TREE IN THE PLANTER.



SHE BENT DOWN AND SMELLED THE LITTLE PURPLE PLANT. LAVENDER! WHAT PEP THAT WHIFF OF LAVENDER PUT IN HER STEP!



SHE HURRIED UP TO THE GARDEN AT CHELLA AND VIOLA'S HOUSE ON K STREET AND PICKED A BIG BASKET FULL OF IT. SHE GAVE THE FLOWERS TO THE NORTH WIND, AND ALL OVER TOWN, LITTLE BREEZES CARRIED THE BRIGHT, CHEERFUL SCENT.



EVERYWHERE, PEOPLE SAT UP AND SUPDENLY GOT TO WORK ON ALL THE THINGS THAT NEEDED DOING. THE MAILMAN GATHERED THE LETTERS THAT HAD SPILLED FROM HIS BAG, THE STORE KEEPERS SWEEPED AND RESTOCKED THE SHELVES, AND DOT STEPPED OUT OF HER SHOP DOOR WITH A BIG, HAPPY STRETCH.



ELDA SAW HER THERE AND SAID HELLO. "I THINK I HAVE A NEW INGREDIENT FOR YOUR PERFUME, DOT." "WONDERFUL!" DOT EXCLAIMED, "LET'S GET RIGHT TO WORK!"

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Erik Doolittle
owner

Cell (413) 834-1531
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Austin & Elliott, Larry LeBlanc, Brookside Project*. Free. 6 p.m.

City Space, Easthampton: *X Harlow, Muba (with Facility), Lil Kevo 303, Barbie.Ai*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Putney Inn Field, Putney: *Slavic Soul Party*. \$ 5 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Ancient Filth, Stress Balls, Grazer, HardCar*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Marissa Nadler, Joseph Allred, Glenn Jones*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Thing, Native Sun*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Norma Dream, Girshwin, Pablo, Maya's Great*. \$ 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body, Mal Devisa, Joe DeGeorge: Sax Machine*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Chaia, Slow Pony, DJ Shvitsy*. \$ 7 p.m.

The O's, Sunderland: *DJ Lucas, Papo2004, Subjxt 5, Blaksmif, 22BB, Ice Rasta, Lady J, Slippery When Wet*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Spirit Ghost, Ruby Lou, Magick Lantern*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Johnny Folsom 4, Johnny Cash tribute. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Space Ballroom, Hamden, CT: *Krallice, Tongue Depressor*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Sunspot, Northampton: *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Loculus, Kryssi & Wednesday, Willie Lane*. \$ 5 p.m.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: *A.P.I.E., Family Underground, Animal Surrender*. \$ 5 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

Cold Spring Hollow: *Radiator Greys, Jacob Winans, The Divorcees, Noise Nomads, Scald Hymn*. \$ 7 p.m.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Toad the Wet Sprocket, Harris*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Violent Femmes*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Violent Femmes*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Wet Tuna, Family Underground*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. No cover. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Id M Theft Able, Ben George 7, Moons of Goom, Ron Schneiderman*. No cover. 5 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners

Falls: *Eli Elkus*. Free. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Andrew Bird, Amadou & Mariam*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Big Destiny, Tall Travis, Slow Pony*. \$ 9 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film screening, *The Wicker Man* (1973), with music by *Beverly Ketch & Friends*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRI-SAT, AUGUST 16-17

Charlemont Fairgrounds: *Charlemont Reggae Festival* feat. *Sister Nancy, Easy Star All Stars, Yaadcore, Talking Dreads*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Eirín (EJ)*. Free. 12 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Little House Blues*. Free. 3 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bent, Mars Hendrik, Sleepy Spectre, Chodus, Amberlie, Deerest*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Thus Love, The Croaks*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Magpie*. \$ 7 p.m.

Marigold, Easthampton: *Perennial, Feminine Aggression, Dollflower, Big Destiny*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

The Drake, Amherst: *Gyedu-Blay Ambolley*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Jorma Kaukonen, John Hurlbut*. \$ 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Big Head Todd and the Monsters*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Jorma Kaukonen, John Hurlbut*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Little Feat, The Steel Wheels*. \$ 7 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *People I Love, Melaina Kol, Silvie's Okay*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with the Guilty Ones, Dead Rock West*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Vic Rawlings/Arkm Foam, Liz Tonne, Matthew Ryals, Stephan Haulska*. \$ 6 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jim Eagan, Jennie McAvoy*, TBD. Free. 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Dana Lyn & Kyle Sanna, Seamus Egan*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Back Porch* presents *Songs of Paul Simon*. \$ 7 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Arcadia, Easthampton: *Sarah Jarosz, Felice Brothers, Amythyst Kiah, Heather Maloney, Alisa Amador, Mamma's Marmalade, Little Roots*, more. \$ 10:30 a.m.

Lake Pleasant: *150th Anniversary Block Party* feat. *Big Destiny, Force & Friends, Signature Dish*, more. Free. 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Gaslight Tinkers*. \$ 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *John Gorka*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPM Fest* feat. *Misery Index, Goblet, Nixil*, more. \$ 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Big E, West Springfield: *Ludacris*. \$\$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

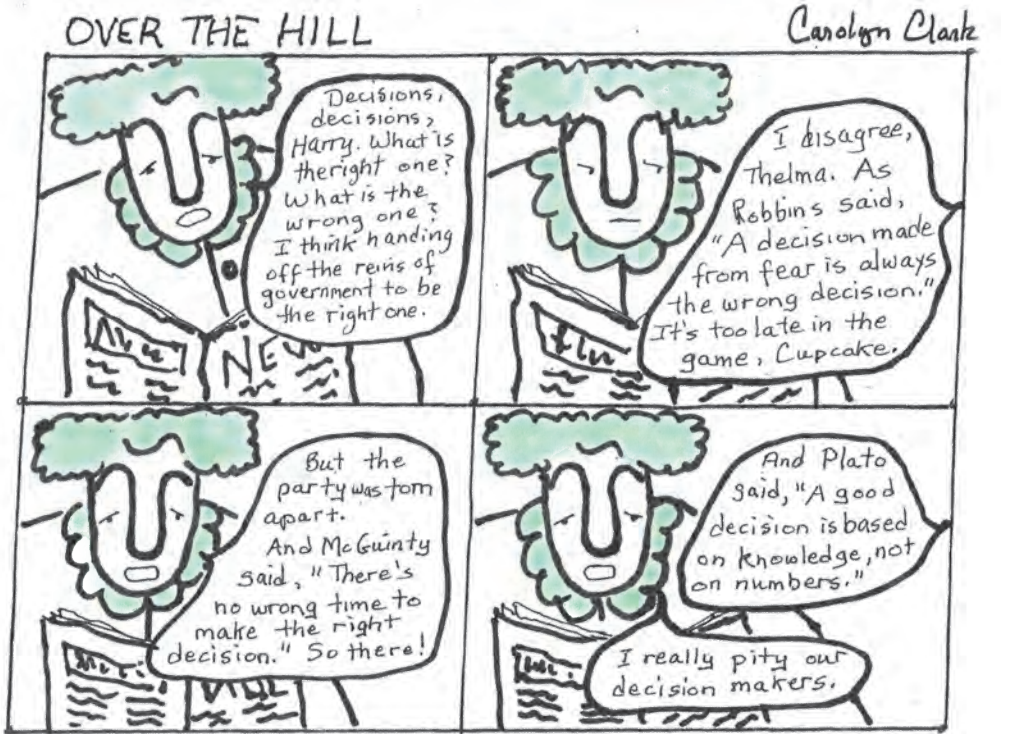
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Plastic Crimewave, Gary Higgins, Allysen Callery*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Big E, West Springfield: *Chubby Checker*. \$ 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Longings, Red Herrings, Phroeegs, Feminine Aggression*. \$ 8 p.m.



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TRAVELS from page B1
border at Derby Line, Vermont. And zero traffic jams and road rage.

Simple and Thriving

I first heard about the town of Magog when I visited the other end of Lake Memphremagog, which is 31 miles long, and 43 kilometers from tip to tip. Newport, Vermont is at the bottom, and Magog, Quebec is the town at the very top. The locals in Newport pointed north to Magog to make a point.

The Canadians have done a lot to make their part of the lake a thriving tourist destination with marinas, a deluxe booze cruise vessel called Grand Cru that plies the lake, and many family-friendly beaches dotting the shore. In Newport there is a dock and a little tourist boat, but not much more. The Townships have developed an extensive wine route from vineyard to vineyard, and many activities unique to this area.

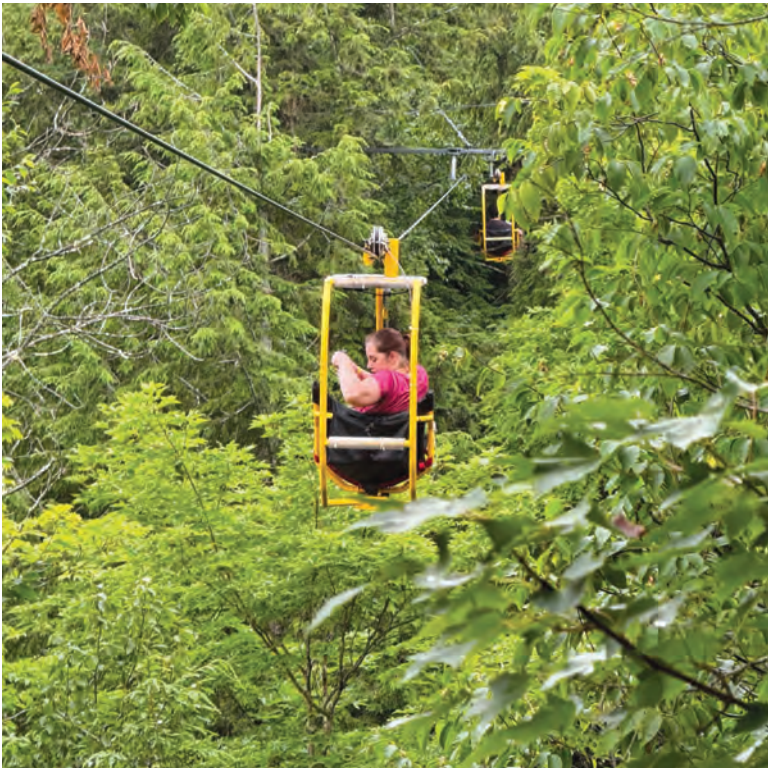
Velo Volant is one of them, and unique it is! This is a series of yellow recumbent bicycles strung up on a wire that you pedal through a two-kilometer woodland aerial path. You're up high, and slowly propel yourself along the track.

It's quiet, and the sounds of the birds mix with the burbling stream below for a calm feeling as you move through the forest. It's the opposite of a zipline, and that was just perfect for us!

I enjoy adding some history lessons to give me some context about where we are traveling. Quebec was once controlled by the French, and then by the English. In the town of Magog, the Maison Merry is the oldest house in town. Today it's a museum, with docents in costume who share the tales of five generations of the Merry family, who first squatted, and then properly bought the land and settled here in 1799 after coming from the



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS



Clockwise from top left: Geese at Au Pied Levé, a farm bed & breakfast in the Eastern Townships; luncheon on the Grand Cru ship; pedaling above the canopy on the Velo Volant; and Sutton, a small town full of upscale shops and galleries just 20 miles from Vermont.

United States.

Another historic place here that we visited is a Benedictine Abbey called Abbaye Saint-Benoît-du-Lac. It is not as old as the Maison Merry, but the story of the 25 monks who live there is fascinating. It all started in the 1930s. As we toured the beautiful monastery, we learned that the monks' lives are made up of prayer, chanting, reflection on the Bible, and early to bed, early to rise.

It's a disciplined and simple life that's not for everyone. These monks make delicious cheeses, apple sauces, and other food products right at the abbey, and their products are sold in the gift shop.

Farm to Table

Quebec is full of food producers, and this part of the province resembles Vermont with its rolling hills and red barns with tall silos

around every bend.

We stayed on a real working farm too, just outside of Magog in Fitch Bay. At Au Pied Levé, owner Marie-Thérèse Bonnichon, a charming white-haired farmer, explained that the animals dictate many of the schedules here, and the B&B works around them, whether it's the cows, the thousand noisy guinea hens, the geese, or the chickens.

The farm can sleep 20 guests, and there are big comfortable tables for dining. Outside, you can hear the geese honking and the birds chirping. In the morning Madame Bonnichon brings out enormous farm breakfasts with many items sourced from the back 40. Their farm products make up the six-course dinner Mme. Bonnichon served us at the farm that night.

One attraction in the Townships that's imported from France is Bleu

Lavande, where lavender is the star attraction. The sprawling, sparkling complex offers multitudes of ways to ingest, taste, or just be around the purple plant, from their soaps to chocolates, candles, and many many other products.

We visited on a very rainy day, so we toured the rows and rows of young lavender under our umbrellas.

Dining was a big part of the fun up here, with an eclectic tasting menu or a vineyard with fine dining restaurants; it's common, and the bounty is all local. One rainy evening we ducked into the three-season courtyard of Au Comptoir Marcel in Magog, a cozy downtown establishment where they have a six-course tasting menu with intriguing items, such as a wafer-thin slice of octopus garnished with tiny local vegetables and pesto.

At a farm on a country road we

found Espace Old Mill, another dining surprise. A real mill grinding wheel spins along a stream just across from the dining room, which overlooks a big field where everything on the menu is grown. And the menu is intriguing, with a minimal amount of info, just a hint of what makes up each dish. It all makes the long dining experience here memorable with the long descriptions in English or French.

The food here in the Eastern Townships feels authentic, and the chefs are happy to take a few risks.

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



WEBSITES

Eastern Townships of Quebec
www.easterntownships.org

Au Pied Levé farm stay
www.aupiedleve.ca

The Grand Cru lunch cruise on Lake Memphremagog
escapadesmemphremagog.com/nos-croisieres/

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