

# The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 3, 2024

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### No Speed Bumps Found In Montague Center Designs

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard gave the green light at its Monday night meeting for the planning department to apply for a \$500,000 state grant aimed at calming traffic in Montague Center.

Residents of that village have complained for several decades about cars speeding along Main Street, and two of the three residents who spoke at Monday's meeting

expressed skepticism of the designs presented by town planner Maureen Pollock. The current proposal does not contain speed bumps, a suggestion heard at a selectboard meeting several weeks ago.

The board, in one of its shortest meetings in recent months, also began the process to create the next fiscal year's budget by requesting proposals from departments for staffing changes, learned of an see **MONTAGUE** page A8

### State to Host Rare Public Info Event on Hydropower Relicensing

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – A public information session about FirstLight Power's application for a state water quality certificate will be held next Thursday evening at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. This meeting is the next step in the process to relicense two of the largest hydropower projects in Massachusetts: the Turners Falls dam, power canal, and power stations, and the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage facility.

Representatives of the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will be joined by other environmental officials to present information about the certification process, summarize the public comments received so far, and take questions from the audience.

Obtaining a state water quality certificate is a crucial step for the company in its now 12-year-long relicensing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Since 2012, a dizzying cycle of comments, applications, studies, peer reviews, appeals, feedback, negotiations, and agreements has taken place regarding FirstLight's right to continue to use water from the river to generate electricity.

"Hydropower represents approximately 10% of our energy mix in see **HYDRO** page A5

### Planners Poll Hardest-Hit on Climate Prep 'Seed Project'

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "We want to hear what is priority for you in making you and the community more resilient to climate change," reads the poster announcing a public meeting next Tuesday evening, October 8 at the Shea Theater.

The invitation is targeted to a number of specific groups: tenants, low-income older residents, teenagers, people of color or LGBTQ+ identity, those identifying as having a disability or as neurodivergent, and those who "work mostly outdoors."

The event will begin with soup and bread, followed by a presentation about a state grant program known as "Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0," and then small discussion groups for attendees to provide their feedback. Childcare will be provided, and the poster advertises a raffle for \$25 gift cards "as an appreciation for your time."

A second poster announces a similar meeting on Thursday, October 24 at Montague Catholic Social see **CLIMATE** page A7

## THE BIG PICTURE

### 'A Very Achievable Endeavor'



Caitlin Kelley, three years in as director of the Montague Public Libraries, may have a shot at something only dreamed of for decades: making them grow.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "It's funny, people still refer to me as the new library director," Caitlin Kelley tells me as we sit down in the grody wood-paneled basement of the Carnegie Library for her first real interview in our pages. "It'll be three years this month, which feels kind of bonkers."

Three years? I feel a flash of guilt, and mumble something about the pandemic time warp.

Under Kelley's leadership the Montague Public Libraries, which consist of two small branches in Millers Falls and Montague Center and the flagship Carnegie on Avenue A, have submitted an 85-page application to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grant Program to expand their facilities. An answer is expected in January.

Big changes to the libraries have been debated and postponed for decades; the Carnegie in particular is architecturally iconic but tiny. If the funding comes through for design

work, the options on the table are to expand it, to build a new library on the corner of Second Street, or both ideas at once: to move the building to the new lot, and expand it there.

I wanted to better understand the process, and just as importantly, how the department sees its needs. Kelley and I spoke for an hour, and the following transcript has been substantially abridged, reordered for coherence, and edited for clarity.

**MR:** What were you most surprised by, when you got here?

**CK:** I was glad that my feeling that community was really important here was accurate. I really value the extent to which people know their neighbors and care about what happens in their community.

What's interesting is that the villages are so insular – everyone in Turners Falls seems to know and care about each other, but they don't necessarily know people in Montague Center. I feel like some people in Montague Center still

see **BIG PICTURE** page A7

### High School Sports Week: Teams Jockey for Top Slots

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – As we enter the second month of the 2024 fall sports season, several local teams are jockeying for conference standings.

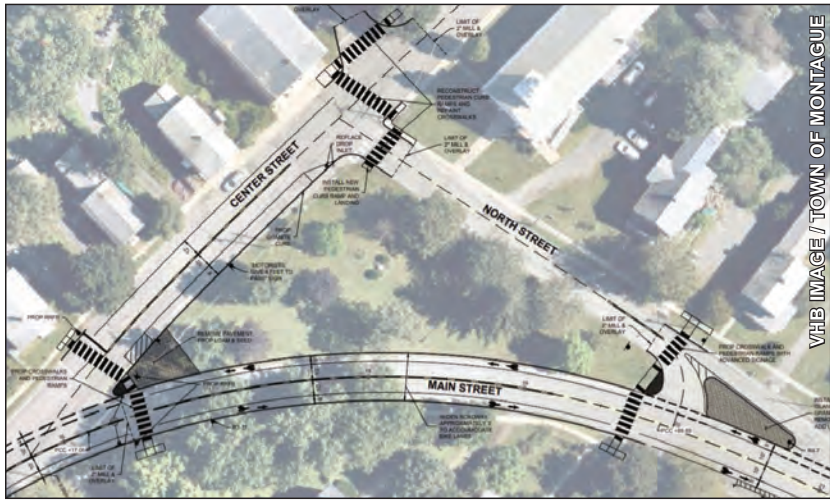
The Franklin Tech golf team is riding high, but a one-stroke loss against Pioneer places them in second place in the Bi-County East Conference. Tech's field hockey

team is also striving for position in the county conference, with Amherst and Belchertown vying for the top spot.

In volleyball, Turners Falls High School's loss of a fifth-set marathon against the Mohawk Warriors last month knocked the Thunder into second place in the Northern Conference. This Thursday, the teams see **SPORTS** page A6



Turners Falls' David Klemptner (right) controls the ball on Monday as Pioneer Valley's Hayden Killeen defends. Pioneer prevailed 2-0 over the visiting Thunder.



The plans developed by architects Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. include installing two raised crosswalks on the southern approach to the Montague Center common.

### Long-Lost Local Movies Bring the 1920s to Life

By BEN GAGNON

**GREENFIELD** – Meeting for the first time in a room on the second floor of the Greenfield Historical Society last spring, Carol Aleman and Chris Clawson spotted a 16-millimeter film canister on a shelf and wondered what it contained. It turned out to be a time machine in good working order, capable of looking back 100 years into Greenfield's past.

Aleman is president of the Greenfield Historical Society and Clawson is a vintage technology buff living in Turners Falls. Ever since their chance discovery, the pair has been working hard to bring the old canis-

ter's contents back to life.

Next Saturday, October 12 at 11 a.m., the public is invited free of charge to Greenfield Garden Cinemas to be transported back in time to watch the celebration of the city's first Winter Carnival in 1923.

Also being screened for the first time is a newly restored one-act comedy-drama from 1924 titled *Love's Young Dream*. The short film features residents of Greenfield who were temporarily transformed by a touring Hollywood director into stars of the silver screen.

"There was a sweet spot in history between the days of vaudeville see **LONG-LOST** page A5

### Online Gold-Hunt Frenzy Ends in Wendell Woods



The man who located the hidden golden statue (above) had not been publicly named as of press time.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**WENDELL** – I woke up Monday morning to a phone call from a friend, asking if it was foggy where I was.

"I'm looking for treasure," he explained.

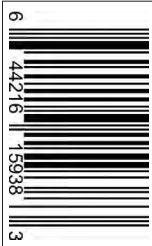
The sun was shining through my bedroom window, but when I arrived at the Wendell State Forest headquarters, the parking lot was, in fact, shrouded in fog. The treasure had to be somewhere else. At that moment what we sought was on a sunny hillside, surrounded by beech saplings and fallen yellow leaves. We figured it was likely on the northeast side of

see **HUNT** page A4

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# The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

## Listen In

Last week in this space, we noticed that a major hurricane was bearing down on the southeast US, workers at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports were on the verge of a once-in-a-generation strike, and all-out war appeared to be kicking off in the Levant. All three worries proved correct. Additionally, Atlanta is shrouded in a chlorine gas cloud following a industrial disaster we did not see coming.

The buzzword these days is “polycrisis” – the feeling that all systems at all scales are teetering on the verge of chaos, and that the teeterings themselves are interconnected. Diagnosing the polycrisis is helpful as far as it names a vibe, and confirms that everyone else is seeing it, but doesn’t help us solve any piece of it.

If you’re feeling the overwhelm, you’re not alone – and find ways to unplug, but don’t turn your back on what’s happening. Find small ways to help (for example, help organize

mutual aid delivery and fundraising for Helene survivors in North Carolina), put one foot in front of the other, and go from there.

And remember, everyone in the world is affected by the outcome of US elections, but only 2% vote in them. Part of what we’re feeling is being at the fulcrum of that intense attention – and manipulation. Not everything that happens is a conspiracy to benefit one or the other candidate, and the impulse to try to figure out which one benefits from every new international and domestic development is probably not good for anyone’s mental health.

The way to stay grounded through all of this is to put effort into being in touch with our *desires*. What does the world we would prefer look like? What does it *feel* like? What does it feel to want to live in it? Taking time to check in on our hearts will be crucial in the coming weeks and months.

**WANTED:** A volunteer or part-time staff member to: post our digital edition to our website each Thursday; email the link to digital subscribers; manage our email subscription list; occasionally help update our website; keep up a light but regular weekly presence on social media (currently Facebook and Instagram); and field inquiries received via those platforms. Modest pay available if wanted. Inquire at [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## Sound Off In Theater

You know how it’s beautiful to look out at water? Say from Gill’s Riverside, or from the other side in Unity Park?

Well, FirstLight’s Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage (NMPS) refers to that beautiful water you’d be looking at as their “lower reservoir.” As if a living river could be *theirs*!

You know how beautiful it is to be part of a community standing up, standing strong together?

Come to the Shea Theater in Great Falls (a.k.a. Turners Falls) on October 10 at 6 p.m. Speak up for the Connecticut River. She needs you to speak her truth! Call for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to *deny* the NMPS 401 Water Quality Certificate (WQC).

You know how the water levels fluctuate wildly, and how bad the erosion at the water’s edge is?

You know how virtually *all* aquatic life is ground up going through those NMPS turbines? It’s a horror show. Fish smoothies with your grid balancing electricity anyone?

You know how NMPS’s house-

size turbines actually pull and push the river backwards? First when they fill their upper reservoir – the one where the mountain top used to be – and then again releasing its torrent to generate electricity. The rates are mind-boggling, 15,000 cubic feet per second and 20,000 cubic feet per second. It’s like a football field six to eight feet deep in water in 23 seconds! Day in, day out, year after year, NMPS forces the Connecticut River backwards.

Death, erosion, River desecration! Shayla Freeland summed the situation up quite succinctly a few years ago: “I’m 14 years old and I live in Gill.... The turbines of the pump station suck in life and throw out death.”

It’s not FirstLight’s lower reservoir – for God’s sake, she is the Quonektakut, the Kwinetekw (Long River), a.k.a. the Connecticut.

Speak up for the Connecticut River! All together at the Shea, loud and clear, let’s tell the DEP to *deny* the 401 WQC.

Gary Seldon  
Greenfield

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Jose Campos, Jahmes Peters, and Daniel Campos are ready for customers during the new breakfast hours at El Nopalito Mexican Restaurant and Pizzeria on Turners Falls Road in Montague. Pick up a breakfast burrito between 7 and 10:30 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, and enjoy lunch and dinner hours any day but Monday, when the restaurant is closed. The business was opened by Peters two years ago.

## Letters to the Editors

### This Letter Headline Is Accurate

Thanks for publishing my Letter to the Editors on September 26 regarding the previous week’s reprint of a *Shoestring* piece on McGovern and campaign finances.

My letter’s main complaint was that the *Reporter’s* headline of the piece was misleading, and unfortunately the headline for my letter “Headline Misleading, Article Too Long” was only partially accurate. I actually enjoy the in-depth pieces the *Reporter* publishes and usually read them to the end. My point was that most people probably don’t read lengthy articles in their entirety, but remember the gist of the headline.

I’ve noticed a growing problem with the press coloring headlines to their political bias. In fact, I just read an article about it titled “Misleading headlines in mainstream media are more dangerous than outright fake news” (*El Pais News*).

In regard to lengthy articles, I would love to see the *MR* publish a piece about Rep. Jim McGovern’s accomplishments both on the national stage and locally. McGovern’s support of a range of issues is impressive, including campaign finance reform, support of Tibet, green energy, and directing funding to his constituents.

But it’s his longstanding leadership on food security and support for small farmers that really stands out. McGovern has participated in the March to End Hunger for the Food Bank of Western Mass year after year. In fact, when I spoke to him near the end of the 43-mile walk last year, he was clearly in pain from a foot injury, but kept walking to the end. If folks want to learn more about our Representative, his website has a section of news articles about the work he’s been doing that is quite impressive.

Lastly, the *MR* editor printed a lengthy response to my letter which poses a question at the end about campaign finance. All I know is that the issue as it stands is untenable and changes need to be made, which, again, McGovern’s been pushing for since he first took office. Until *Citizens United* is overturned, and real campaign finance reform is instituted, that McGovern and others take a small percentage of money from some businesses and groups does not bother me if that is what is needed for him to keep his seat and keep voting for the values that he and I share.

Anne Jemas  
Great/Turners Falls

## Choose Your Weapon

As I reflect on our vibrant town of Montague, I find myself pondering an important question: What type of community member are you? Our town thrives because of the diverse individuals who call it home – each with unique contributions and perspectives. The beauty of Montague lies in our ability to come together, and now is the perfect time to strengthen that bond.

We have the opportunity to embrace a community-driven spirit that prioritizes collaboration and connection. Are you the one who organizes events that bring neighbors together? Perhaps you’re the listener, always ready to support those around you. Maybe you inspire others with your creative ideas or lend a helping hand when needed. Every role is essential, and together we can create an even more inclusive and welcoming environment.

To enhance our community, we should focus on fostering open dialogue. By creating spaces for discussion, we encourage everyone to share their thoughts and ideas, helping us understand each other’s perspectives better. We can also engage in local projects that bring us together, whether it’s a clean-up day, a festival, or an art exhibit. As we have in the past and can continue to build one. These shared experiences build connections and create a sense of pride in our town.

Additionally, it’s vital that we embrace inclusive leadership. Encouraging diverse voices in community decisions ensures that all residents feel valued and represented. When everyone has a seat at the table, we cultivate a sense of belonging that strengthens our bonds.

In conclusion, I invite each of you to consider your role in Montague. Let’s work together to create a community that celebrates togetherness and supports one another. What type of community member will you choose to be?

Nicholas Woods  
Turners Falls

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**

*ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE LIMIT 4 PER YEAR*

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## The Montague Reporter

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

**Free COVID test kits** are available through the mail by filling out a simple address form at [special.usps.com/testkits](https://special.usps.com/testkits).

**Learn all about leaves** at the next Great Falls Farmers Market at Peskeompskut Park this Saturday, October 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. As part of the ongoing “Food, Farms, and Factories” project, DCR staff and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center are leading an exploration of fall leaves at the market, including some free family-friendly activities.

Poets may be on the loose on the streets of Turners Falls this Saturday, October 5 as Human Error Publishing holds the 15th annual **Word Festival** from noon to 10 p.m. at the Shea Theater Arts Center.

The festival will host a book fair of independent local authors and publishers in the lobby. Readings are scheduled from 12:30 to 5 p.m. in the theater, followed by a performance of *Do It Now!* at 7:30 p.m. *Do It Now!* combines poetry, storytelling, political commentary, and musical improvisation featuring poet Paul Richmond, guitarist John Sheldon, and percussionist Tony Vacca.

Admission to the reading is by donation, while admission to *Do It Now!* is a sliding scale between \$6 and \$20. Find more information at [humanerrorpublishing.com](https://humanerrorpublishing.com).

At 7:30 p.m. this Saturday, October 5, Pothole Pictures in Shelburne Falls presents **Buster Keaton’s 1928 classic** silent film comedy, *Steamboat Bill Jr.*, on the big screen with live music by keyboardist Jeff Rapsis.

Tickets for this season opener are \$10 per person, cash at the door. For the remaining seven films in the fall and winter series – *Bubba Ho-Tep*, *Ariel Phenomenon*, *Queen of Katwe*, *A Face in the Crowd*, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Delicatessen*, and *The Muppets* – tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a half hour of live

music before each film.

Pothole Pictures remains a volunteer-run community movie theater, operating since 1995. To volunteer, contact Jim Kessler at (413) 231-2211.

David James will give a talk on **Lake Pleasant Spiritualists** next Tuesday, October 8 at the New Salem Library at 6 p.m. James is the co-author with the late Louise Shattuck of the book *Spirit & Spa: A Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Community*, and he will share memories and archival photographs from the book.

No registration is needed. For more information, call the library (978) 544-63340 or email [nsdirector@cwmmars.org](mailto:nsdirector@cwmmars.org).

Learn about the **modal, improvisational system of Turkish music** known as *makam* with Weather-vane Community Arts this October and November at the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. This series of six classes is taught by Boston-based teacher Tev Stevig, an expert on the modal music that forms the basis of Turkish classical and folk music.

Vocalists, instrumentalists, and listeners of all skill levels are welcome. No previous experience is necessary, although a basic understanding of Western music concepts will be helpful. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings starting on October 9, and the tuition is on a sliding scale, with scholarships available. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jesse Bay at (510) 387-0765 or [weathervane.community.arts@gmail.com](mailto:weathervane.community.arts@gmail.com).

The Brick House and the Montague Council on Aging are offering a six-session program for **Grandparents Raising Teens**. The first five sessions of the program will run on Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., starting October 8, and the last session will be held Thursday, November 7 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Most sessions will be at the

Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, and a couple will be at the Brick House at 24 Third Street. For more information and to sign up, contact Stacey at [slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org) or (413) 800-2496.

Next Friday, October 11 the **Box Shop Duo** – singer-songwriters Gene Stamell and Mitch Mulholland – will perform at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Stamell has performed for several decades at small venues across the state, while Mulholland has played in rock bands for years and presently plays solo and with bands in the Berkshires. The group is named after the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, with which they are both associated. Together they perform originals and covers after the folk style, with some blues and rock, humorous and serious, accompanied by acoustic guitars.

There’s a suggested sliding scale donation of \$6 to \$15, with free admission for children. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and coffee, tea, and delicious baked goods are available.

Check out decades of automotive design at the Franklin County Technical School’s 12th Annual **Cool Rides Car Show** next Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event showcases unique and classic cars from around the area. If you’re interested in volunteering at the event or have any questions, reach out to Justin at [jlawrence@fcts.us](mailto:jlawrence@fcts.us). For more details visit [fcts.us](https://fcts.us).

Upinngil’s baker and farmer, Sorrel Hatch, will join the Kitchen Club at the Gill-Montague senior center in Turners Falls next Monday, October 7 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to give a **demonstration on sourdough**. Learn more about the local Upinngil farm and bakery and leave with a sourdough starter to make your own bread. All are welcome, no appointment needed.

The fourth annual **LAVA Film Festival** runs Friday through Sunday, October 11, 12, and 13 at 324 Main Street in Greenfield. The festival will host emerging local filmmakers, with more than half from Western Mass. Organizers note that there are twice as many films as in previous years, making for a very robust program. Each block of films will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers.

Advance tickets are available at [tixtree.com/o/lava](https://tixtree.com/o/lava) either for each block of films or for the whole weekend. The festival kicks off with a reception on Friday, October 11, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The **Deja Brew in Wendell** has announced their intention to be open every Friday evening into the dark days of winter. The pub will be open from 5 p.m. to midnight every Friday, often with live music at 7 p.m. There’s a “Lady Pop” dance party on October 11 and Two Car Garage plays on October 18. The El Chapincito Mexican-Guatemalan food truck will be open on site, and delivery service will be available from the Pizza Factory in Orange.

The Stash House fabric supply and sewing center in Turners Falls is holding a **Fabric, Fashion, and Fiber Creative Reuse Festival** on the weekend of October 12 and 13.

The event includes a Buckingham Rabbits Vintage pop-up, a weatherization booth from Paper City Clothing, live music, and a beer garden from Brick and Feather Brewing. Enjoy flower arranging, games, a community dye bath, and repair cafe on Saturday. Sunday brings the Stash Bash Sale and the #TrashRich Fashion Show with Richie Richardson of FAB, hosted by Monte Belmonte. Learn more at [swansonsfabrics.com](https://swansonsfabrics.com).

*Far Out: Life On & After the Commune*, the 85-minute documentary telling the story of two **communal farms** in Montague and Guilford, Vermont, comes to the Greenfield Garden Cinemas on Sunday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. This first screening will include a discussion with director Charles Light, Packer Corners farm member Verandah Porche, and musician Patty Carpenter.

*Far Out* has become something of a local phenomenon. *MR* managing editor Mike Jackson interviewed director Charles Light in our September 5 edition, *Farm Commune’s Media Arm Far Out Enough to Look Back*. The film’s premiere at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro set a 25-year record for a single night’s sales at over 500 tickets. It played to a sold-out house at the Newburyport Film Festival, and screenings are planned over the next few months at various film festivals in New England.

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

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Sat., October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

STEAMBOAT BILL, JR.

A one-night-only presentation of Buster Keaton's 1928 classic silent film as it was made to be seen...

On the big screen, with live improvised music by Jeff Rapsis on keyboard!

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May to October

Peskeompskut Park Turners Falls

UNNAM EABLE BOOKS EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH SPOILER BY MARIE BUCK & MATTHEW WALKER JOINED IN READING W/ JAYSON KEERY R. E. KATZ SAT. SEPT 28 • 6:30PM

MUSIC BEETS BLOG KRISTINE LESCHPER & LEAF GLITTER SAT. SEPT 29 • 5:30PM

Paul Richmond's poetry FESTIVAL FRI. OCT 4 • 7PM

BOOK LAUNCH EARTHLY BODIES BY VANESSA CHAKOUR JOINED IN READING W/ OWEN WORMSER (LAWNS INTO MEADOWS) SAT. OCT. 5 • 5:00PM

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

Another Letter to the Editors...

Clarification/Correction on ‘Compensation’

As a journalist I would like to apologize for any confusion caused by my wording in the last paragraph of the September 12 issue of the *Montague Reporter*. In a world where money is now speech and corporations are people, journalism is a tough business where larger truths often become garbled, buried, or excluded due to the growing imbalance between corporate interests and the public’s right to know.

I have been a citizen stakeholder, member of the Fish and Aquatics Studies Team, and intervenor in FirstLight’s bid to relicense these projects since 2012. However, as a journalist who’s striven to keep these critical Connecticut River ecosystem issues in the public eye across three New England states, I refused to sign the FirstLight required non-disclosure agreement in order to participate in their settlement talks some six years back.

Not wishing to contribute any difficulties to this publication’s editors, readers, and the aggrieved PSP Investments/FirstLight Power’s recent retiree Anne Harding, I apologize for the poorly-fashioned phrase “In other states – on other rivers – industry pays compensation to the public for any annual killings such as these.” I’m agreeing to retract it. The outrage centered on the poor wording at the end of the sentence: “to the public for any annual killings such as these.” It was written as I was heading on vacation, and I remained out of contact and knowledge of the kerfuffle until recently.

By “killings such as these,” plural, I meant to refer back to the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, whose “giant suction and flush” I had stated in the first paragraphs have been “inhaling and obliterating hundreds of millions of the Connecticut’s young-of-the-

year baby fish since late-June.”

The larger truth I was attempting to convey, while looking at just a week’s impact in the canal, were the largely unquantified deadly impacts on New England’s Great River stemming from the operation of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls projects across three states for over half a century. Their 1968 federal licenses expired back in April 2018, yet their carnage remains unaddressed to this day.

Signed federal licenses for private corporations on US rivers *do* often provide compensation funds in the public interest for mitigation and “takings,” the deaths – incidental or otherwise – of public trust fish and other species caused by operations, errors, or entrainment at facilities. FirstLight’s proposed settlement provides no specific compensation or tallying from annual kill counts in their canal.

At Northfield Mountain, the river-wide loss of millions of young shad via annual inhalation of over 10 million eggs and larvae will only begin to be addressed seven years hence – deploying an untried barrier net with a high likelihood of failure. Without dedicated, reliable annual tallies and funding tied to that proposal, this killing is only indirectly addressed through an “Off-License Provision” for an Ichthyoplankton Fund, which would compensate the US Fish & Wildlife Service for the estimated annual extinguishment of 1,029,865 juvenile shad by paying the agency just \$1,296,281 over the 50-year license term. That’s one species out of two dozen subject to that sucking annual entrainment here.

I thank the *Montague Reporter* for the opportunity to own my mistake.

Karl Meyer, Greenfield  
Member of the Society of Environmental Journalists

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RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of October 7 in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

SEEKING APARTMENT!

Woman of a certain vintage looking to rehome in a one-BR apartment starting in November or December.

30-year Montague resident, occasional writer for the *Montague Reporter*. First floor preferred, and reasonably affordable. I'm responsible, am a current homeowner, and can do pet care!

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10/10-10/15 Botanical posters 6-8pm \$60

10/11 Falling in love with Community 6-8pm \$10 (sign up in advance!)

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10/15 Strange Page Reading 6-8pm \$10

10/18 Divination Night! sign up for an Astrology and palm reading 6pm

10/24 Still life Social Club 6-8pm \$10

10/25 Gallery Opening! Claire Churchill

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**HUNT** from page A1

a hill, based on the slant of the sun, and at a higher elevation, based on the temperature readings from a trail camera pointed at the prize.

I drove east until the fog relented, parked on Dirth Road, and for the next hour let my dog lead me on a fruitless fall hike through raining acorns, fungi, and mountain laurel.

On Tuesday afternoon several cars were parked where I had been, and many more were driving around the gravel roads of the state forest. I saw license plates from Connecticut, New York, and Minnesota, and met people from Greenfield, Orange, Winchendon, and Woburn. All either cheerfully admitted they were looking for the treasure too, or answered warily, “Maybe.”

I exchanged wishes of good luck with a man wearing his long black beard in a braid. A park employee driving an all-terrain vehicle told me she had seen more cars in the forest that day than ever before. “I can’t imagine what the hunters with trail cameras are picking up,” she said, then warned me about a female moose that had been charging hikers with off-leash dogs.

By that point nearly 9,000 people had paid Project Skydrop, the developers of the treasure hunt, \$20 for a daily aerial photo showing a gradually widening expanse of forest. A

circle on a map on the game’s website, meanwhile, had shrunk from 500 miles in diameter to 27, drawing far-flung contestants to Leverett, Montague, and Wendell.

Jason Rohrer, a video game developer who told *Wired* magazine he moved to New Hampshire to follow the Free State Project, had crafted a four-inch tall conical puzzle out of pure gold, then left it in an unfamiliar forest. Rohrer pointed a trail cam at the statue, took aerial photos with a drone, and put up the website providing treasure-seekers with clues.

The statue itself was valued at \$26,626, and when solved it could unlock a Bitcoin bounty that grew as word of the game spread. The prize had reached \$87,600, and the game developers stood to keep the same amount.

At 5:19 p.m. on Tuesday, somewhere in the Wendell State Forest, a yet-to-be identified man from the Boston area found the statue. Soon after that he ran into Jon Flis, the owner of Flis Market in Erving, who was searching for the treasure himself.

“He couldn’t have been a nicer guy,” Flis told the *Reporter*. “He just knew a lot about the weather. He seemed to be extremely intelligent, and knew a lot more about the area than most people would.”

The mystery winner had used the

partly-cloudy day to his advantage, Flis said, by tracking cloud shadows and matching them with the moments the webcam showed the statue was in shade.

“He almost didn’t find it,” Flis added. “He was standing right next to it for a minute, then walked away. Then he came back and saw it.”

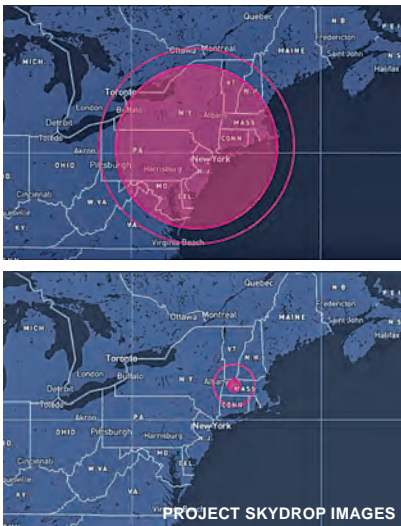
“For the time being, the winner is mysterious, and it was pretty hard to sleep last night thinking about this, wondering how he solved it,” Rohrer said in a statement on Wednesday. “From what we’ve been able to gather from the people who met him, he seems like a scientist who used lots of data to narrow down the locations, including weather patterns and tree habitat maps. Very impressive!”

The contest is apparently not completely over. On Wednesday the developers announced they would send \$100 to the first 20 people to submit the correct coordinates of the prize’s former location.

“It’s cool that the mystery continues, at least for the time being,” Rohrer said.

Flis knows the winner’s first name, but chose not to share it with the press to respect his privacy. “He said that he’s not into it for the money,” he said of the winner. “He was going to keep the trophy, but money was not a factor.”

When we spoke on Wednesday,



Day by day, the shrinking map lured hunters toward Franklin County.

Flis had already been contacted by several other news organizations including the *Boston Globe*, about 40 cars were parked in the area around his store, and he was expecting a visit from Rohrer later that day.

“It is incredibly special what he created, because he got people off their computers somewhat, and using their minds,” Flis said. “People were coming in the store and asking questions and interacting with each other, putting on boots, and sweating and being in the mud. They were wishing each other luck. People were excited to be out there looking for something.”



AT LARGE

Anti-Tax Group Proposes No Town Admin

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** - In January, *Scientific American* reported that by the turn of the century Northfield’s population will have dwindled by almost half. Greenfield’s also in trouble. Anyone over 50 remembers when businesses like Wilson’s Department Store, Clark’s Sport Shop, and Knapp’s Hardware were locally owned and thriving.

During my drives to Florida I’ve stayed in towns such as Emporia, Virginia, Wilson, North Carolina, and Kingsland, Georgia, all about the size of Greenfield and all with shuttered storefronts.

Smalltown America’s decline began when the interstate exits were built too far from Main Street, USA. It’s a shame, because a home-cooked meal at a mom-and-pop place five miles away is better than any Shoney’s or Cracker Barrel just off the highway.

Northfield homeowners are burdened by a broken infrastructure, sidewalks not fixed, closed bridges, and a rickety sewer system. Without strong local bylaws, and borrowing from Joni Mitchell, predatory developers are coming to pave paradise and put in a business park.

The Department of Environmental Protection is breathing down the town’s neck to fix its broken sewer system, and the sewer commissioners are laying the burden on ratepayers.

On September 23 Brian Bordner, who owns a machine shop near the New Hampshire state line, submitted an article for vote at a special town meeting:

“Shall the position of Town Administrator be abolished, and no further Town Administrator contracts offered, with the position to be replaced by an Administrative Assistant with a maximum annual salary of \$75,000.00, and with all responsibilities and duties of the Town Administrator to be reassigned by the Select Board?”

The petition was sponsored by the Northfield Taxpayers Association ([www.tax01360.org](http://www.tax01360.org)) and had 130 signatures. A minimum of 100 signatures was needed, and as of this writing town clerk Amanda Lynch was assiduously checking off the names. A few names were disqualified, she said, but there would be enough to pass muster.

Town administrator Andrea Llamas did not return a call to her office on September 27, and her office door was closed at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 30. “She’s not in?” I asked

secretary Sandra Wood.

“No,” answered Wood without elaborating.

Town administrators bounce around like car dealers. Llamas is Northfield’s third since 2015, when Brian Noble’s salary was \$71,050. He subsequently took the TA job in Acushnet, jumped to East Bridgewater, and is now in Plainville, home of the Plainville Park Casino, where he hit the jackpot and is making \$189,116 a year according to [govsalaries.com](http://govsalaries.com).

Llamas’s salary is in the \$120,000, range plus vacation and sick time. She works for the selectboard, but watching her on BNCTV she appears to be more knowledgeable about town government than any of its five members.

Northfielders are taken by the town’s natural beauty. At town meeting in spring they voted to stop solar development on the south side of town, but the owners of Four Star Farm are in cahoots with a Boston company intent on pile-driving 27,000 solar stanchions into their beautiful fields near the Connecticut River.

Lately, grant development director Leslie Roberts and Llamas have been kibitzing with a Kansas developer and Springfield consulting agency about putting a business park in East Northfield. This hasn’t gone over well with the people at Thomas Aquinas College, because dozens of children play on the lawns and sidewalks next to Winchester Road where the business park would be located.

Stay tuned – there’s never a dull moment in Northfield.

Lights, Camera, Action

Greenfield native Artie Ackerman was at the Mohegan Sun with a few friends enjoying the nectar of the gods when a talkative stranger came along who said he was finishing a movie called *60 Miles North*.

The flick could alternately be titled *The Eddie Crawford Story*. “Eddie’s an actor, and he was struggling to pick up bit parts when he auditioned to be the original host of *Cash Cab*,” said Ackerman, referring to a game show about a cab driver who drives around New York City asking trivia questions.

“Eddie got the part, but his background check showed he had a DUI when he was a teenager. He lost the job and his apartment, and moved back home to live with his parents 60 miles north in Newburgh.”

Crawford decided to make a movie, with his girlfriend Alana Blake the executive producer, about losing the role of a lifetime. “It’s a feel-good story about dreams and things that can happen, and continuing to fight,” said Ackerman. “He wrote, acted, and starred in this. It’s about him never giving up.”

Ever the investor, Ackerman decided to throw in a few bucks and help produce the film. He wouldn’t say how much, but that the total production cost was about \$100K and took three weeks to film. “I got my investment back and made some on top of it,” he said.

“Independent films can sell the rights, or have a distribution deal with a guaranteed minimum,” Ackerman added. “It all depends on what kind of deal you can make. We had an offer from Netflix for the rights and turned it down, and went with Amazon Fandango at Home and a few other streams. We still may go to Netflix and possibly HBO Max.

“I’ve been hanging out with them the last year or two. It’s all kinda interesting. It’s all kinda weird, kinda crazy. He wants to produce another movie, this one in Franklin County that’s a coming of age story with flashbacks.”

**SHORT TAKES:** Business is booming over the border in Swanzy, where the state’s new Liquor and Wine Outlet opened on Tuesday next to Market Basket. According to the press release, the 20,000-square-foot facility will sell 5,700 tax-free products, most of ’em containing alcohol.... Meanwhile in Winchester the pumps are on at the new Cha’s across Route 10 from the old Cha’s. As of this writing, standard 87 octane cost \$2.95 a gallon for non-members.... Two weeks after the town cleaned up the entrance to Schell Bridge for a get-together amongst town officials, politicians, and other bigwigs, the spot looked the hangout it’s been for underage drinking. “We’re on it,” said a Northfield patrolman. ... *Alaska Magazine* reminded its readers that Fat Bear Week began October 2, when voters choose the portliest bruin among those who’ve chowed down salmon, squirrels, cow parsnip, and whatever else they get their grubby paws on to prepare for hibernation. Check it out on [fatbearweek.org](http://fatbearweek.org).

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

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**LONG-LOST** from page A1

and cinema when a portable movie company toured the country and remade the same film, over and over, by casting local residents in the title roles,” said Clawson. “The film would be made and screened all within a week!”

**Elevated to Stardom**

Starting in 1914, a Hollywood producer-director named Joseph Maddern traveled the country with a film crew, placing ads in local newspapers ahead of time that asked local residents to come forward and star in a locally-made film. The ads declared: “No experience necessary!”

A local theater would screen the film as soon as it was made and then hold on to the only copy to show again and again in the years to come. Although dozens of versions of *Love’s Young Dream* were made around the country, Clawson suspects the Greenfield version is the only one still in existence.



A title card from the 1924 production.

“We searched for other versions of the film but were unable to find one,” he said. “That’s not to say one or two don’t exist somewhere, but not as far as we know. This could be the last one left.”

*Love’s Young Dream* is not so different from today’s use of cell phones to produce videos of friends and family for display on

social media. “A hundred years ago they got to make their own film and see themselves on the big screen,” said Clawson.

Directed by Maddern, the portable movie company shot the one-act comedy-drama over three nights in a local theater. The cameras would also film the audience watching the making of the movie, perhaps to attract them back to see themselves at the film’s premiere.

In Greenfield, a 19-year-old young man by the name of Clarence “Zip” Caldwell was the male lead; he was known at the time for being an excellent pool player in his father’s pool hall. He would later move out West to become a cowboy and appear in a few films before returning to Greenfield to open Caldwell Realty.

“He was well known and well-liked through the years,” said Aleman, adding that Caldwell’s granddaughter plans to attend the screening.

**Documenting the Discovery**

In addition to spending countless hours restoring the film of the Winter Carnival and *Love’s Young Dream*, Clawson and Aleman produced their own 13-minute documentary on the discovery of the two films and how they were brought back to life. In addition to “Zip” Caldwell, the short feature identifies other Greenfield residents who starred in the film, thanks to Aleman’s research.

The restoration of the two 16 mm films required Clawson to take more than 17,000 digital photos to capture each frame. He used a sheet music archive from the 1920s to choose appropriate music and transposed every note into an editing program to produce soundtracks for the two films. Finally, Clawson found pho-



Vintage technology buff Chris Clawson.

tographic postcards from 1920s Greenfield to produce a three-minute slide show that supplements the film about the first Winter Carnival.

“It’s important that history is made personal,” said Clawson. “People will recognize the places where these scenes took place and see the people who were our past neighbors, as if from a different dimension. It’s a time machine.”

Although people in old movies appear in black and white, their lives were every bit as colorful as ours.

“It’s a lens into yesterday,” said Aleman. “They come alive on the screen, you see them move and skate and laugh like anyone would today. You see people living their lives and interacting. This is what real life looked like. How often do you have the opportunity to see the people who lived here 100 years ago, who shared the same space we share now?”

**Vintage Days Festivities**

The screening of the two old films and the documentary about how they were made is just part

of the third annual Vintage Days weekend, kicking off Friday, October 11, and running through Sunday, October 13.

Participating stores will offer discounts, extended hours, and interactive activities all weekend, featuring books, vinyl, clothing, crystals, jewelry, hemp goods, and craft cocktails. Greenfield’s four independent bookshops will be taking part, with a range of items available at Roundabout Books, the Imaginary Bookshop, World Eye Bookshop, and Federal Street Books.

“We hope that this year’s Vintage Days celebration continues to spotlight Greenfield’s vintage vibe and all of the fantastic finds in town, from food to shopping to historic haunts,” said Greenfield Business Association director Hannah Rechtschaffen. “It’s the perfect excuse to check out Greenfield and make a day of it.”

The Greenfield Farmers Market will feature extra treats to celebrate the vintage vibe on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., as the mar-



Greenfield Historical Society president Carol Aleman.

ket continues to celebrate its 50th year. The Museum of Our Industrial Heritage will highlight the factories and mills that produced cutlery, hand tools, machine tools, measuring instruments, taps and dies, paper, textiles, and numerous other products at 2 Mead Street on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Vintage Car Show will take place on Saturday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Mohawk Mall, 91 Main Street. The public is invited to vote for their favorites with the People’s Choice award, and take photos with mint classic cars.

The public is also invited to learn vintage moves from local dancers at an Intergenerational Dance on Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Franklin County YMCA. Each half-hour features popular dances from different decades.

The weekend wraps up with a screening of *Far Out: Life On and After the Commune* at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. The documentary film traces 50 years in the lives of a group of New England writers, activists, and artists who became pioneers in the back-to-the-land and organic farming movements.

In 1973, when a giant nuclear power plant was planned nearby, they became active opponents, and in a dramatic act of civil disobedience, commune member Sam Lovejoy toppled a 500-foot weather tower on the site. His trial drew national attention. The film will be followed by a Q&A with director Charles Light and members of the communes.

For more about Vintage Days activities, see the event page at Visit Greenfield: [visitgreenfieldma.com/vintagedays](http://visitgreenfieldma.com/vintagedays).

**HYDRO** from page A1

New England today, and as we look to the fast-approaching state-mandated carbon reduction targets, the value of existing, operational clean energy resources cannot be overstated,” FirstLight communications manager Claire Belanger told the *Reporter*. “Flexible resources like FirstLight’s pumped hydro and hydroelectric projects, which can be dispatched on a moment’s notice, are especially critical to our clean energy future.”

FirstLight’s licenses would have expired on April 30, 2018. Since then, FERC has granted the company extensions as it negotiated with state and federal agencies, local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses that want the licenses to mitigate the projects’ negative environmental and economic impacts.

By April 2023 FirstLight had signed settlements –and non-disclosure agreements – with most of these officially recognized stakeholders. The agreed-upon conditions include installing a new fish lift at the dam, installing a barrier net at the intake for the pumped-storage facility to reduce fish deaths, and maintaining somewhat higher and more consistent flow rates below the dam to support habitat for protected species, such as the Puritan tiger beetle and shortnose sturgeon, as well as recreation.

The state’s National Heritage and Endangered Species Program, which had signed a previous draft of the agreement on flows and fish passage, did not appear among the final signatories, though the overarching agency, the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, did.

One stakeholder missing from the signatories was the non-profit Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC). CRC has criticized some terms of the agreement, arguing that nine years is too long to wait before installing the fish lift, the barrier net would be insufficient to protect young fish from being drawn into Northfield Mountain, and the agreement does not allow enough water to pass over the Turners Falls dam to support species trying to live below it.

“Making sure that the river is a habitable place for the organisms living there, that’s important to us,” Nina Gordon-Kirsch, CRC’s river steward for Massachusetts, told the *Reporter*. “DEP is making themselves available to the general public, which is very rare, so this is a unique opportunity to hear from MassDEP and ask questions.”

**All Freedom Necessary**

This spring, with the settlements signed and an environmental review pending, FirstLight submitted its 222-page water quality certificate application to MassDEP. A one-year review process is underway to ensure the proposed operations would comply with Massachusetts’s surface water quality standards, which govern discharges into public waterways, pollutants, changes in temperature, suspended solids, and many other conditions.

On May 1, state senator Jo Comerford and state representatives Natalie Blais, Daniel Carey, and Mindy Domb wrote a joint letter to FERC expressing concerns about FirstLight’s proposed relicensing conditions. They warned against accepting FirstLight’s proposal to increase the size of its reservoir on Northfield Mountain, encouraged the agency to limit the term of the license to 30 years instead of 50, and suggested the company more significantly increase flow over the dam and speed up the installation of the fish lift and barrier net.

“We wish to emphasize that, ultimately, the company profits from the use of a public resource – the Connecticut River – which is important in many ways beyond the production of energy,” the legislators wrote. “FirstLight has operated under a temporary license since 2018, delaying its implementation of critical and overdue environmental measures possible with this relicensing.”

The legislators also balked at a clause in the agreement, signed by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, severely limiting these agencies’

regulatory authority regarding fish passage during the first 25 years of the license.

“We urge FERC to ensure that the state and federal agencies retain all freedom necessary to require any measure to ensure the protection of species and river health,” the legislators wrote, “if it is found that FirstLight’s operations harm the ecosystem.”

On September 10, FERC chair Willie Phillips responded saying he could not discuss the issues at hand because “the proceeding is being contested.” He reminded the legislators that FERC plans to release a draft environmental impact statement on FirstLight’s hydropower projects in December, hold a public meeting to collect input from stakeholders, and issue a final environmental impact statement by fall of 2025.

**Upstream Sturgeons**

“FirstLight currently provides 50% of the state’s battery storage capacity — and we’re grappling with what that means relative to solar and battery storage siting concerns,” Comerford wrote this summer in an email to her constituents. “We appreciate MassDEP for taking these concerns seriously and making as much information accessible to the public as possible. And we are absolutely grateful to constituents for your advocacy.”

Next week’s event at the Shea Theater is not a hearing on FirstLight’s application, but an “information session” MassDEP is required to hold. The agency has hired a Cambridge-based consulting firm, the Consensus Building Institute, to facilitate the presentations and discussion.

One likely topic of public inquiry is a recent finding about the river habitat. On August 29, CRC published the results of a study that used environmental DNA analysis of water samples to test for the presence of the shortnose sturgeon above the Turners Falls dam.

The positive results have the potential to further complicate the hydropower relicensing process, said Katie Buckman, CRC’s

New Hampshire river steward and a leader of the project.

“The essence of what we have done is expand the range for an endangered species,” Buckman said. “Because of that, more areas of the river fall under the purview of the protections that are given to endangered species.”

A MassDEP official reached by the *Reporter* this week declined to comment on how the findings might affect the water quality certification process, but said that all evidence submitted, including application and public comments, will be considered in the agency’s review.

“What are these resource agencies doing now that there’s been this sturgeon discovery?” Sarah Matthews, an environmental lawyer and member of the activist group Western Mass Rights of Nature, told the *Reporter*. The potential for fatality at the pumped-storage station, and not just low flows below the dam, now threaten the sturgeon, Matthews argued, and MassDEP has the regulatory authority to intervene.

“It’s my understanding, if DEP tells FERC ‘We want these conditions in the license,’ FERC is required to add those conditions to the license,” she said. “The other thing DEP has the authority to do is just deny the issuance of the permit.”

“We really can’t say how it would or wouldn’t impact relicensing,” Belanger, the FirstLight spokesperson, said about the study. “Ultimately, these are National Marine Fisheries Service considerations since they are responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act related to Shortnose Sturgeon.”

Pre-registration, which can be done through MassDEP’s website, is required for anyone who wants to attend the October 10 public information session virtually. Pre-registration also is encouraged, but not required, for in-person attendees.

Will Szal contributed additional reporting.



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# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 2, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## A Plan for the Strathmore?

On Monday Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, along with building inspector David Jensen and town planner Walter Ramsey, gave a lengthy presentation on the future of the Strathmore Mill.

After outlining a number of options, including demolishing the building complex or pieces of it,

the main message was, in Abbondanzio's words, "Stay the course."

## Decommissioning Lurches Forward

At the first meeting of the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel last Thursday, Michael Twomey, vice president of external affairs for Entergy, said that Vermont Yankee would close by this December and that spent radioactive fuel will be removed from the reactors at the nuclear power plant by 2020.

# 20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 30, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## Counterfeit Bills

A rash of counterfeit bills have been passed at stores in Turners Falls in recent weeks. "Clerks at area stores have received 50's, 20's, and a couple of 5's" since the bad bills were first noticed towards the end of August," said Montague PD detective Ray Zukowski. "One passed at the Exxon at Third and L on September 25, and one passed at a tag sale the next day by a woman in her late 40s."

The bad bill at the Exxon was passed by a man who had just received the bill from Fleet Bank. His story checks out, and points out the obvious problem that once these false bills are in circulation, innocent people wind up getting caught cashing them.

"These bills... are often traced back to college students with fancy laser printers," Zukowski said.

## Dinosaur Relatives

We've all heard about dinosaur footprints in Gill, but did you know that living near Barton Cove today are prehistoric, flightless birds that grow to be up to six feet tall and weigh about 150 pounds?

You can see them for yourself if you go to the Songline Emu Farm. The Emu Farm was conceived ten years ago when Dee Dee Mares and her sister Geri Johnson were talking about starting some kind of alternative farming venture.

## A Sweet Prospect

Half a dozen prospectors entered the darkened shell of the former Power Town Creemee building at 168 Avenue A, hoping to find a goldmine in the town's offer to turn the space over for \$1 to someone willing to renovate it.

Denise DiPaolo saw visions of a classy dining establishment: "Here's where the bar will be; here's the dining room."

# 150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 30, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

## Local Matters

Mrs. George O. Peabody, of this town, took a prize at the Franklin County Fair for a worsted tidy, also, Mr. Thomas Welcome, a prize of \$2 for a foot-race. Miss Lizzie Ingraham, of this town, was awarded \$1.50 for an afghan. Mr. T.M. Stoughton, of Gill, received prizes for Fair Jerseys and their grades, \$4, Thoroughbred Cow, \$2, Milch Cow, \$4, Heifer, \$2, Neat Stock, \$7.

Mr. George Wood, of Riverside, is the possessor of a cucumber sixteen inches long, and not much of a year for cholera plugs either.

We will shortly have a new grocery store in this town. We welcome the new firm and trust they will meet with abundant success.

The foundations of Mr. J.J. Burby's house on Fourth street have been completed, and are

now ready for the wood work.

We would suggest the propriety of grading K street, from Seventh to Ninth streets. The expense would be light, and the benefit arising therefrom heavy.

There will be an Oyster Supper at the M.E. Church, on Saturday evening, October 3. Oysters served from half past six to half past nine. Come one, come all. As a good time is anticipated.

Our new school house is at last ready for use. The grammar and intermediate departments commenced Monday with Misses Oakman and Marsh as teachers.

Turners Falls is developing a terrible scandal. 'Beecher thrown in the shade'. Several men have set themselves to work to blast the character of the rocks in the vicinity of the Suspension Bridge. The "blasting" is being carried out at an alarming rate.

Our Young Folks for September: In Montague, June 27, a daughter, Alice Estella, to Myron and Abbie Maynard.



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Turners Falls's Rojelio Galvez Mendez heads the ball with Pioneer's Matan Lerman-Smith defending during Monday's matchup.

**SPORTS** from page A1

play for bragging rights and a share of the conference title.

In football, the Franklin Tech Eagles won another big one, but they can't rest on their laurels because the Athol Red Bears are coming to town.

Turners Falls lost one of our own this week, as Robert "Bob" Avery passed away on September 28 at the age of 85. Mr. Avery spent years guiding students at Turners Falls High School. He was also the track coach for years, and established the cross-country team.

Mr. Avery was not only a coach and guidance counselor. He was also an avid runner, finishing 18th in the 1962 Boston Marathon.

Rest in peace, Coach Avery – you are fondly remembered by many.

**Field Hockey**  
TFHS 3 – Northampton 2  
Westfield 3 – TFHS 0  
FCTS 1 – Mahar 1  
East Longmeadow 7 – TFHS 0

Last Wednesday the Turners Falls Thunder outshot the Blue Devils 3-2 in Northampton. The Devils scored two quick goals, but by the half it was tied up, and Powertown scored the game-winning goal in the fourth.

Ella Larouche slapped in two goals, while Ledwin Villafana added a goal and an assist.

On Friday, the Westfield Bombers blanked the Blue Thunder 3-zip. I was at the game, and in this one Turners played defense for most of the contest as the Bombers continually broke up their attacks, keeping the ball in the Thunder's backyard.

But Turners did well on defense, putting their sticks and bodies between the goal and the shooters, resulting in several corner penalties. Unlike most teams, Westfield runs an aggressive corner formation, pitting every player except the goalie right outside the striking circle. This leaves no defensive players, but Blue had difficulty transitioning to offense, so the ball would remain in their territory.

Clara Guidaboni was a machine in goal. She made 13 saves and kept the game close throughout the battle.

On Monday, Franklin Tech tied against the Mahar Senators out in Orange. The Eagles made 14 shots on goal, but only one hit the mark – courtesy of Hannah Gilbert, with an assist from Katy Lengiza. In goal, Maddie Markwell made four saves.

And on Tuesday, Turners fell to the East Longmeadow Spartans. Thunder went on the attack this time, making 17 shots on goal, but they were unable to place it past the goalkeeper.

**Girls' Volleyball**  
Montachusett 3 – FCTS 0  
Ludlow 3 – TFHS 0  
TFHS 3 – Athol 0  
Mohawk 3 – FCTS 0

The Montachusett "Monty" Bulldogs took three close sets last Friday against the Franklin Tech Spiking Eagles. It was a little heartbreaking for the home folks as key faults at the end of each set gave the win to the Bulls.

The game itself was amazing to watch. Players were diving at the ball, making incredible kills and impossible shots, and some of the volleys seemed to go on forever. And each team went on streaks, going up by 3 or 4 before the other team reversed the lead.

In the end, the Monties scored when it mattered, winning each set by a slim margin. Janiyah Wan and Amelia Rider earned their stripes in this one as each dove for six digs.

That same night, the 10-2 Ludlow Lions defeated Turners 3-0 at Ludlow High School. Turners will not see the Lions in the playoffs, as Ludlow is in Division 3, but playing higher-ranked teams can only help as Turners goes for the conference title.

On Tuesday, Turners dispatched Athol 3-0 at home. Thunder dominated the first two sets but the Bears came alive in the third, losing by just three points. Madi Liimatainen led the home team in kills and aces, Maddie Dietz gave the most assists, Tatiana Carr Williams had five digs, and Janelle Massey made five kills.

Last month the Mohawk Warriors won a marathon five-set battle against the Thunder, placing them atop the Northern Conference. On Tuesday the Warriors, who can ill afford to lose a conference game, got all they could handle when the Tech Eagles trekked to Buckland, but they slipped by 3-0.

Franklin dropped the first set 25-20, but refused to go away in the second, knotting the score at 25, 26 and 27 before Mohawk scored the final two points to take the extended set 29-27. The third set was just as close. Again the Eagles went point-for-point, extending the set

to 27, but again the Warriors edged ahead to 29.

Jenna Petrowicz finished with 19 digs, Sarah Beckwith served four aces, Madison Pettingill made seven kills, and Lily Josephs had two digs.

This Thursday, Turners hosts the Warriors, trying to get a share of that conference title.

**Boys' Soccer**  
Hopkins 2 – FCTS 1  
TFHS 3 – Athol 1  
Pioneer 2 – TFHS 0

Last Friday, September 27, the Franklin boys' soccer team lost to Hopkins Academy in Hadley. Jaxon Cottwright kicked in the team's sole goal on an assist by Aiden Lucas-Mullen.

On Saturday afternoon, Turners booted Athol 3-1; Moises Borrayes, David Klemper, and Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia scored for the Thunder.

On Monday, however, Turners lost 2-0 up in Northfield. Turners utilized two goalkeepers: Conner Herzig made six saves, while Nick Prasow made four.

**Boys' Golf**  
FCTS 171 – Easthampton 201  
FCTS 162 – Smith Voc 181

The Franklin Tech golf team is 8-1, second in the Bi-County Conference. Their single loss was by a single stroke, 164-163 to Pioneer. On October 9, the last game on the schedule, Pioneer comes to Thomas's golf course. The winner will be the likely BCC champions.

Last Friday the Tech squad took all top four places in their victory against Easthampton at the Holyoke Country Club. Gabe Mota (39) scored a triple bogey, finishing 3 over par, followed by Grady Deery (42), Jack Day (43), and William Belval (47).

They returned to Holyoke on Tuesday, this time to Wycoff Country Club, for a 16-field battle with the Smith Voc Vikings. Day (33), Mota (42), and Grady Deery (42) took the top three spots, followed by Belval (45), Braeden Talbot (47) Evan Wright (55), John McIntyre (56), and Ayron Hemingway, Jr. (62).

**Football**  
FCTS 46 – Pathfinder 6

Last Friday the Football Eagles crushed another team by a large margin. I didn't go to Palmer, deciding instead to stay close to home for the field hockey and volleyball matches. But the stats were impressive.

Tyler Yetter made three completions for 47 yards and gained 13 on the ground. Hunter Donahue made two catches for 38 yards, while N-lyn Stafford had one reception for nine. Josiah Little (273), Maxon Brunette (46), Wyatt Whitman (29) and Owen Leblanc (7) also rushed for Tech. Little scored six touchdowns and two conversions for 40 points, with Leblanc scoring the other TD.

Defensively, Whitman made eight tackles and Travis Eastman had seven, Camryn Laster and Yetter knocked passes away, and Whitman picked one off.

Before the Pathfinder victory, Tech had outscored their opponents 78-13. Two other teams in the Intercounty North, Athol and Mahar, had equal numbers, but both teams lost last week while Tech blew out Pathfinder.

Athol, now stinging from that first loss, comes to Tech this Friday to try to reverse last year's rain-drenched 16-12 loss against the Eagles.



**BIG PICTURE** from page A1

don't realize that the Carnegie is their main library. So that's been interesting, navigating the differences between the villages and making sure we're meeting their disparate needs. It's like working in three completely different towns sometimes!

**MR:** *Have you had to back off of any great ideas?*

**CK:** I tried to hit the ground running a little bit too quickly when it came to efficiency and workflow. I implemented a lot of systems that didn't exist before – like, there was no digital calendar of who was taking vacation. It all worked itself out in the first year, and now things are pretty smooth. We set up an automatic purchasing thing, so that every time a Danielle Steele book comes out we automatically order it....

The folks at the branches have really stepped up, both Kate [Martineau] and Jake [Goldman], and are doing programs at their respective locations. We've actually done a lot of work in the last few months to upgrade the branches, and make sure they're worthy of their communities.

**MR:** *What's been happening at Montague Center?*

**CK:** Thanks to calls from the community, the selectboard allocated ARPA funds to redo the roof, the windows, and the windowsills, which should be done in the next week or two.

**MR:** *And now the Millers work is underway.*

**CK:** We should have it completely repainted, with new floors, and reopened before the end of the month. Then we're getting a new circulation desk – Sam French is going to build us a desk that's ADA-compliant for both staff and patrons. He does really cool work. The storefront façade is really bright, and also leaky – when it rains, water pours under the doors. We're going to put that in as a capital improvement proposal.

I just found out that we got approved for a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine for a sound-dampening pod, which allows two people to meet – it has soundproof paneling which allows people to meet privately but still be in a public space. The idea is to have folks from the Brick House or

the Food Bank do consultations for things like SNAP and fuel assistance.

**MR:** *How's the food pantry there going?*

**CK:** Really well. I recently tallied all the stats from the first 10 months, and we had 856 [visits]. We have 30 or 40 users who regularly come in. We've started offering some hygiene supplies as well.

**MR:** *And then the big one: what's going on under this roof?*

**CK:** Well, we're finally going to be working on this basement, getting rid of this grandpa-den vibe. Before I started, a bunch of water came in through the back wall.... We've still got some infiltration, but it's less of a problem, but some of the paneling is warped so we're assuming the insulation is pretty gross. We're replacing all of that. Before my time, rodents apparently used to run across the ceiling, so it's a bit of a biohazard up there too. This space was actually deemed uninhabitable about 10 years ago by the then-health director. It improved quite a bit when they removed the moldy carpet, but the director's office remains down here.

When this is redone the children's office is going to move to the second floor, and [library technician] Kathleen [Lacey] will move her office down here. It will also be climate-controlled, so we're going to move our more delicate historical materials down here, and the local history room will get to be a local history room again. Unfortunately you can't fit a wheelchair in there, so I can't use it for public meetings, but groups will be able to book it.

**MR:** *Do a lot of people still come here because it's where they can get on the internet?*

**CK:** Not a ton. People mostly access the internet on their phones, but it's difficult to print out a form from your smartphone, so people come in to do job applications or print forms. They're coming here to fax, and we're still a place people get their tax forms and that sort of thing.

**MR:** *How have the community's needs of its libraries changed?*

**CK:** I think the needs have actually been the same for a really long time, we've just been making do. They first tried to add on to this



JACKSON PHOTO

building in 1915, just 10 years after construction. The Carnegie Corporation said, "No, we gave you a bunch of money and you used it frivolously, so we're not giving you any more funds to add on to your building."

So there hasn't been a public programming space that's accessible, ever. Our children's room is 15 feet from our quiet reading room.... For a long time public programs were held on the second floor, but it's not ADA-compliant, so by law we're not supposed to have programs up there.

When we applied for the grant we did a survey, focus groups, and two public meetings, and we plugged in all the feedback to determine what space we need. Whether we add on to the Carnegie or build a new building, we determined the amount of space we need is just under 17,000 square feet. That's more than three times the public space in this building.

**MR:** *So you hear in January, and if it isn't approved, can you put one in for the following year?*

**CK:** No, they only fund projects every five to eight years. But I'm feeling pretty hopeful, since we were funded 25 years ago, and nothing much has changed since then!

If it is approved, the next step is to hire an architect, who will create designs based on those three options. We'll have public meetings, focus groups – a very large public comment period during which we'll narrow it down. I wouldn't be super surprised if the state tells us we can't build on this lot, because it would be really hard to get sufficient parking...

**MR:** *Picking a building up and*

*moving it over: who wants that?*

**CK:** More people than you'd think! The idea was suggested to me by multiple people, including some department heads. We got a quote from a company – it would cost \$600,000 to move it, probably double that to unhook all this stuff.

**MR:** *Is the idea just that it's a beautiful, neat-looking building, so we should keep it as the library?*

**CK:** So many people really love this library, and I understand – it's gorgeous. They don't build them like that anymore, with oak columns and mosaic marble floors. And for everyone who grew up here, this is what a library should feel like. So if it's a realistic possibility, and it's not going to cost much more than a new building, I'm all for exploring it.

There are definitely options that are easier than others, but easy isn't always best for the community. And we want a project that's going to pass at a ballot, so it's going to be a delicate balance of giving the people what they want but also trying not to break the bank.... Based on the size of the project, the state will pay for about half, and we would be on the hook for about the other half. I don't want to give any numbers yet.

**MR:** *So you're looking at an override vote, and that would be what, a year and a half from January?*

**CK:** Yeah, I think it would go to town meeting in May 2026, and they would determine if it goes to a ballot after that.

**MR:** *Was there discussion about this being part of your tenure here*

*when you got the job?*

**CK:** No, but I did my due diligence, and I saw they had these three architects' reports about the state of the buildings, so I knew that bringing them up to snuff would be a big part of it. But a new building was not something I understood to be deeply desired until I did the strategic plan.

**MR:** *A perennial concern that comes up is fear that there would be closures of the branches if anything changes. I hear reassurance that everything's going to stay status quo?*

**CK:** At this point it's a non-issue. With the application we had to submit a comprehensive library plan, and ours basically said even if [we] build a building, nothing is going to happen to the branches. We're not going to change the hours, we're not going to close the buildings, operations will be the same. And the selectboard signed off, thank goodness.

**MR:** *How do you see the role of the libraries in a changing world, and a changing Montague?*

**CK:** I wish for all residents to think of the libraries as having something to offer to them, whatever their needs are. I would like to have a space where people can spend time, and not have to spend money – intergenerational, but with a separate area for teens, and a nice children's area where they have early literacy stuff.

We're about to start our first ESOL collection, and so programming in that direction has been on my mind. I'm also mindful that, as climate change becomes more and more of an issue, it would be good to have the library as a space for people to have shelter as a community, because many people are walkers and can't get up to the high school...

So much of it just has to do with space: private study rooms where people can work or have a teleconference visit with their doctor. Lest we go the way of Blockbuster or Borders Books, libraries need to provide spaces, materials, and services that foster connection, innovation, learning, and entertainment.

And Montague makes this a very achievable endeavor, because people like each other. They want to connect with each other, and they want to lift up and support their neighbors. It's why I like my job so much.



## CLIMATE from page A1

Ministries, to be conducted in Spanish.

"Community input, especially from environmental justice communities, is crucial in this process," Kara Runsten of the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs wrote to the *Reporter*.

Runsten is the statewide coordinator of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, which provides grants to cities and towns "to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects."

Massachusetts initiated the MVP in 2017 under Governor Charlie Baker, and in its first round Montague received \$33,750 to engineering a solution to perennial flooding on Montague City Road. The town was then funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out that work, building buffers and carving drainage ditches along the road, which runs along the path of the 1798 barge canal.

Montague has also been awarded \$80,000 in MVP funding for the current fiscal year, to "apply... climate resiliency recommendations to each of the individual chapters" of the town's Comprehensive Plan.

The state launched a parallel program, "MVP 2.0," under the Maura Healey administration in April 2023 with a focus on involving

groups deemed particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in setting towns' priorities. MVP 2.0 offers planning grants, plus potential funding for "seed projects" identified by members of those groups.

"Climate resiliency looks different in every community," Runsten told the *Reporter*. "[I]t's important to provide municipalities with the resources to hire community liaisons to partner with municipal staff and be trained on resilience and equity best practices."

In August 2023, Montague was selected to participate in the new program, receiving a grant of \$95,000 – \$45,000 to identify the community's priorities, to be followed by \$50,000 if a "seed project," which could be carried out in nine or ten months, is identified. The town hired the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to coordinate the project.

According to Tamsin Flanders, a FRCOG land use planner working with town planner Maureen Pollock to administer the grant, the program is divided into three phases: creating a "core team" of staff and community members; revising Montague's resilience priorities with an emphasis on equity and community input; and selecting and carrying out a seed project.

Flanders told us the core team "is crucial to understanding how this process works." She said that the team, which includes seven com-

munity representatives, four town employees, and two FRCOG staffers, meets every two weeks for "trainings, discussion, engagement planning, and reflection."

The core team has been busy over the past spring and summer, distributing and tabulating surveys, interviewing residents, and convening focus groups. At one point, its members even rode on the local public transportation system, run by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), and sent their observations to FRTA director Tina Cote. Pollock rode her bike from Greenfield to Turners Falls, then joined the group on their trip back to the city.

In August, 117 residents responded to a survey about "social resilience." While 53 said they felt their interests were "represented in this community and the Town's decisions," that sentiment was lower among tenants, respondents under 25, those who work outdoors, and those who had moved to the US recently.

In terms of material concerns, 70 said the cost of food was a concern, 75 said either cost or repairs were the biggest concern with their housing, 48 worried about access to health care, and 42 identified stress as a major issue. Sixty-nine said they were sometimes unable to get where they needed to go, and 57 said they didn't know what help is available in the town.

While many (48) said floods did not affect

them, some said they caused issues with their housing (31) or ability to get around (23). More said they were affected by storms, primarily in terms of time spent outdoors (37), but also due to impacts on housing from downed trees and power outages, and on their anxiety.

At this month's public events, the core team hopes to hear more feedback from the broader community about its needs before it begins brainstorming a seed project.

Next Tuesday's session at the Shea Theater starts at 5:30 p.m. with soup and bread provided by Great Falls Harvest, and at 6 p.m. the core team will give presentations about their recent activities and goals. This will be followed by "breakout sessions" for attendees to discuss the issues and give feedback, according to Pollock.

The Spanish-language event on October 24 starts at 6:30 p.m. and follows the same format.

According to a "process guide" for the grant program, in order to "unlock" the final \$50,000 in funding, the core team must again "[v]et the project with community members, to ensure that people who will be most impacted by climate change inform decisions related to the project." Stay tuned...

Mike Jackson provided additional reporting.



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

impending \$33,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a new police cruiser, and discussed strategies for funding a range of projects, including upgrades to the sewer systems and smaller jobs that could be covered by state Green Communities grants.

The meeting began with Pollock’s presentation of the plans to slow traffic in Montague Center, for the town’s application for a state Complete Streets grant. The first slide showed Main Street from Union to the southern tip of the town common. The proposal, developed by the Watertown-based design firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., is to install two raised sidewalks across Main Street at Union and Station streets with flashing beacons at each.

**The existing bike lanes would be extended to South Street, Pollock said, and a new bus shelter would be built in front of the post office.**

New ground-level sidewalks were proposed across Main and North streets to the tip of of the common, as well as across Station and Union streets. The existing bike lanes would be extended to South Street, Pollock said, and a new bus shelter would be built in front of the post office. The bus shelter in front of the Village Store would then be moved north, leaving space in front of the store for a new parking “cut-out.”

The second slide included new ground-level crosswalks across Main and Central streets to the western tip of the common, and improvements to the crosswalks at Central and North streets. Pollock explained that these need to be regraded to make them compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Finally, Pollock discussed placing a flashing beacon on the curve where Main Street meets School Street and Court Square, and another raised sidewalk with beacons near the Montague Bookmill, between the bridge over the Sawmill River and Old Greenfield Road. Pollock said these elements would not be part of the Complete Streets application because the location had already received funding under that program, but she mentioned several other funding possibilities.

The selectboard was generally positive about the plan, with member Matt Lord, himself a Center Street resident, saying he thought the raised sidewalks and beacons would reduce speeding, the main concern of residents.

“We may not think of flashing lights as part of the old-time charm of Montague Center, but it’s not like they will be constantly flashing,”

Lord said. “I think that’s a really good choice to preserve the historical character of the district.”

Ariel Elan, a resident of Turners Falls Road, profusely thanked Pollock for “all the work that’s been done on this in such a short period of time.”

Leigh Rae, who lives on Center Street, asked why the crosswalks “at the beginning and end of the park” would not also be elevated. “Even with all these improvements,” she said, “unless we have more raised crosswalks, I don’t see that this is going to slow the traffic.”

Jeri Moran, who also lives on Center Street, said she supported Rae’s comments and that without more “raised areas – speed bumps, or whatever you want to call them – these are not going to be as effective as we hope.”

“This is one tool in the toolbox,” responded Pollock, noting that each raised crosswalk would be expensive, but that the town would continue to apply for grants. “The town should monitor the before-and-after,” she said, “and look at other areas to explore.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that the two raised crosswalks in the design were very close together, and suggested that Pollock move one to the southern tip of the common. The board then unanimously voted to authorize the planning department to submit the application, which Pollock said was due “by 11:59 tomorrow night.”

**New Green Deals**

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller reviewed with the board a strategy for applying for grants under the state’s Green Communities program. He showed a chart listing money the town, which is officially designated as a Green Community, has received from the program. He said that “in the ideal world” the town would have a large project funded under a single application, but “it looks like we are on a track to having a series of smaller projects.”

**Selectboard member Matt Lord said he had heard some “citizen complaints” about lighting in the Fourth Street alley, which might be considered for a Green Communities grant.**

The list for the upcoming year included exhaust fan controls at Hillcrest Elementary School; LED lighting in the Second Street alley next to the Shea Theater; a hybrid or fully electric Ford F-150 pickup truck, along with a charging station, for the public works department;

and a mini-split heating system at the airport. The total estimated cost for these items was up to \$67,500.

Lord said he had heard some “citizen complaints” about lighting in the Fourth Street alley, which might be considered for the grant list. Kuklewicz raised the issue of the noisy HVAC system in the second floor meeting room at town hall, which he said could be replaced by mini-splits.

**Foregone Conclusions**

Town administrator Walter Ramsey discussed a range of “emerging priorities and projects” related to infrastructure. These included upgrades to the sewer systems, as required under the town’s federal wastewater permit; records digitalization and financial software at the town hall; and upgrades to the meeting room in the town hall annex.

Ramsey did not discuss the potential cost of these projects, most of which are in the town’s long-term capital plan and will need to be discussed by the finance and capital improvements committees.

Ramsey announced that the town was “just getting around” to submitting an application to the USDA, which the board had previously approved, seeking a \$33,000 grant toward the purchase of a police cruiser. He said the award of the grant to fund the cruiser, which is usually a line item in the police budget, was a “foregone conclusion.”

The town would be responsible for the remaining cost, which he estimated at an additional \$27,000.

**Other Business**

Ramsey began the next fiscal year’s budget process, asking permission to request that department heads notify him of any staffing changes they envision. “Past practice,” he said, has been to get proposed changes to the selectboard “as soon as possible.” He suggested that departments be given until November 30 to appear before the board explaining their requests.

The board did not take a formal vote, but Kuklewicz said “Yup,” and the other members nodded.

Ramsey told the board he had received a letter from residents who live near the pedestrian bridge that crosses the railroad tracks and connects Greenfield and Old Greenfield roads. The residents said a vehicle had crashed into the gate limiting access to the bridge, which emergency vehicles may open, and they “urged the town to take some action,” in Ramsey’s words.

Ramsey noted that this was in fact a state bridge, so he contacted the regional office of the Department of Transportation, who “have agreed to look into it,” and might work with the town on design alternatives. “We got a letter, and action is happening,” he said.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 7.

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**BEN AND REX SEEK ALISON AND LUCY**

While walking their dogs at Unity Park recently, Ben (and Rex) met Alison (and Lucy).

They chatted about attending Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and how much they liked Cape Cod, and after a few minutes went their separate ways.

Ben is now regretting he didn’t ask for her phone number or arrange another time to walk the dogs.

If Alison and Lucy would like to meet Ben and Rex again, they can be reached at (413) 768-8184.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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Above: A seasonal greeting is indicated at Ciesluk Farmstand in Deerfield.

# CONCERT PREVIEW

## AREA’S LEADING ROCK PUPPIES THROW RECORD RELEASE SHOW

By BELLA LEVAVI

**GREENFIELD** – After five years of performing under the moniker “Rocking Puppies,” Greenfield-based father-daughter duo Michael and Pema Crigler are releasing their much-anticipated debut album this week, complete with an album release show this

Saturday at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center. The album revolves around punk themes of food that will make your teeth hurt if you are over ten years old, animals, and undead or mythical creatures. “Our songs are getting more complex as we age as a band,” Michael Crigler said.

The Rocking Puppies formed when the family was searching for activities during COVID; they began writing songs and making videos at home. They played their first show next to Unity Park in Turners Falls at the Nice. Snack Parlor. The shaved ice company will be vending alongside Ice Cream Alley at their album release party, selling specially made flavors inspired by the band.

They started making music when Pema was four years old. She is now nine. “It was really tiring and boring,” Pema Crigler explained, reflecting on the recording of her first album. She noted that she lost her voice for about a month after the project was completed – she had tracked the timing based on a sleepover she had several weeks after the band finished recording. The album, *Civilized Show-Off*, was recorded at Greenfield-based 1357 Recording Studio. While the band officially consists of the two family members, Marc Seedorf played bass and handled production, see **PUPPIES** page B8



The Rocking Puppies – left to right, Michael Crigler, drummer Nik Perry, and Pema Crigler— shown here at a previous concert at Greenfield’s 10 Forward.

## NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

by Trouble Mandeson

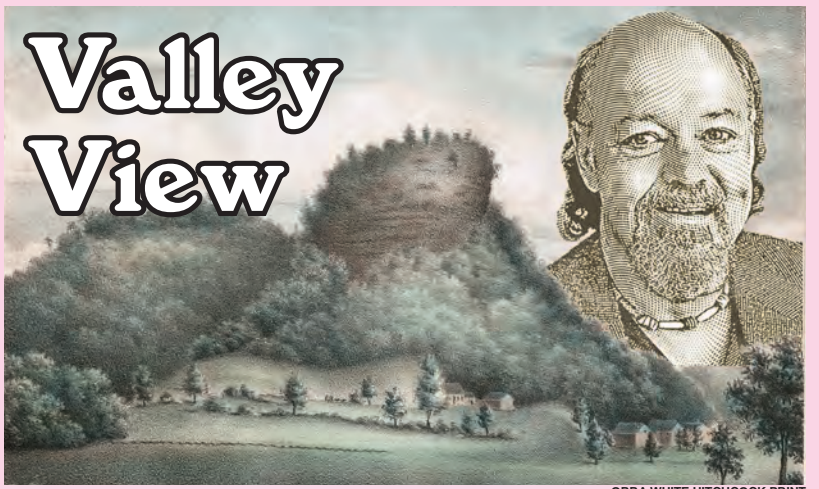
**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Snack foods, oh yes! What would we do without sweet or salty, crunchy or crispy snacks? Potato chips, pretzels, and popcorn! Chocolate bars, cake, and caramels! Danishes, donuts, and deep-fried Oreos! There’s no end to the variety of snack foods available around the globe. My personal favorite of the crunchy salty snacks are pork *chicharrónes*. Not the bland brands from the supermarket, but the type that have fat and skin still attached. Oh yes, there’s no comparison. One must visit Mexico, or an authentic Mexican stand – or, luckily for us, J.J. Bros., a Mexican market in Hadley that carries just the brand I like, along with many other Latin treats. Once while visiting Mexico, I returned from a solo walk hefting a humongous bag of *chicharrónes* I had purchased for a few pesos. I told the shopkeeper I wanted one, “uno,” meaning one giant crunchy piece, but I guess he thought I

meant one bag. I had so many of them that I flew home with half a bag still uneaten. A weird fact: it’s legal to fly with *chicharrónes* from Mexico, but only from certain Mexican states, just in case you hope to do the same... or is it just me? According to market research

by the Mintel Group Ltd., retail sales in the US of salty snacks reached nearly \$30 billion in 2023, with young adults as the greatest consumers of salty snacks, whether at mealtime or simply out of boredom. Frequent snackers often seek see **HEARTFELT** page B4



A plethora of Scottish treats, sent to the author in an annual holiday box from friends.



## The Hunters of Squirrel

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – The Harvest Moon has passed, ushering into the midnight sky a new Hunter’s Moon to greet our annual fall hunting seasons.

Well, actually, bear and squirrel hunters entered the woods a month ago, though I must say I’m not sure how many of either remain amongst us. Interest in squirrel hunting has waned, and in the modern day bear hunting has always appealed only to a small fraternity.

When I was a kid growing up in South Deerfield, there were no bears. Now there are many, some occasionally pestering my old, more densely populated village. Times have changed.

When I was young, and less so into adulthood, I knew squirrel hunters. Not what I’d call serious hunters. Just a few diehards looking for an excuse to get out in the nut groves early and assess what was happening. These early-bird nimrods also welcomed the opportunity to fine-tune their shooting skills while getting a sneak peek at pre-rut deer sign.

Nowadays serious concerns about dangerous tick- and mosquito-borne illness have greatly complicated matters. Can’t say I recall any such worries when I was young. If they existed, I surely would have been aware. Nope. Never a word about ticks and Lyme disease, or mosquitoes and triple-E or West Nile virus.

The squirrel-hunting weapon of choice among old-timers I knew was the old Savage or Stevens 22/410 over-and-under. If memory serves me right, some of these handy little long guns had two triggers. Later models had one trigger with a barrel selector on the receiver. Seems to me both versions had manual, pull-back hammers, but I may be wrong on that.

The bottom, full-choke, .410-gauge barrel was typically loaded with No. 4 or 6 shot that fired tight, dense patterns for acrobatic, skittering, leaping targets. The top, .22-caliber barrel held an accurate, high-speed long-rifle

cartridge for precision accuracy aimed at stationary targets standing tall and straight on their hind legs, clutching a nut at mouth level between their front feet. Squirrel hunters would move into a nut grove as quietly as possible and settle in, giving their quarry a chance to forget about their presence. Then, once the squirrels got back into their normal, rollicking routine, opportunities for kill shots increased. Some hunters even used mouth calls as aids to stop their quarry or bring it closer. I suspect there is a potential for conflict between squirrel and bear hunters, because shagbark hickory groves are popular among both. That said, I can’t recall ever learning of any ugly, confrontational incident. Although I myself never was a squirrel hunter, I have eaten sweet, tender squirrel meat. I’ve sampled halves separated along the backbone and sautéed with onions, peppers, garlic, and wild mushrooms in a large, preferably covered cast-iron skillet, and I’ve also eaten it parboiled and picked clean from the bones in delicious casseroles and meat-and-veggie pies. I can’t help but wonder how many local families still have their grandmothers’ Yankee recipes? My guess is not many. Maybe some hilltowners still know recipes by heart. If not, I’m sure they could find some good ones in old, soiled cast-iron or wild-game cookbooks – or by Googling it. In colonial New England, squirrels were ubiquitous, destructive nuisances that harmed home, garden, and orchard. Eventually, bounties were offered for squirrel “scalps” – that is, pelts used for inner and outer clothing and various accoutrements. In those days, times were hard and wastefulness was sinful. So, not only were squirrels valued for their salubrious meat, but their pelts became warm stockings, hats and earmuffs, handy bags and pouches, and other useful everyday items. Also of interest, it is said that due to marksmanship skills honed see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

# Pet of the Week



## ‘MAUI’

Meet majestic Maui! Maui is a loveable, quiet and affectionate guy who enjoys lounging on the couch just as much as he loves to play. He enjoys spending his days close to his family and waiting for someone to play with him. Maui has lived with children and another cat who he enjoyed playing with and sleeping next to.

Change is hard for this cat. Maui will be very nervous when you first bring him home. You will need to set up a room with a litter box, food, and water. It will take days for him to become comfortable and confident in the new home. This cat will be going

home with a behavior plan that will need to be followed in order for everyone to transition successfully.

Interested in adopting? Come in during open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., or call the Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org) for information.

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

## Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 7 THROUGH 12

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

### 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 10/7**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Kitchen Club with Upinngil  
**Tuesday 10/8**  
9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
10 a.m. Grandparents Raising Teens  
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday: Drop-In Tech Help  
3 p.m. Tai Chi  
4:30 p.m. RiverCulture meeting  
**Wednesday 10/9**  
9 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)  
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga  
**Thursday 10/10**  
10 a.m. Flu Clinic  
**Friday 10/11**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
2 p.m. Chair Dance  
**Saturday 10/12**  
10 a.m. Montague Villages Meet & Greet

### 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 10/7**  
9 a.m. Interval  
10 a.m. Seated Dance  
12 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday 10/8**  
9 a.m. Good for U  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
11 a.m. Social Stringers  
**Wednesday 10/9**  
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning  
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 10/10**  
9 a.m. Barre Fusion  
10 a.m. Pilates Flow  
**Friday 10/11**  
9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### 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.

## OCTOBER 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:** *Grab & Go Bags.* Craft: silly monster friend. At all branches while supplies last.

**Every Tuesday:** *Imagination Station.* Drop-in craft, ages 6 to 12. Carnegie, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, October 2:** *Knitting Club.* All ages. Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

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

**Saturday, October 5:** *Used Book Sale.* Fiction, kids' books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Monday, October 7:** *Friends of MPL Meeting.* Email [kristopherlangston@gmail.com](mailto:kristopherlangston@gmail.com). Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, October 17:** *Graphic Novel Book Club.* Miriam Bonastre Tur, *Hooky*. Ages 8 to 12. To register email [gracenm@montague-ma.gov](mailto:gracenm@montague-ma.gov). Carnegie, 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 19:** *Art Naturally: Leaf Printing.* Discovery Center, 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, October 19:** *Slow-Stitched Journal Covers.* Ages 12 and up, registration required: [kmartineau@cwmars.org](mailto:kmartineau@cwmars.org). Montague Center, 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 23:** *Art Exhibit closing reception.* Paintings by Meaghan Schwelm. Montague Center, 6 to 7 p.m.

**Thursday, October 24:** *Book Club.* Daniel Mason, *North Woods*. Montague Center, 7 p.m.

**Friday, October 25:** *Meet and Greet with Montague Villages.* Montague Center, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Saturday, October 26:** *Find Us at the Farmers Market.* Peskeompskut Park, 10 a.m. to noon.

**Monday, October 28:** *Craft Club.* All ages. Montague Center, 4 p.m.

### ERVING

**Sunday, October 6:** *Artist Reception.* MassArt furniture class, wood from local microburst. Refreshments. 11 a.m.

**Sunday, October 6:** *Local Kid Authors Reading.* Emma and Belley Barrett, *Sister Detectives*. 1 p.m.

**Every Monday:** *Playgroup.* For ages 0 to 5. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, October 13:** *Puzzle Swap.* All ages, no puzzle required. 1 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, October 13:** *Genealogy Drop-In Help.* 1 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, October 20:** *Craft Day.* Make a sturdy no-sew tote bag. Materials provided. Drop-in 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, October 27:** *Erving Halloween.* 4 to 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 29:** *All-Abilities Social.* Halloween dance party, costume optional, snacks, ALL are welcome. Sign-up required. Two sessions, noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.

### LEVERETT

**Ongoing:** *Art Exhibit.* Drawings and etchings by Frank A. Waugh. Through October 26.

**Tuesday, October 1:** *Craft Circle.* For adults. 6:30 p.m.

**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.

**Saturday, October 5:** *Exhibit reception,* lecture with curator Annaliese Bischoff. 1:30 p.m.

**Every Monday and Wednesday:** *Online Qigong.* See [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org) or email [communityqigong@gmail.com](mailto:communityqigong@gmail.com) for info. 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, October 8:** *Game Night.* All ages. 6:30 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *CNC Playgroup.* Ages 0 to 5 with caregiver. 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesdays starting October 9:** *Basic Drawing for Adults.* Six-week class, registration required: [leverettprograms@cwmars.org](mailto:leverettprograms@cwmars.org). 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, October 17:** *LEGO Builders,* ages 5 to 12, 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 22:** *Draw your Favorite Tree.* Gallery program for adults. 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26:** *Friends of Library Annual Meeting:* Lucy Marshall and working women in early Leverett. 1 p.m.

**Thursday, October 31:** *Halloween Event.*

### NORTHFIELD

**All month:** *In-Library Kids' Scavenger Hunt.*

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

**Every Wednesday:** *Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin.* For toddlers and preschoolers. 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 2:** *Readers' Choice Book Group.* Marie Benedict, *The Personal Librarian.* Pick up at the library. 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 2:** *Tech Help.* Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

**Thursday, October 3:** *Spice Club pickup starts.* Sample and recipes while supplies last. This month: Chinese five spice.

**Friday, October 4:** *Coffee/Tea*

*Social.* 10 to 11 a.m.

**Saturday, October 5:** *Puzzle Swap.* For info, email [friendsofdml01360@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdml01360@gmail.com). 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, October 5:** *Dog Show.* Family-friendly. Free to watch, \$5 per dog with child handler, \$10 per dog with adult handler. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 9:** *Readings Group.* John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath.* Pick up at the library. 3 p.m.

**Thursday, October 10:** *Trivia Night.* Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, October 10:** *Environmental Book Group.* Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Water Knife.* Pick up at the library. 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 11:** *Take-and-Make Craft.* This month: pipe cleaner spider. While supplies last.

**Thursday, October 17:** *Local Author Reading.* Richie Davis, inspiring stories about heroes of our region. 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 23:** *Poetry Discussion* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

**Thursday, October 24:** *Book Group.* Read "a book about a time in history you'd like to know more about." 5:30 p.m.

### WENDELL

**All month:** *Art Exhibit,* "Dark Barns and Dream Sheds" by Nate Longcope.

**Every Tuesday:** *Art Group,* 5 p.m.; *Intro to Astrology,* registration required, 6:30 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *CNC Playgroup* with Sylvia, 10 a.m.; *Movie,* 4 p.m. *Yoga,* 6 p.m.

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

**Every Sunday:** *Yoga.* 10 a.m.

**Sunday, October 6:** *Making Colorful Shadow Puppets,* reg. req'd, 1 p.m.; *Grand Opening of the Adventure Trail,* cider and donuts, 2 to 3 p.m.; *Halloween Harvest,* Participatory song and storytelling, 3 to 4 p.m.

**Tuesdays, October 8 and 22:** *Cyber Seniors Tech Help.* Register or walk in. 2 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, October 13:** *Celebration of Life for Margo Culley,* Meetinghouse, followed by tree dedication and refreshments at the Library. 2 p.m.

**Saturday, October 19:** *How Things Move in Nature.* Registration required, call/text (978) 935-4909. 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, October 22:** *Free Spooky Henna.* 5 to 7 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26:** *Ghost Town at Sundown.* Pop-up trick-or-treat village on the Common. Dusk.

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Montague Community Television News

# Holding Court

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The wild and dramatic life of local actor Court Dorsey was honored at the Wendell Meetinghouse on September 9. Friends and community members gathered to recollect the years past, and their memories will forever be held in the MCTV archive and on our Vimeo page.

We have a full roster of meetings to share with you this week, including the Montague planning committee, the Montague conservation commission, the Gill selectboard, and the Montague selectboard. We have footage from the Shea Theater mural ribbon cutting as well!

And if you want to join in on the fun, consider applying to MCTV. If

you have any experience or interest in editing or filming, you should get in touch. We’re always looking to bring more people on board!

All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9 as well as being featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. If there is a meeting, event, performance or happening in the Montague area that you think MCTV should capture, let us know. And if you also have an idea for a show, MCTV is always available to assist in local productions as well. Just reach out!

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

AT THE FAIR

## Mark and Luisa Chartier: Enchanted Gardens

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I found another two unique individuals to write about at the Franklin County Fair. A couple was selling fossils, crystals, and minerals there. I am into that, more or less, so I was interested in them.

Mark and Luisa Chartier call themselves “Enchanted Gardens.” It was another nice find to discover at this event. I first talked to Luisa about writing a profile on them, and then it turned into me interviewing her husband. Both were very helpful.

Enchanted Gardens is at 75 Coolidge Street in Athol, and they have been there for 13 years. They have been in business for that long, too. Mark told me he has been collecting since he was 14, but it was “her idea to start the business.” Some of the fossils in these places are trilobites and the crystals are quartz, aquamarine, and tourmaline. Some of the minerals are pyrite and garnets.

“We sell rocks, minerals, crystals, and fossils from all over the world, and local specimens as well,” Mark said. The places they are from include Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia, Bulgaria, Madagascar, Morocco, Mexico, and the USA.

I asked Mark what one of his favorite items was, and he told me a mineral called fluorite was his favorite. “They crystallize,” he said.

I asked him how long Enchanted Gardens have been doing the Franklin County Fair. He said, “For five years now.” Going to fairs is a regular thing they do, apparently: Mark said, “We do a fair every weekend from July to October.”

At the time of the interview, he also mentioned that the Belcher-town Fair, which was the next weekend, would be their last fair of the season. They have been doing that one for five years as well.

After that, they have a shop in their home where customers can get these items. They named it “Enchanted Gardens” because they were selling fairy gardens at one point. Mark said he believes the business is popular with people, and when I asked him which of the three items are the most popular – fossils, crystals, and minerals – he said “All three, really.... The interest in them has increased a lot over the years.”

I don’t know if I would find selling these items to be fun, but both Mark and Luisa enjoy doing this. The Enchanted Gardens Facebook page is at [www.facebook.com/markusallen78](http://www.facebook.com/markusallen78).



FACEBOOK PHOTO

The Chartiers sell crystals, minerals, and fossils from their Athol location (above) when they are not out at fairs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Pink Dots; Beleaguered Laundromat; Duffel Bag; Pole Just Found Out Why They Call It Bangs Street

**Monday, 9/23**

8:13 a.m. Caller from Fairway Avenue would like it on record that somebody went through his car last night and threw stuff everywhere. He does not believe anything is missing. 9:58 a.m. Male party with active warrant located in Peskeompskut Park. A 43-year-old man, address unknown, was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:58 a.m. Caller states that there are small pink spots of spray paint around High Street, Avenue B, and Stevens Street. Fence on Avenue B was painted on. Report taken. 5:38 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding an altercation that took place earlier. Caller advises he confronted a male in the Salvation Army parking lot about the way he treated one of his friends. Caller states the male hit the caller's shopping cart with his vehicle and drove off. Report taken; advised of options.

7:58 p.m. 911 caller advises his girlfriend was just involved in an accident on Federal Street; deer vs. vehicle; no smoke, fluids, or injuries to humans, but the deer is suffering. Prior to clearing, officer advised the deer had been dispatched. Message left for DPW to pick up tomorrow. **Tuesday, 9/24**

3:54 a.m. Employee at Nouria advises that a party in the store told her that someone was breaking into the machines at the Third Street laundromat. Officer advises no one in area matching description. Units checked involved location; building locked and secured. No marks indicating that anyone had attempted to gain access. 8:24 a.m. Caller states that her Ring camera on Davis Street was being moved and then became disconnected; would like an officer to see if it's still on the door. Maintenance had to remove it to do work; they will put it back when they are done.

8:55 a.m. Party approached cruiser and reported suspicious person at the donation boxes in the Food City parking lot; reported subject's whole body is in the container with his feet sticking out, and clothes are all over the ground. Subject advised, as well as being advised of discarded blankets around town. Subject picked up blanket that he discarded in front of Walgreens.

2 p.m. Caller states she went for a walk earlier and a male was looking at her and talking, but she doesn't know what he was saying because she is deaf. She would like the male to be told to leave her alone. Referred to an officer.

8:14 p.m. Caller states she was taking pictures of the wildlife at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center, and a male who is fishing in the river just started peeing into the river. Advised of options. 2:20 p.m. Caller from Third Street laundromat states he has found more damage and stuff stolen. States he would like to speak with someone about getting the male apprehended so he doesn't have to shut the laundromat down, but he has now had thousands of dollars' worth of stuff stolen or damaged. Officer spoke with caller.

3:01 p.m. 911 caller reporting a blue RAV4 driving with a dog in the car with a bag over its head. When asked a specific location, caller stated, “Route 91 in Turners at the intersection.” Asked caller if he was positive it was this town, as 91 does not run through here. Caller confirmed town. Caller mapping in Greenfield; call transferred to Greenfield PD. 6:09 p.m. Officer located a white Husky with blue eyes in the road on Turners Falls Road. Officer knocked on a door, but the dog ran away.

8:38 p.m. Caller reports being followed by a dark four-door sedan that is circling Fourth Street. Five or six people wearing black ski masks are in the car and made threats to rob him. Unable to locate. **Wednesday, 9/25**

3:37 a.m. Caller from Third Street states she was awoken to loud noise/music coming from a neighboring apartment. Officer advises apartment is dark and quiet upon their arrival. 12 p.m. Caller reports that there is a pack of chickens on the property of Greenfield Cooperative Bank that is digging up the plants and going into the road. Reports calling animal control officer three times and getting nowhere. ACO advising he is at training. Officer advised.

5:29 p.m. Officer attempting to locate male with warrants on Fifth Street. 7:36 p.m. Caller from Wentworth Avenue reports that her dog was bitten by another dog this morning. She will be contacting the ACO tomorrow. **Thursday, 9/26**

6:40 a.m. Party in lobby reporting that about an hour ago he forgot his one-wheel skateboard at the park and ride; when he returned to get it half an hour later it was no longer there. Light blue color with orange foot pads. Report taken. 11:22 a.m. Officer reporting chickens in the children's playground at Peskeompskut Park. Messages left with board of health and ACO. ACO called back and

is on his way. ACO advises chickens are back home; they belong to a house across from the park. **Friday, 9/27**

10:24 a.m. Officer witnessed female party with active warrant driving a vehicle with an expired license. A 39-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant. 10:41 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that a car alarm has been going off for over an hour. Officer made contact with vehicle owner. They shut the alarm off and have agreed to keep an eye on it.

1:32 p.m. Caller reporting that a male driving a dark gray Chrysler is always out back in the Fourth Street alleyway; caller believes he is dealing drugs. Caller states he just left with a female from the alleyway in his car and is carrying some sort of duffel bag. Unable to locate. 3:24 p.m. Caller reporting that a Water Department cap that covers a pipe in the street at Montague City Road and Rastallis Street came off and is lying by the street sign. Water Department notified and responding.

5:36 p.m. Report of cat inside the fence line at Water Pollution Control Facility that looks like it is looking for a way out. Cat does not appear injured or in distress. Caller inquiring if ACO can respond. MPD officer advises negative for ACO; advises cat will likely find its way back out. **Saturday, 9/28**

6:46 a.m. Caller reporting tree down blocking the south lane of travel on Greenfield Road. No wires involved. Officer moved tree out of road. 6:58 a.m. Vehicle repossession on Second Street. 12:46 p.m. Walgreens employee states that a male is threatening people. Area checked; party appears to have left. Officers checking park after hearing some people yelling at each other. Male located with open container of alcohol. Container poured out; male leaving park.

12:49 p.m. Caller from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine states that someone stole a bottle of liquor on September 22. Caller has video footage that they will email to the detective. 2 p.m. Caller from Dell Street would like it on record that last Saturday, someone went through his vehicle during the night and took a pair of binoculars and some darts.

3:03 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop on Avenue A. Party detained and read Miranda rights by card. Officer requesting Rau's to tow vehicle. Greenfield PD arrived on scene and took party into custody due to a

previous incident in which there was probable cause for arrest.

4:16 p.m. Caller would like to report multiple incidents of harassment involving a male party. Some of the incidents have been of a physical nature. All incidents involved the male party yelling at them until they acknowledged him and engaged with him. Caller advised that reports would be logged; also advised of 258E and 209A options.

4:55 p.m. Caller from High Street states that some signs were stolen from her property by teens, and it was witnessed by a neighbor. Caller would like to speak to an officer about how they could reach out to the teens and speak with them about their actions. Caller will check with neighbor to see if they can help identify the teens.

5:57 p.m. Caller states that a telephone pole on Bangs Street has been knocked over by a tractor. The pole is down, along with some wires; the tractor is still there. Eversource notified and will respond at a Priority 3.

6:55 p.m. 911 caller reports that another motorist struck a deer on Turners Falls Road and her car has damage. Driver appears to be OK. Car was damaged but drivable. Deer ran off into the woods. **Sunday, 9/29**

12:09 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports music playing from second floor apartment. Referred to an officer.

9:45 a.m. Caller from G Street has camera footage from overnight showing a male party trying to get into his and his wife's cars. Homeowner saw the same man this morning and told him to stay off of his property. Investigated.

10:31 a.m. Officers attempting to locate male with active warrant on Fifth Street.

12:06 p.m. Caller advising of two-car accident at Millers Falls Road and Edward Avenue. Report taken.

12:52 p.m. A 60-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.


9:50 p.m. Caller reporting the sound of a dog whining/whimpering/crying every couple of minutes in the alleyway between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Officer reports a male is working on a car, and when he gets up to get more tools, the dog whimpers.

**Monday, 9/30**

12:16 a.m. Vehicle repossession on L Street.

12:33 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting loud music from people on second floor. Ongoing issue. Call logged; units advised.

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FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

# Dollar-Bill Origami

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**MONTAGUE** – A lot of people have heard of origami. But fewer people have heard of a variation called dollar-bill origami. This is basically origami, but with dollar bills instead of origami paper.

I recently got a pack of oversized fake dollar bills and an instruction manual on how to make some basic shapes. In the last couple of weeks I have been progressing my way through the manual. Out of the 15 shapes, I have been only able to complete six. They are surprisingly more difficult than normal origami, mostly because of the size of the papers.

But first, a quick history of origami.

Origami was developed in Japan in the 6th century. The name comes from combining two Japanese words into one: *ori*, which means “to fold,” and *gami*, which means “paper.” When you put them together, *origami* literally means “to fold paper” in English.

It is very likely that origami originally

came from China in the early 2nd century after the invention of paper, but Japan was soon introduced to it, and they improved upon it much more than China had. The Japanese started to use origami more as ornaments than anything else. If somebody could do origami, they were much more respected, and seen as someone more advanced than someone who could not.

Origami has become quite popular, and a lot of different kits for making it are available. I got my kit for doing dollar-bill origami a couple of weeks ago, and after researching I have seen some pretty unique and interesting designs.

One design I found in my instruction manual showed how to turn a dollar bill into a ring. This was actually really easy, and I figured it out within the first 15 minutes. I practiced on the bigger fake dollar bills first, because I didn’t want to make bad creases on an actual dollar bill. Once I felt prepared, I did it on an actual bill and it worked!

I then moved on to some more complicated models, including a fox, a shirt, a jumping frog, and my personal favorite, a telephone. The telephone and a couple of the other ones in the book were special, because they required multiple dollar bills put together to make. The finished telephone took three bills to make!

Throughout learning from this manual I also learned a lot about the different types of folds and their corresponding names. For example, a “reverse inward fold” is when you have the paper in a triangle and you fold the paper inside itself so one of the triangle’s tips is now inside. That explanation was kind of confusing, but if you go online you will find tons of different folds. There is also the “outside reverse fold,” which is the same as the previous one except you fold it on the outside instead of the inside.

When I wasn’t doing dollar bill origami, I was doing regular origami, and there was this one fold that I kept seeing over and over again. It was called the “water-base fold,” and the name sounded very familiar and very specific.

After I searched it up, I found out that the water-base fold was used to start the water

bomb origami creation. Like the name suggests, you can fill this creation up with water, close a fold, and throw it. Upon impact it rips, and the water will pop out of it.

The major downside to this creation is that you need to remake it each time you throw it. I decided to put tape to stabilize and water-proof my water bomb so I could use it over and over again.

I have always had a lot of fun making creations out of paper. This could be origami, or even paper airplanes. I remember when I was younger I would make a line of different styles of paper airplanes and test them to find out which one was the best.

I will continue to do paper origami, and hope to complete the manual soon. There are some cool interesting ones coming up soon. I had a brief knowledge of origami history before the column, but now I feel like I know more about it than I did before.

In my next column, I will be writing about chickens. My family has recently gotten six, and I would like to share my experiences of raising them and building a coop and run, and some cool things I have noticed while caring for them.

**HEARTFELT** from page B1

more interesting flavors, seasonal twists, and international tastes, which keep snack food companies busy coming up with new ideas and selling ever more products.

More upscale than a bag of Fritos and a Slim Jim are the salty processed meats like paté, liverwurst, and prosciutto, which pair very well with cheese and fruit. I used to sit with my dad and share his special Port du Salut cheese, a a Father’s Day gift from Hickory Farms, with liverwurst and sliced green apple. Heaven.

When wifey and I make up a charcuterie board we add smoky almonds, tart olives, and cornichon pickles, along with meat, smoked fish, cheeses, and crackers. It’s an orgy of delight eating a cracker topped with tiny slices of flavors.

Speaking of flavors, we also have our sweet taste receptors,

which affect not just our mouth and our stomach but our brain. When we eat sugar our bodies release dopamine, which signals a positive event and reinforces our behavior to repeat the experience. This cycle can become an addiction just like alcohol or nicotine.

Humans have been consuming something sweet probably as long as we’ve been alive. Cavemen raided beehives for honey in 7500 BC, the ancient Romans paired it with sesame seeds, and Turkish nomads made candied fruit which still exists as Turkish Delight, a jelly candy with rosewater, bergamot, cinnamon or orange and dates, nuts, and coconut.

Raw sugar cane was domesticated in New Guinea in 8000 BC, then traveled via seafarers on the Pacific to Southeast Asia, China, and India. Chemical processing of sugar first began in India about 2,500 years ago, then spread to the Mediterranean, where Cyprus and Sicily became centers of sugar production. Before the refinement of sugar, common sweeteners like honey, sweet beans, glutinous rice, barley, and maple syrup were used.

Chocolate has been used by humans since the ancient Maya and Aztec, and even earlier; the Olmecs of southern Mexico used it ceremonially. It was a bitter drink then, only becoming a sugared treat after Spanish conquistadors traveling to the Americas sweetened it with sugar or honey, even adding in vanilla or cinnamon. Eventually sweetened cocoa was made into cakes to be mixed into water or milk to make the beverage we call hot chocolate.

These days many mass-market chocolates have more sugar than cacao. While chocolate made in America tends to be lighter and sweeter – think of a mild milk chocolate Hershey bar – European chocolate like

the gold-wrapped Lindt Swiss chocolate is smoother and richer.

We eat a lot of chocolate worldwide, with Switzerland leading the US in annual consumption, followed by Denmark, France, Great Britain, Brazil, India, and China, in that order. Americans consume other types of candy to the tune of 25 pounds per person, but Sweden leads candy consumption, with the average Swede eating over half a pound a week.

Candy production began in 1500 BC with the Egyptians, who combined honey with nuts and fruits which they actually created to treat digestive ailments, but coincidentally, it tasted great. At the same time China and India jumped on the sugar train, as did the Greeks and the Romans.

The 1700s saw the first chocolate factory, and the 1800s saw caramels and lollipops. Hard candies and milk chocolates also came to the market in the 19th century. In 1847 Joseph Fry discovered how to press sugar with cocoa butter and cocoa powder in a mold, creating the early candy bar, which was quite bitter. Through trial and error other chocolatiers perfected the process, including Cadbury and Nestlé, establishing themselves as pioneers. Hershey, a household name, produces the same bar that is virtually unchanged since it began.

In the early 1900s, George Smith patented the lollipop – though ancient humans would sometimes attach wooden sticks to sticky candy, so it was not really a new idea; let’s say he was the first to market it. In the 20th century, jellybeans were sent to WWI soldiers by a William Schrafft of Boston, and the 1920s were the golden age of candy bars.

One thing my wife reminded me of is the double salted licorice she absolutely loved when we visited Amsterdam, which she had to give

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In a pan on the stove, melt equal amounts candy corn and creamy peanut butter. Stir until it is melted and well mixed. Pour into an 8”-by-8” parchment-lined pan and chill it in the freezer, but don’t allow it to freeze. Slice into one-inch-square pieces, and freeze for an hour.

Melt some chocolate in a bowl

in the microwave, using chocolate chips or a high-percentage chocolate, and then dip each square piece into the chocolate.

Keep them on a cooling rack or on parchment paper.

Keep in an airtight container. I find keeping them in the freezer works best as it maintains that shard-like crunch.



*These decadent homemade Butterfingers are hard to stop eating. Keep them frozen to maintain a wonderful shard-like crunch.*



MANDESON PHOTOS

*The author in Mexico with her giant bag of chicharrones, deep-fried pork rinds that are popular in Mexico, Central and South America, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Costa Rica, and the US.*

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## FOUNDATIONS

# Proteins Rule Everything Around Me. (But How?)

By SPENCER SHORKEY

**MILLERS FALLS** – Every human cell is largely composed of billions of nanoscale objects known as proteins. Proteins are complex and versatile chemical transformers and structural elements which underlie the cell's ability to maintain itself and respond to its environment in a useful way.

Each individual protein is a nanoscale molecular object built from hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, which were at some point sequestered from the Earth's water and atmosphere. Individual proteins perform tasks together in the cell as a sort of society of proteins, in which various proteins interact with each other in a modular fashion, analogous to bricks in a building or workers on an assembly line.

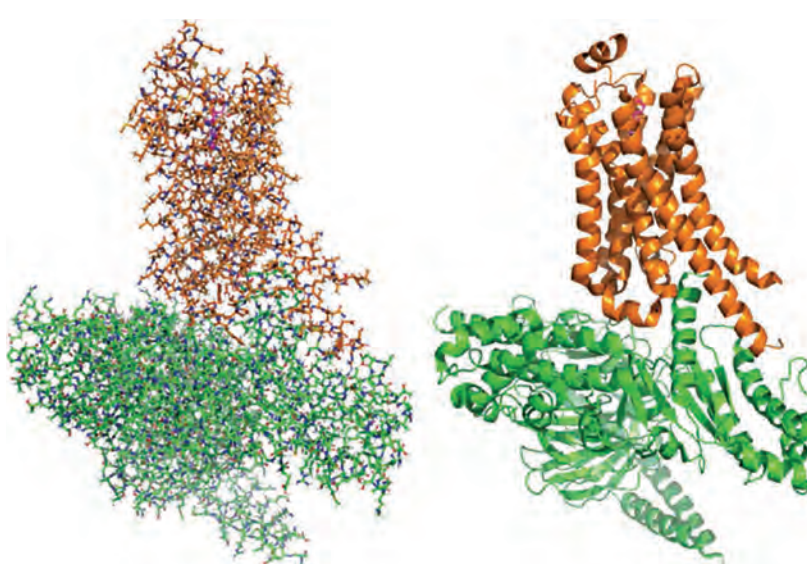
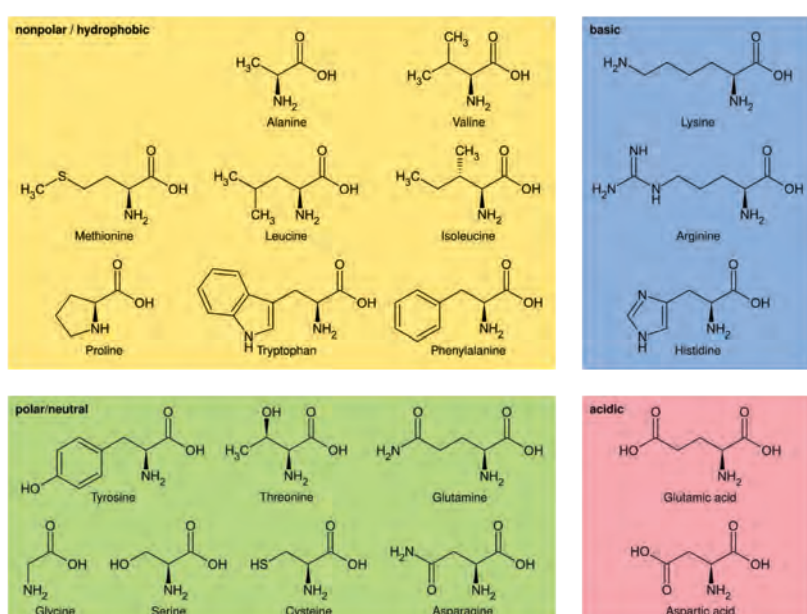
Each protein boils down to linear, one-dimensional "primary" strings of chemical letters, known as amino acids, of which there are 20 common possibilities. Just as combinations of letters in text lead to many possible words and infinite possible stories, strings of chemical letters form interactions with nearby letters, resulting in the emergence of a wide diversity of higher-dimensional structures.

The study of how protein structures are organized, and how structures relate to protein functions, is a key focus of modern bioscience. The understanding of protein functions underpins modern medicine's ever-growing capability to alter them for therapeutic effects.

Just as the planet Earth is about  $10^{23}$  (a hundred billion trillion) times more massive than a human, a human is about  $10^{23}$  times more massive than an average protein mass. Humans have to be quite clever in order to study the forms of these nanoscale proteins which are so much smaller than ourselves.

Since the 1950s, many brilliant scientists have formed protein crystals and shot X-rays through them, revealing the shadows of protein atomic arrangements and yielding structural information about many hundreds of thousands of proteins over the years. Recently, directly viewing proteins under electron microscopes has increasingly contributed to protein structure knowledge, especially for more wobbly protein structures which can't form crystals.

Although organic chemists use line drawings to represent molecules, with carbon atoms shown as lines, oxygen as O, nitrogen as N, sulfur as S, and hydrogen as H



Top: The 20-letter amino acid alphabet, represented by "line" hieroglyphs used by organic chemists and categorized by their chemical properties. These amino acids are strung together into sequences considered the "primary" order of protein structure.

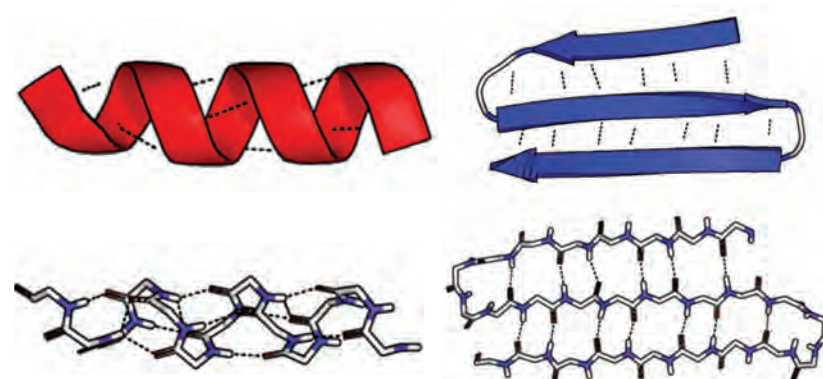
Bottom left: A "line" representation of a protein complex's structure, showing all atoms. Bottom right: A "cartoon" representation of structural patterns.

(or omitted if attached to carbon), these atomic representations quickly create information overload when applied to the thousands of atoms that make up a protein. For this reason, biochemists use a "cartoon" method of representing these complicated molecules.

Although "cartoon" representations of "solved" protein structures may look at first like a bunch of spaghetti noodles, the cartoon emphasizes the spiraling helix and stacking sheet patterns, the key elements that make up higher-ordered structures. These helix ( $\alpha$ ) and sheet ( $\beta$ ) elements, termed the protein's *secondary structure*, arise from interactions between atoms nearby the polymer's repetitive peptide backbone. More specifically, these secondary structure interactions form between an *amide nitrogen hydrogen bond donor* and *amide oxygen hydrogen bond acceptor*.

In the  $\alpha$ -helical spirals, these "hydrogen bonds" (H-bonds) form

between amino acids at a distance of four peptide bonds or 12 polymer backbone atoms away, and at a pitch of about 10.2 backbone atoms (or 3.4 amino acid residues) per helical revolution. In the  $\beta$ -sheets, flat strands lie parallel or anti-parallel, like sheets of paper set next to each other, and H-bonds form between sheets three or more peptide bonds away – often much further.



THOMAS SHAFEE / WIKIMEDIA IMAGE

Secondary structural elements: Cartoon representations of  $\alpha$ -helix (left) and  $\beta$ -sheet (right) elements, with atomic representations of the amino acid strings underneath.

The protein's full three-dimensional *tertiary structure* emerges when distant  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  elements of the protein polymer come together and interact in many unique ways. Various tertiary forces come into play to stabilize these forms, including:

**Disulfide bridges:** Strong covalent bonds that form between specific amino acids (cysteines), locking protein shapes in place;

**Hydrophobic interactions:** "Non-polar" amino acids that don't interact with water cluster together, creating "greasy," water-shy pockets and folds in the protein. A weak intermolecular force known as Van der Waals dispersion additionally helps hold these non-polar groups together;

**Ionic bonds:** Interactions between positively and negatively charged amino acids shape the protein's structure; and

**Hydrogen bonds:** Beyond shaping the secondary structure, these bonds also influence the overall 3D shape.

Predicting the structure of proteins from their amino acid sequences alone has been a long-standing ambition of biochemists and molecular biologists. Since its inception in 1971, the Protein Data Bank (PDB) has grown into a great repository of structural information that effectively encodes the known structural patterns of proteins, and some other molecules.

The PDB is like the Louvre of the protein world – a vast repository showcasing the detailed structural patterns of myriad proteins, captured meticulously using techniques like electron microscopy, X-ray crystallography, and nuclear magnetic resonance. Over half a century it has amassed structural insights on hundreds of thousands of proteins, serving as a reference for researchers worldwide.

In recent decades, armed with this voluminous data from PDB, machine-learning and deep learning

practitioners have set out to realize the goal of accurate protein structure prediction.

The Critical Assessment of Structure Prediction (CASP) is a biannual competition, running since 1994, in which teams of researchers apply their algorithms to try and correctly predict recently experimentally solved, but not publicly released, protein structures. Although the pioneering "Rosetta Fold" algorithms developed by academic researchers have been performing admirably since then, major breakthroughs came in the 2018, 2020, and 2022 competitions when large-language model researchers at Deepmind's AlphaFold made huge strides forward in accuracy, capturing headlines worldwide.

A protein's interactions with other proteins constitutes the very relevant "quaternary" order of protein structure. These protein-to-protein interactions can produce a vast diversity of "oligomeric" forms, as opposed to a "monomeric" mass comprised of a single protein.

While oligomers are often observed in PDB structures, the sheer vastness of their potential configurations can be overwhelming, and predicting these adds another layer of complexity to the algorithms. While tools like AlphaFold offer us unprecedented insights, there's still a significant grain of unpredictability, particularly for configurations that may not yet have been observed in experimental data.

Progress is being made toward predicting these quaternary structures, with new approaches that attempt to simulate the stepwise assembly processes likely to occur in reality.

Rosetta and AlphaFold, though groundbreaking, both face challenges. Proteins are often dynamic, and while we might predict a stable structure, this doesn't account for the transient shapes each protein can assume during its functional dance. The environment, with varying pH, temperature, and surrounding molecules, can all subtly shift a protein's structure – factors that can be challenging to fully account for. Recent work extending AlphaFold into distributions of structures shows promise in detailing the dynamics of proteins.

These protein dynamics are the focus of intense study, with many research groups focusing on developing new methods to enable experimental observation of these dynamics, which will be covered in a future article.

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Reader Ed Gregory sent in this photo of the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project, the turbine still operating inside the Strathmore complex – the former Keith Paper mill along the Turners Falls power canal.

“Turners Falls Hydroelectric is an affiliate of Eagle Creek Renewable Energy,” Ed writes, “which in turn is a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation, a multi-facility company with locations across the US.

“The main component is the General Electric AC generator, the black machine located in the rear, north corner of the room. The hydraulic turbine was built for G.E. by the I.P. Morris Co. of Philadelphia in 1915.

“This shot was taken on September 24, during the canal drain, when this machine was undergoing its annual maintenance. Most of the inspection and actual work is done below canal-bed level where the waterwheel, main shaft, and motor commutator are located. The penstock that delivers water to the ‘wheel’ is also inspected.

“Eagle Creek is a fully active facility. It’s capable of 937 KW of power at peak output. According to company publicity, it currently produces over 2 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy in a typical year.”

# FACES & PLACES



ED GREGORY PHOTO

## Comics and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

### OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



Panel 1: A man with a large head and a small body, looking at a newspaper titled "SCANDAL". Speech bubble: "If he's guilty, then he's filthy." Panel 2: The man looking at the newspaper. Speech bubble: "Don't begrudge him, Judge will judge him." Panel 3: The man looking at the newspaper. Speech bubble: "First his wealth and then his health..." Panel 4: The man looking at the newspaper. Speech bubble: "Can't undo it. He will rue it. Did he do it? Diddy did it!"

### At the Teachers' Weekly Donut Club


JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



Teacher: "You're late picking up the donuts! We have to be back in class to prep for MCAS testing." Student: "Hmm... 'No donut left behind.' I'm voting YES on question #2 - Eliminate MCAS requirement in order to graduate high school. Now, it's time to head to the basement for my first Art class."

### CHAPTER 4 Quiz Tomorrow

ROB MACHADO ILLUSTRATION



Host: "Robby?" Contestant: "I'd like to exercise my RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT." Host: "You didn't do the reading?" Contestant: "May I invoke the 5th. Amendment; my right to not Self-incriminate?"

Submit your comics (and puzzles) to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org). Original & local creations only, please!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Carinae, Sun Parade*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Molly Parden, Louisa Stancioff, Eliza Edens*. \$. 7 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Glenn Jones, Thalia Zedek, Damon & Naomi*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Minibeast, Ian St. George Band, Kane Loggia Hypothesis*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Neko Case, Imaad Wasif*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Belle Shea*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Marsh House, Amherst: *Woody, Skud, I Have No Mouth*. \$. 6 p.m.

Harmony Lot, Brattleboro: *Jatoba, Splendid Torch*. Free. 6 p.m.

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College: *Emmanuel Ax* plays *Beethoven, Shoenberg*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Vapors of Morphine*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bearly Dead*, Dead tribute. \$. 8:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Word Festival* feat. *Do It Now!*. \$. 12 p.m.

Easthampton (25 venues): *Porchfest* feat. *Teen Driver, Shantyman, Green Street Fiends, 2 Car Garage, The Journals Kept, Goblet, Chris Goudreau*, many more. Free. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Rocking Puppies, Battlemode, Shiprock & Anchor dog*. \$. 2 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Kimaya Diggs, Dragonfly*. \$. 7 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Stella Kola, Bong Wish*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Echoes of Floyd*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Olive Klug, Silvie's Okay*. \$. 8 p.m.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: *Suzanne Vega*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Spurlin*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Abandon Dream, Turners Falls: *Liz Durette, Alex Homan, Stella Kola, Kryssi B*. \$. 3 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Holy Wire, Dutch Experts*. \$. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rare Geese, Liz Durette, Alex*

*Homan*. \$. 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8**

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Kath Bloom, Lori Goldstone, Vaguely Pagan*. \$. 5 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Andy Frasco & The UN, Hayley Jane*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10**

Nova Arts, Keene: *Lori Goldston, Kath Bloom, Jake McKelvie*. \$. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11**

Palladium, Worcester: *Sepultura, Obituary, Agnostic Front, Claustrophobia, Harvest*. \$. 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Oh He Dead*. \$. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lady Pop*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Peter DiStefano & Mike Baggetta, Vimana, The Eli Liguz Band*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Back in Black: The Ultimate AC/DC Experience*. \$. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Deep C Divers*. No cover. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Richard Thompson, Kacy & Clayton*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Tom Carter, Julie Napolin, Decimus*. \$. 8 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Angry Blackmen, Skech185*. \$. 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Montana Of 300, Ryan Montbleau, Bella's Bartok, Dizzy Dizasta, Goonie Jay, Can Collectors*, more. \$. 12 p.m.

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Hardcar, Half Dizzy, Linnea's Garden, The Mighty Suicide Squirrels, Sapien Joyride*. \$. 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy NY: *Home Body, Troy Pohl, Over Outers*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *DJ Lucas, Woody, 22BB, Target Scammers*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Chuck Johnson, Wednesday Knudsen*. \$. 8 p.m.

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT: *Lil Wayne*. \$. 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

Greenfield Records, Greenfield: *Ananya Ganesh, Dave Scanlon, Robert Lundberg*. Free. 3 p.m.

The Hoff, Holyoke: *Film & Gender, Anita Velveeta, Mibble, Bugslam*. \$. 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *The Spatulas, Jeanines, Lightheaded, Wednesday & Kryssi*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

*Songs of Lucinda Williams*. \$. 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Little Wings*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14**

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Pentagram String Band*. \$. 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Gong*. \$. 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16**

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ben Cosgrove, Lyle de Vitry*. \$. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17**

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Slow Pony, Doctor Gasp, Norma Dream*. \$. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Burnt Pink, Miriam Elhajji, Blackpool*. \$. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ian Campbell*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Juliet Olivier, TBA*. Gaza benefit. \$. 6 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Friction Farm*. \$. 7 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Briezy Jane, Little Wild Bouquet, Edward Hines*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Philip Glass Ensemble* performs *Koyaanisqatsi* live. \$\$\$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Emily Margaret Band*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Pigeon Pit, Leaf Glitter, Harm, Kivimae*. \$. 6 p.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

Space Ballroom, Hamden, CT: *Boris, Starcrawler*. \$. 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kimaya Diggs, Wallace Field, Rachel Sumner, Emily Haviland*. \$. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *David Cross Band Plays King Crimson*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Happening IV: Leviathan*. \$. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Omar Sosa & Tim Eriksen Present Atlantica*. \$. 7 p.m.

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *Max Roach Centennial Celebration* feat. *Makaya McCraven*. \$. 8 p.m.

Drake, Amherst: *Destroyer, Fortunato Durutti Marinetti*. \$. 8 p.m.

*looking forward...*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Sunset Rubdown, Sister Ray*. \$. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31**

Brewery at Four Star, Northfield: *Head of Wantastiquet, Sagan & Sigourney, Dave Thomas & the Frosty Five*. No cover. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

Palladium, Worcester: *The Black Dahlia Murder, Dying Fetus, Spite, Angelmaker, Vomit Forth*. \$. 5:30 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Cloudbelly, Rocking Puppies*. \$. 7 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Anohni*. \$\$\$. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

The Drake, Amherst: *Kawabata Makoto (Acid Mothers Temple) & Tim Dahl, John Moloney*. \$. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Judge John Hodgman: Road Court*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Happy Valley Gas Juggers*. No cover. 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.P.I.E., Fast Cheetah, TBA*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Odie Leigh, Charlotte Rose Benjamin*. \$. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst: *Angélique Kidjo*. \$. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

Palladium, Worcester: *Disco Biscuits*. \$. 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Scissorfight, theWorst, Bent*. \$. 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *413Ska Sunday Matinee* feat. *Mephiskapheles, Sgt. Scagnetti, Mega Infinity, Pink Slip*. \$. 3 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Florist*. \$. 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

Cityspace, Easthampton: *COD, Corrode, Gay Mayor, YaTeVeO, Taxidermists, Mark Cone*. \$. 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College: *Juilliard String Quartet* plays *Schubert, Mozart*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Laraaji*, sound bath. \$. 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Wax, Water and String*, paintings in encaustic, watercolor, and embroidery by Pam Allan. Through January. Reception Sunday, October 20, from 4 to 6 p.m.

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

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts in collaboration with the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage. Through December 1.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague:** *Jasper Alexander* presents block prints from his Salted Snail Studio, through October.

**Montague Center Library:** *Meaghan Schwelm*, paintings exploring the everyday and the familiar. Through October 30, with a reception Wednesday, October 23, at 6 p.m.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Making Pictures*, oil paintings by Sally Dillon and pastel paintings by Ruth Rinard. Through October, with a reception Sunday, October 20, from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Leverett Library:** *Trees and Mills*, drawings and etchings by Frank Waugh. Through October 29, with a talk with curator An-naliese Bischoff this Saturday, October 5, at 1:30 p.m.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:** *It's Never Too Late to Create*, work by Tim Gorts, through October 11.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *The Art of Recovery*, artwork from participants at the Recover Project; through October. *World on Fire*, art and installation by Greenfield self-taught artist JJ White. Opening reception this Friday, October 4, 6 to 8 p.m.

**Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy:** *limn•inal*, paintings and kinetic sculpture by Donnabelle Casis, through November 2.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *To everything there is a season...*, black and white photographs by Larry Rankin. Through November 2, with a reception tonight, Thursday, October 3, at 5 p.m.

**Science and Engineering Library, UMass Amherst:** *Our Common Ground*, UMass worker artist exhibition about caring for the Earth and each other. Through December 19.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Autumn Glory*, group show by member artists working in paint, photography, sculpture, fabric, wood, and more. Through October.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:** *Wings of the Wind*, paintings by Margaret Lloyd, and *The New Herbarium*, cyanotypes by Madge Evers, through October 28.

**D'Amour Museum, Springfield:** *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.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

by colonial squirrel hunters, Revolutionary snipers could outshoot the best of their better trained, better disciplined, and better armed Red-coat adversaries.

Thus, those furry, mischievous pests that got into chimneys, attics, and partitions, harmed crops, and chattered loud warnings of a deer hunter's presence in the woods helped the colonies win the Revolution.

Imagine that. Despite old Chuckles' mischievous, annoying habits around home and farm, he kept our ancestors fed, gave them supplemental income, and helped them shed their oppressive colonial yoke.



PUPPIES from page B1

and Monte Arnstam played drums during the recording. Pema recounted that stuffed animals were also involved in the process, with Michael noting these only provided emotional support. "It just gets really boring," Pema said.

The duo explained they work with various musicians for their musical project, including drummers and bassists. Typically, they are accompanied by local musicians Nik Perry and Sam Mulligan, but have also been joined by a third generation: Pema's grandfather.

They claimed they only collaborate with what they described as "man-children," but they meant this in a positive context.

Pema Crigler shared that in her five years of being a punk rock star, she has learned that unless bands are as big as Taylor Swift, they don't make much money. When the band does make money, her father saves a portion for future recording and merchandise, while Pema spends her cut on toys, hoping to eventually purchase a Barbie Dream House or a snake. They also save some money in an investment account for Pema's future.

Father and daughter Crigler explained that they listen to various genres, but are particularly inspired by David Bowie, "obviously." Michael noted that they chose to be a punk band because it allows for artistic collaboration, and the genre's accessibility grants Pema more autonomy over the project. Michael then explained to his daughter the definition of autonomy.

Their favorite memories of the band so far include moments when the audience genuinely engages with the music. Pema reenacted what that engagement looks like by dancing and running around Energy Park. Unfortunately, the Montague Reporter missed this reenactment because the interview was conducted by phone.

The family show at Hawks & Reed will take place on October 5, with doors opening at 1 p.m. The Rocking Puppies will be accompanied by Somerville-based chiptune band Battlemode and Hadley-based Shiprock & Anchordog, which is a musical project and comic book series. Members of the local band Bella's Bartok will also perform a puppet show.

Pema noted she wrote "October 5" in her school notebook next to drawings of "nervous faces" and broken microphones. In the future, the band hopes to embark on a small New England tour and release a two-song album with the working title *Butt Cheek Butt Cheek*.



Saturday's show celebrates the band's debut album, *Civilized Show-Off*.

Photo: Joe R. Parzych

WITHOUT A CARE



"Two cute baby goats enjoy a beautiful warm fall day in the sun at Sunrise Valley Farm – the Peila's Creamery farm – in the hills of Gill," local photojournalist Joe R. Parzych reports. Thanks, Joe!

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