

# The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 13

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

**GILL SELECTBOARD**

## Are Fast Boats To Blame for Gill's Eroding Shoreline?

By **KATE SAVAGE**

**GILL** – With an air of futility, the Gill selectboard approved a list of comments Monday night on the state's draft 401 Water Quality Certification for FirstLight Power. This latest stage in the federal relicensing process for the Turners Falls dam and the Northfield Mountain project, which has already stretched to 13 years, concerns whether the projects comply with the Clean Water Act.

But selectboard members seemed skeptical that their voice mattered in the process.

"This whole process for 13 years has been basically, in my opinion, FirstLight calling the shots and the federal government saying 'Yes, yes,'" said selectboard member Randy Crochier.

Shoreline erosion is the main issue addressed in the town's comments. The comments insist that FirstLight's projects "have a direct impact on bank erosion, which is a significant impairment of water quality."

To fight erosion, the state Department of Environmental Protection

see **GILL** page A4

**ERVING SELECTBOARD**

## K9 Officer May Go Part-Time; New Historical Board Pitched

By **KATIE NOLAN**

The Erving selectboard met for regular business last Thursday, February 20, and on Monday held a joint meeting with the finance committee to continue the town's FY'26 budget hearing.

Officer Laura Gordon is retiring from the Erving police department in October. Police chief Robert Holst wrote in a memo that she has been "a huge asset to our department and community along with her canine partner Ziva," and has indicated she would like to stay with the department part-time.

"The skills and experience Officer Gordon brings are irreplaceable," Holst wrote. "It would benefit our department and the community to consider keeping her."

Retaining Gordon at 10 hours per week would add \$10,000 to the part-time officer line item, bringing it to \$16,000. Board members suggested the total should actually be higher, perhaps \$22,000, to account for hiring other part-time officers.

Holst complained about the difficulty in finding part-time officers

see **ERVING** page A7

## Local Officials Brace for Impact

By **MIKE JACKSON**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Several local officials who spoke this week with the *Montague Reporter* about the impacts of a rapidly changing federal government on our communities said little direct impact has been felt here thus far, but they are following events in Washington closely and expect the effects to multiply.

"We've talked to about 20 regional organizations," Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) executive director Linda Dunlavy reported, "and as of last week, no one had received any cuts yet.... I think everybody is just waiting."

"Everyone's in a state of assessing and trying to figure out what's happening in Washington means for us," said Montague town administrator Walter Ramsey. "It

feels like a scramble to try to figure out what the policy directives at the federal level mean locally."

"We're closely monitoring our reimbursement sources, at both the state and the federal level, to make sure all of the money we are contracted to put out on the street is coming back to us," said Gina Govoni, executive director of the Franklin County Regional Housing

see **IMPACT** page A6

**MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

## Town Hall Preps Twin Hiring Push; Police Short

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

Personnel issues dominated Monday's selectboard meeting as the board placed school resource officer Michael Sevene on injured-on-duty status after a fall on the ice, shored up staffing at the town clerk's office, and delayed final approval of search committees for a new clerk and assessing director pending the appointment of representatives of the "general public."

Patrolman Sevene, who serves as the school resource officer at the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS), was placed on so-called 111F status, under a state law which affords any police officer or firefighter injured on the job full pay during their recovery. Sevene's injury occurred "during the ice storm," according to town administrator Walter Ramsey, and his injured status was backdated to February 10.

The purpose of a school resource officer (SRO) is to create a "safe and supportive school environment," according to a model memorandum of understanding between a local public school and police department provided on the state website. However, Montague police chief Chris Williams told the *Montague Reporter* that the SROs posted at FCTS and Gill-Montague schools also perform regular duties for the department, particularly during the summer.

The Montague department is currently experiencing significant

see **MONTAGUE** page A8

**LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

## Fire Chief: Costs in More Professional Department

By **GEORGE BRACE**

Leverett's selectboard and finance committee held annual budget hearings for the fire department, Council on Aging, and town transfer station Tuesday evening. The selectboard also hosted members of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to discuss setting priorities for a grant application through the state's "Complete Streets" program.

Deputy fire chief Amy Rice presented three alternative budgets, as requested at a prior hearing. One showed a 16.5% increase over the current year, another an 8.8% rise, and the third a 2.5% rise, in line with the committees' guidance for maximum departmental increases.

Rice defended the larger requests, citing increased call volume, a larger proportion of EMS calls, expenses associated with professionalization, and higher costs across the board for uniforms, equipment, training, and services such as vehicle maintenance.

She noted that EMS calls have gone up 23% over the last two years, but funding has not kept pace.

see **LEVERETT** page A5



### FROZEN ON THE SURFACE

Ice fishing on Barton Cove, a few weeks back. (This week the weather warmed, and all the ice and snow began to melt!)

**WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

## Assessments Not Certified; Tax Hearing Delayed

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

The Wendell selectboard's February 19 meeting was Glenn Johnson-Mussad's last regularly scheduled meeting as town coordinator. His last day working for Wendell will be this Friday, and at 3 p.m. that afternoon the town will host a gathering to thank him for his work and wish him well as town planner in Erving.

At last Wednesday's meeting Johnson-Mussad said his assistant, Su Hoyle, was willing to add hours but not to become interim coordinator, and that Joy Gorzocoski was willing to help keep up with email.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine asked if a selectboard member could fill in as coordinator. Treasurer Carolyn Manley said that member would have to

consult with the state ethics commission, and recuse themselves from any discussion about pay.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said the last time the position was vacated – even more suddenly than this time – then-finance committee chair Doug Tanner filled in, saying, "Just give me \$20 an hour." An interim position might be advertised soliciting a bid for pay schedule. Manley said more work needs more pay.

The board approved a motion allowing DiDonato to appoint an interim coordinator and pay that person \$20 per hour.

Johnson-Mussad said he had received one application, and several letters of inquiry, for the full-time coordinator position. An interim coordinator would

see **WENDELL** page A4

## High School Sports Week: Personal Bests

By **MATT ROBINSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Back on February 8, Turners Falls High School junior and swimmer Liam Bliss competed in the 50-yard freestyle sprint in the D2 Western/Central Mass sectionals. Bliss, who owns several school records, would either qualify for the All-State meet or have to hang up his trunks for another year.

It was a tough ask. To qualify for the State meet, he needed to touch the wall in 23.68 seconds, faster than his personal best. He not only qualified but he smashed his own record, finishing in 23.23, placing seventh, and punching his ticket for the big show.

On Sunday, February 16, Bliss

traveled to Boston University to represent western Mass and Turners Falls. And he again broke his personal record, finishing in 23.03

seconds and placing 22nd overall.

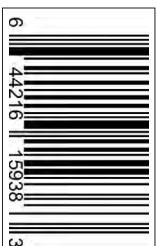
Mr. Bliss will be back again next year in another quest to make the State finals.



Liam Bliss swims earlier this season in a meet against the Springfield Renaissance School. Bliss won the 200-yard freestyle at the January 3 event.

### Huge Backlog of Automated Renewal Postcards Mailed In Error – Sorry If You Get One!

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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## RERUN

# Concentration

In 1813, the year the colony Paraguay won independence from Spain, José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, the man who was quickly consolidating control over the newborn republic, established a remote garrison known as Tevego in the country's malarial eastern borderlands.

Though de Francia's original design for the settlement may have been defensive, Tevego soon assumed the function of a place of banishment and hard labor. It was a site of intentional misery, a punishment for disloyalty to El Supremo that nevertheless served as an alternative to the dungeon or the bayonet.

De Francia was a brutal utopian, and his main strategy for ensuring Paraguay's autonomy was to ban marriage between colonial Europeans, so as to foster a mixed-race or *mestizo* national identity. During the republic's first decade, Tevego became a place de Francia could park, as Thomas Carlyle would describe it, "drunken mulattoes and the class called unfortunate-females." Tevego served a specific function relative to the fledgling nation; exile on the borderland was a logical solution for that class of people de Francia deemed criminal, but still hoped would work – and reproduce.

The idea that a nation could use its guilty elements to strengthen itself did not begin with Paraguay. In the 18th century, the British and French empires deported convicts to serve as shock troops on their global frontiers: their indentured labor in far-flung island and coastal plantations could, in time, redeem them of the guilt of their crimes, or at least the guilt of their debts.

These earlier penal colonies killed two birds with one stone: the removal of criminals from the center of power, and the expansion of its frontiers. And it was easier to think of one's country as innocent at its core when it continually transported guilt to its periphery.

As the age of empires slowly gave way to an era of nation-states, in many places the key challenge of nation-building became one of maintaining, rather than expanding, borders. Since citizens of each nation are asked to see their own state as the guarantor of justice, citizenship itself serves as an underlying inductor of innocence – and foreignness, everywhere, as a warning sign of guilt.

But borders have never successfully separated the innocent from the guilty; they are in reality nearly

always lines established by treaties, artifacts of periods of open violence. They have always contained conquered people, and they have always, in practice, been crossed in times of peace by non-combatants.

In the modern world, each government claims the authority to kill the guilty in order to provide security to the innocent. But actually doing so is rarely a feasible policy: in times of social peace, at least, most of us *don't* see foreignness as a marker of guilt; most of us *don't* see birthright as the only way to become deserving of the bounty of the land; and most of us *don't* want to be implicated in violence and suffering.

In 1830 the Choctaw, defeated by European colonists, negotiated for their survival by agreeing to cede their ancestral land and migrate westward. In 1835 a group of Cherokee signed a similar treaty.

The majority opposed the agreement, but it was ratified by the United States government, and in 1838 their forcible removal began. The US Army rounded up those who did not self-deport and held them in eleven internment camps, mostly in Tennessee. Civilians were offered bounties for murdering stragglers.

Concentration camps are the state's way of encircling a population with a piece of the border. Those collected inside a camp are outside the nation's borders. The two are physically, not just metaphorically, connected.

In 1862 our government captured and interned nearly 2,000 Dakota people inside a Minnesota fort, separated the men from the women and the children from the adults, and then further removed them onto remote reservations, laboratories where their culture was systematically eroded.

In 1897 the Spanish general assigned the task of crushing the Cuban rebellion tried to spatially separate them into combatants (guilty) and non-combatants (relatively innocent) by dividing the island up into zones and "reconcentrating" hundreds of thousands of people into camps.

Three years later, British forces in South Africa, facing an insurgency by Dutch-descended Boers, tried the same trick, herding the civilians into what for the first time were called "concentration camps" in an attempt to reorder the population into guilty and innocent.

Both policies led to tens of thousands of deaths.

Internment camps were central to the Turkish genocide of Arme-



Linda Tardif, managing director at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, stands behind the lobby bar at the end of a Saturday night concert. She's been busy gearing up for the Montague Shakespeare Festival's *MacBeth* production and says her cat, William Shakespurr, is a big fan of the Bard.

## Letter to the Editors

# No, the Union Did Try

This letter is in response to the letter that appeared in the February 13 *Montague Reporter* from the former chair of the Montague finance committee.

He writes that the Gill-Montague Education Association "should have contacted the school committee, presented its documentation, and asked for a meeting to discuss the situation." In fact, GMEA did just that – they repeatedly asked to meet informally, or in executive session, with the School Committee, for most of the two years I served on the committee – to no avail.

In October 2023, while on the Committee, I offered to meet with GMEA. The GMEA President accepted my offer on October 11, and on October 16 we agreed to meet on October 19. The Superintendent was CC'd in the October 16 email that set up the hoped-for meeting.

However – on October 16, the Superintendent canceled that meeting, citing the need to consult attorneys before such a meeting.

nians in 1915 and the Italian genocide in Libya in the 1920s.

It's easy to make the mistake, given the disastrous result of every one of these attempts to carve populations of society into segments, to see camps simply as preparation for extermination. But their original intent is almost always different: Transportation. Protection. Deterrence.

When Dachau opened in 1933, it was primarily to remove Communists from society and make a visible example of them. The German state's attempt, over the next 12 years, to physically separate the people of the continent into an innocent homeland and peripheral penal colo-

On November 27, 2023, the Superintendent forwarded the attorney's advice, which recommended that individual Committee members *not* meet with the Association to discuss issues. That put an end to School Committee members meeting informally with GMEA members to hear their concerns.

The former MFCC writes: "GMEA should have made clear in their request that they had tried to work with the Superintendent, but had not been successful. That would have allowed the School Committee to put the GMEA on their agenda, and there could have been a full discussion...."

The problem with this is that personnel issues, which were a significant part of GMEA's issues, cannot be discussed at School Committee meetings. It is also difficult to be frank, and bring up possibly sensitive issues in a forum open to public scrutiny.

On November 28, 2023, GMRSD attorneys pointed out in an email that

the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC), in both Unit A and Unit C's contracts, would be an appropriate venue for GMEA's issues.

On January 10, 2024, I proposed to the School Committee a four-step plan to improve communication between staff and administration. That plan included re-establishing the JLMC.

The JLMC was officially revived at the February 27, 2024 School Committee meeting.

However, arranging a time for the JLMC to meet was... slow. The first JLMC meeting with Unit C was held on May 23, 2024. The second was held on June 11, but proposals for additional Unit C meetings to meet later that summer were not followed.

I requested that the Unit A JLMC be convened sometime that summer – but it was not.

Starting in the fall of 2024, several JLMC meetings were scheduled, but then canceled by the Superintendent.

The former MFCC writes: "As it was, GMEA went to public comment first. The school committee was caught unprepared...." It is inaccurate to say GMEA went to public comment first. That move was a last act, not a first act.

As I stated, GMEA made many attempts, over the two years I was on the School Committee, to meet with both the Superintendent and the School Committee – and were rebuffed, again and again. If the School Committee was unprepared for the GMEA's December 17 public comment, they shouldn't have been.

John Irminger  
Turners Falls

*This editorial first appeared in the Montague Reporter on June 21, 2018. We are republishing it in honor of US military contractor Erik Prince and his new project, "2USV."*

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
Every other week in July and August.  
No paper the fourth week of November, or the final week of December.

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

DCR staff will use photographs, maps, and news clippings to learn about life in those brick buildings. For ages 12 and up.

Learn about **butchering your own meat** during a Meat Literacy Workshop series held on three weekends at the Berkshire South Community Center in Great Barrington. You'll obtain cutting diagrams, learn the butchering lingo, and gain an understanding of the regulations.

Beef will be covered on March 6, pork on March 13, and small ruminants on March 20. All sessions start at 10 a.m. To register, email Jake Levin at [jake@berkshireadventures.org](mailto:jake@berkshireadventures.org).

The Montague Common Hall will show *Casablanca*, "a **time-ly antifascist romantic drama** in black and white" starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Peter Lorre, next Friday, March 7.

A "speakeasy" will be held before the movie at 6 p.m. with related music and film shorts – "BYOB and snacks" – followed by the feature at 7 p.m. A suggested donation of \$10 to \$20 will go towards putting in an accessible ramp at the hall.

If you are looking ahead to summer and starting to plan activities for your kids, there's a **summer camp fair at the Bement School** in Deerfield on March 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 20 programs will be represented at the fair, including sleep-away camps, academic



ANNE HARDING PHOTO

Three weeks ago we suggested readers should share moments of sticker shock with us. Anne Harding spotted this price for a dozen eggs at Food City last Friday. (Not their fault, of course... that same day, Center for Transmission of Airborne Pathogens at Emory School of Medicine warned that avian influenza is now "endemic in cattle.")

enrichment, sports, arts, and other specialty camps.

Admission to the fair is free. Bring the kids and enjoy the bounce house, gaga ball pit, food truck, and DJ. Find a list of the summer programs at [bement.org/admissions/summer-fair](http://bement.org/admissions/summer-fair).

Senior Tech Time at the Gill-Montague senior center announces a new, **free six-week laptop class for Montague seniors** held from March 24 through April 28. Participants will receive a new HP Chromebook upon class completion.

The application deadline is Wednesday, March 12. Applications can be picked up and returned to the center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls.

The Mud Season music festival on March 15 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls invites **activists, non-profits, and organizers** to "come set up a table, get your message out, and fuel the resistance."

This year the festival has chosen the theme "Peace, Love, and Protest," and invites like-minded people to participate in a day full of music, activism, and fun. The featured speaker will be Congressman Jim McGovern. For more information, visit [Mud-Season.com](http://Mud-Season.com) or contact event organizer David Bulley at [dbulley@gmail.com](mailto:dbulley@gmail.com).

On Monday, March 17 the **Turners Falls Water Department** will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue. Bills were mailed on November 1 and due December 1.

Payments of cash, check, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express can be made at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road. Office hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after hours. For questions, call Suzanne at (413) 863-4542.

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

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The LAVA Center in Greenfield is launching a new monthly series, **Theater of Ideas**, this Friday, February 28 at 6 p.m. This month Hannah Rechtschaffen, executive director of the Greenfield Business Association, will present "Hey! That's My Town," which is described as exploring Greenfield's "pending evolution and a return to the positive: what it takes to reclaim our sense of place and pride."

Subsequent Theater of Ideas sessions will be held on the third Friday of each month. The presenter on Friday, March 21 will be Nina Gross, followed by Ash Goverman on April 18. Anyone interested in giving a presentation is invited to email [info@thelavacenter.org](mailto:info@thelavacenter.org) with "Theater of Ideas proposal" in the subject line.

*Ophelia*, a new children's book in the "Percival Porcupine" series created by Sylvia Wetherby, will debut at the Wendell Free Library this Friday, February 28 at 5:30 p.m. with a reading by the author, a craft project, and refreshments.

Wetherby is author and illustrator of the series, which depicts woodland animals trying to solve mysteries. She is a lifelong animal lover and longtime Wendell resident, and she and her husband have raised diverse animals and vegetables on their Rosebriar Farm.

Published by Haley's of Athol, copies of *Ophelia* and other titles by Wetherby are available at the Peter-sham Country Store, Stage on Main in Orange, the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange, and [sylviawetherbybooks.com](http://sylviawetherbybooks.com).

The Wendell State Forest's **adaptive outdoor recreation program** is ending the season with a final session this Saturday, March 1.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this universal-access program provides instruction, adaptive equipment, and assistance to enjoy hiking, sled-

ding, sit-skiing, ice sled skating, and more. Register to attend by calling All Out Adventures at (413) 584-2052 or emailing [programs@alloutadventures.org](mailto:programs@alloutadventures.org).

The Leverett Elementary School is holding a benefit **contra dance** on Saturday, March 1 in support of a fifth-grade canoe trip. The dance at the school begins at 7 p.m. and features Annika Amstutz and Van Kaynor on fiddle, Becky Hollingsworth on piano, and Steve Howland doing the calling. No experience is necessary.

Donations and purchases will all go towards the trip, but all are welcome to participate, and donations are not mandatory. There will be a bake sale as well.

Take a break from the blindingly white snowy landscape by going to the **Spring Bulb Show** at Smith College in Northampton and view thousands of bulbs blooming in all the colors of the rainbow. The show runs from this Saturday, March 1 through Sunday, March 16, and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily with extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays until 8 p.m.

This year there will be two art installations, one in each room of the show, created by Ada Comstock scholar Jamie Biagiarelli and first-year student Ella Wang. Admission is free, with donations appreciated.

This weekend you can learn about **the history of Turners Falls** in two free presentations at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

The first one on Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m., "A Bridge Too Far," will talk about the dramas and debates that swirled around the proposal to create new bridges in the late 19th century, and how they still impact us today. For youth and adults.

"To Breathe Freely: Tenements of Turners Falls" follows on Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. Tenements in Turners Falls presented a challenge to the town of Montague, and

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Town of Gill: Annual Election

**GILL** – The annual town election will be held Monday, May 19 at 325 Main Road, the Gill Town Hall, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The deadline for voter registration is 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9 at the Town Clerk's office.

The offices on the town ballot this year include: **Selectboard**, three-year term; **Assessor**, three-year term; **Cemetery Commissioner**, three-year term; **Board of Health**, three-year term; and **Library Trustee**, three-year term.

Two incumbents have announced they will not seek re-election in this year's town election. Randy Crochier is stepping down after 15 years on the Selectboard, and Erika Heilig is leaving the Board of Health after three years.

Both will be missed, and they are thanked for their many contributions to the Town.

Incumbents who are seeking re-election are William Tomb, Assessor; Gary Bourbeau, Cemetery Commissioner; and Jacob Morrow, Library Trustee.

Please call the Town Clerk's office at (413) 863-8103 if you have interest in running for any of the offices on this ballot. Nomination papers are available now until 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at the Town Clerk's office, and must be returned by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 31. All offices require at least 20 signatures of registered Gill voters.

This is a great way to support your town and assure that your local government runs smoothly.

# FACES & PLACES

Right: Our rotating chief construction photo essayist Joe R. Parzych reported on the scene last Thursday as Barlow Paving & Excavating of Greenfield used a Fiat-Allis FR130.2 wheel loader to put snow into their dump truck at the Sandri gas station, in the aftermath of last week's snowstorm.

Joe writes: "I want to dedicate this photo in honor of my late grandfather, Joseph A. Parzych, a.k.a. the Gill Gourmet columnist. It's hard to believe he's been gone for six years. He is missed...."

"He wore many hats, including heavy equipment operator, writer, photographer, and reporter. He could recall many interesting moments while operating J.A. Parzych Excavating, subcontracting with many contractors such as Mackin's, years later while multitasking, cooking his famous delicious cheesecake recipes as the Gill Gourmet. My grandfather was known for his green thumb, a rarity for writers. He would correspond for a national magazine called Rock Road Recycle (Hard Hat News), then spring back to capture readers for our local weekly the Montague Reporter, sharing the in and outs and details of what men and women engineers were cooking up on local projects those days.

"By the way, my dad, Joseph M. Parzych, told me that come to find out – small world – his father was good friends and colleagues with Barlow Paving & Excavating, because he knew them during his construction days."



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Left: Local residents have been standing with signs at the corner of Route 2 and the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge each Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. in a regular "Resist the Coup" protest.

Signs seen last week included "Nobody Elected Elon," "Your Silence Will Not Protect You," "They Lie," "Musk Is A Nazi," and "Has Your Cost Of Living Come Down Yet?"

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**GILL** from page A1

(MassDEP) has proposed a two-mile "no-wake" zone in Barton Cove, so waves generated by boaters won't lap at the shoreline. The comments argue that this will be difficult to enforce, as FirstLight has no enforcement powers and the environmental police are "woefully understaffed."

But selectboard chair Greg Snedeker, who has lived next to the river for over 30 years, objected to the entire proposal of the no-wake zone. "They're trying to make the case that the boats do it," he said. "It's the raising and lowering of the water which is loosening up the soil."

The Northfield Mountain project can pump over 100,000 gallons of water per second from the river up to its hilltop reservoir. It releases the water again during peak energy use hours. Environmentalists complain this leads to unnatural daily fluctuations in the river level.

Snedeker argued that boaters were only present during the summer, whereas erosion has been constant. He also said that Barton Cove is the widest section of the river, where waves from boats should have less effect.

"It's incredibly disingenuous, in my opinion," he said of MassDEP's proposal.

Snedeker also said he worried that the no-wake zone could destroy

local recreation opportunities: "The boaters put in at Barton's Cove. So you're going to expect them to go less than five miles an hour up past the Schuetzen Verein? That will take you at least 30 to 40 minutes. No one will do that. No one. So what they're saying is we don't want boats on the river at that point."

"None of them live on the river," said Snedeker, speaking of government regulators and FirstLight officials. "They're not there for 30-plus years watching day by day."

The town's written comments took aim at other aspects of the state's draft certification. While the proposed plans would make FirstLight responsible to repair only 5% of the length of new erosion sites identified after the license is issued, the comments object that this "unconscionable" number "has no basis and is too low."

"Corporate use of a public natural resource such as the Connecticut River is not a right, it is a privilege. Those who benefit from such privilege owe it to society to maintain and leave the resource in a better condition than before the privileged use began," the comments state.

The town asks MassDEP to allow public access to the plans and reports required by the process, and include a stipulation of more input from local conservation commissions for the duration of the fa-

cilities' licenses. "The Connecticut River is a line of life that proudly flows through the front yards of our region, and we are interested and passionate protectors," the comments read.

Town administrator Ray Purington noted that MassDEP's deadline to submit comments on the draft had passed just before the meeting, so he had already submitted the statement as a draft "with a note that tonight at 5:30 is the earliest this public body could comply with open meeting law and still incorporate DEP's own hearing from last Wednesday and the [Gill] con com's meeting from last Thursday."

The board made no changes to the draft comments, which can be found on the town website.

#### Other Business

For the next three years, Gill will continue to get help from regional public health experts. The selectboard voted to renew the professional services agreement between the town of Gill and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for participation in its Cooperative Public Health Service. This service gives small towns like Gill access to a staff of credentialed public health employees including three agents, two nurses, and an epidemiologist.

"This is pretty standard, and I

think we'd be crazy not to," said Purington.

Snedeker added: "After going through a pandemic, I think it's really important to have these people on staff."

Crochier, who is employed as a health district program manager by FRCOG, not only recused himself but left the table and sat in the audience during the discussion and vote.

Prior to the public portion of the meeting, the selectboard met in a closed executive session to discuss the police chief's contract.

For those who are reading this paper on the date of its publication, it's not too late to see a local expert discussing "Slow Wood: Green-er Building from Local Forests." Brian Donahue, a Gill resident and professor emeritus of American environmental studies at Brandeis, will discuss his new book on the subject this Thursday, February 27 at 6 p.m. at the Slate Memorial Library. The event is free and open to the public.

The next Gill selectboard meeting will be held Monday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., the board will hold a public hearing for the FY'25 community development block grant application, which could bring in around a million dollars to fund housing rehabilitation in Gill, Shutesbury, and New Salem.

**WENDELL** from page A1

have to help process applications for the position.

He also reported that the 2023 town annual reports arrived, and are ready and available in the selectboard office.

#### Still No Tax Hearing

Assessor Martha Senn came in person and Rural Resource Group (RRG) associate Adam Hemingway Zoomed in to the meeting for a continuation of the town's annual tax classification hearing.

Senn reported that the state Department of Revenue (DOR) had still not approved the assessors' revaluation work, in part because the software Wendell uses is no longer supported.

Hemingway said the Patriot 4 program Wendell uses dates from 2014, and has had some problems. Patriot version 5 may have solved those problems, but Vision, a pricier program, has not had any problems.

New software and a computer that can support it would cost the town \$9,000. Manley and finance committee co-chair Meagan Sylvia discussed options for covering the expense in this year's budget. Sylvia suggested making a partial payment in FY'25 and the rest in FY'26, and Hemingway said the bills typically come at six-month intervals. The new expense will be discussed at the fin com meeting next Monday, March 3.

Johnson-Mussad said the selectboard may authorize a transfer of funds from another account to pay for the unanticipated assessing expense. Hemingway said there is no hard deadline for a decision, but one should be made soon.

DiDonato suggested the town stay with Patriot for now and continue the discussion at the next selectboard meeting with input from the fin com.

#### Library Playground

Librarian Miriam Warner and partially-retired librarian Rosie Heidkamp Zoomed in with a preliminary proposal for reconstructing the library playground.

Partially-retired engineer Bob Leet, now a library trustee, can review and put his stamp on the new design, they said, which will include structures that were moved so a dying tree could be taken down. The Friends of the Library would pay for the work.

The structures would be located to allow easy mowing, and maintenance will consist of regularly replenishing playground-quality wood chips, costing less than \$200 a year.

Heidkamp agreed that an insurance check of the preliminary design is a good idea. A prior insurance inspection had found that the former fire engine climbing structure was a possible head-trapping hazard.

The board voted to support the project moving forward.

#### Conservation

Open space committee chair Dan Leahy and new member Carolina Mendes brought two topics to the meeting: the condemned house at 40 Gate Lane, which the town took for back taxes, and two small parcels abutting Lyons Brook that Leahy said he hoped to keep undeveloped.

An agreement Leahy had worked out between the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and MassAudubon to buy 40 Gate Lane from the town, take down the house, and leave a small parking spot with a kiosk for visitors, broke down because the title does not satisfy DCR.

Leahy asked the selectboard for money to clear the parcel. Two outdated estimates for tear down were \$12,000 and \$32,000. Manley said insurance for the building costs \$800 a year.

Budine had concerns about the budget.

Gate Lane is a one-lane road, with occasional pullouts where one vehicle can get off the road so an oncoming vehicle can pass. It was discontinued at a town meeting, and now residents and property owners take the responsibility to keep it maintained.

Grace Albert, whose property abuts #40, Zoomed in to the meeting and said she does not want a lot of traffic on the road. She said electricity runs along Gate Lane as far as #40, and the property has a drilled well. It once had a garden, and still has enough room between the flat land near Gate Lane and the wetland below to build on. She said it is "conceivably livable."

Leahy said a house may only be built with frontage on a maintained road, but Albert said one may be built on the footprint of the condemned house.

DiDonato asked about issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to get new estimates for demolishing the building, and she said it should be put on a future agenda.

Leahy suggested trying to get the prior owner, who did not keep up with taxes, to agree that he has no interest in the property. Manley said she could talk with him.

Leahy argued that accessible open space needs

a toehold in that part of town. Farther south, Gate Lane provides access to 265 permanently preserved acres and makes connections to New Salem, Cooleyville, and Shutesbury, and comes close to the New England Scenic Trail. He offered to talk with the fin com about the property, and Sylvia agreed this was a good idea.

Leahy then brought up two small parcels, both smaller than two acres, he thought would be appropriate for conservation. They are on either side of Mormon Hollow Road, and both abut Lyons Brook. Both might be in the process of tax taking, but the process is complicated because neither has a clear title.

On the road's south side the land abuts Montague State Forest, and Leahy said he thought it might be a good place to build an accessible walkway. On the north side Lyons Brook drains into the Millers River, and the parcel there provides a buffer between the brook and the old D&B demolition dump.

#### Other Business

The selectboard accepted a \$1,000 donation from No Assault & Batteries (NAB). The money is earmarked to help defray the cost of Wendell appealing the attorney general's rejection of the bylaw citizens approved at a town meeting last year, intended to give the town some control over any proposed large-scale battery system.

NAB member Chris Queen came to this meeting and said this was a first installment, and that NAB was close to having \$6,000 more to donate. Any money not spent on the appeal will be return to NAB, a private organization.

The board appointed Sarah Chase to the fin com and Alistair MacMartin to the zoning board of appeals.

Sylvia said a mix-up with DCR means Wendell cannot get a matching grant for its wood bank. She said wood bank coordinator Sarah Butler intends to apply for another grant through the state's One Stop portal.

DiDonato said the town had received an email from the state warning that permission for remote public meetings expires at the end of March, and that the legislature was working to extend the deadline. Later, Budine said hybrid meetings will still be allowed.

The board approved a new, simpler town hall rental fee structure: \$20 for small public events, \$50 for large public events or small private events, and \$100 for large private events.

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

Rice also commented that Leverett's fire department has "morphed" into a more professional service over time, with OSHA regulations and other legal requirements driving additional costs that must be funded. She added that some costs had risen by \$700 even since the budget requests were drafted, which might "almost guarantee" that 2.5% growth would be insufficient.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson presented a historical trend analysis showing public safety budgets tracking at the highest slope of all town departments from 2009 to 2024. While not arguing against the larger options, he said: "You're telling us it's justified, but we will have to decide if we can support it."

Fin com member Nancy Grossman said she was feeling a little "cranky" about not receiving the budget requests for review prior to the meeting, and that the 16.5% option felt like a wishlist that was being pushed until the town said "No," while other departments were keeping closer to the board's guidance.

Board member Patricia Duffy pointed out that the 16.5% increase only amounted to \$8,000, but looks larger as a percentage. She expressed support for what she called Cook's efforts to "right-size" the department, and commented that the town can't expect it to be run as it was 20 years ago.

Former firefighter Brian Emond expressed support for the uniform and equipment expenses, saying that providing "safety equipment and the tools they need to do their job" was important in attracting people to the department. "We're not talking about buying snowplows or planting trees," he said. "We're talking about responders who are putting their lives on the line."

Emond also said he felt the spirit of volunteerism in town had waned over the last 15 years, and the culture needed to change to encourage people to participate in the fire service.

Board member Jed Proujansky said the presentation with three options was "exactly what we wanted to see" in order to understand what would be lost by supporting a lower budget.

**Senior Connector**

Council on Aging (COA) chair Judi Fonsh and co-chair Linda Hoer presented a budget of \$22,000, significantly higher than the current year's \$4,553. The cost of existing expenses was projected to increase by only \$1,658, but the addition of a community and events coordinator position at 15 hours per week would add \$15,575.

The pair said the town has conducted several studies in recent years identifying a need to reach out to elderly residents, support them,

and connect them with services, and that the additional staffing would help pursue these goals.

Fonsh noted that 40% of Leverett's residents are 60 or older, and the number is rising. She said the position would also help lay the groundwork for a future, possibly grant-funded, "navigator" position to provide even more assistance to elders.

Fin com chair Phil Carter called the position a "great idea," but said he was "not at all sure" about the expense given residents' struggles with property taxes.

Fin com member Isaiah Robison said he shared this concern, but that "If we don't do something for [seniors] now, when are we going to do something?" He said it was a "tough question" and "frustrating to balance" against other important costs such as the fire, police, and highway departments.

Robison lamented the loss of family support for seniors due to people leaving town. "There's a need there," he said. "It bums me out to spend more money, but what else are we going to do?"

Hankinson commented that when the personnel board looks at hiring decisions it thinks about money, but more so how to strengthen the town. "We have no idea whether we can afford it," he said, "but we are going to find out."

Duffy said that providing services to seniors is a challenge for rural towns, but necessary to make a town "an attractive and healthy place to live."

Hankinson, Proujansky, and fin com member Bethany Seeger all said they would like to see how the larger COA budget looked in the context of the overall town budget.

**Transfer Station**

Transfer station coordinator Annette Herda presented a budget of \$76,025, following the board's 2.5% guidance. She said hauling costs have increased, but that by juggling grant funding sources she had contained the cost to the town.

Herda also said hazardous waste disposal costs have decreased due to fewer people participating in the program. She attributed a reduction in supply costs to "just not buying any," and hoping people leave useful items at the take-it-or-leave-it shed.

Seeger suggested posting needed supplies on the LeverettConnects email listserv.

In response to a question from Hankinson, Herda said she loves the idea of providing salted sand to the public at the transfer station, and had been talking with highway superintendent Matt Boucher about the prospect.

Silas Ball of North Leverett cautioned that Herda should look at potential groundwater seepage issues.

Commenting after the meeting on the state of FY'26 budget deliberations, Hankinson told the *Reporter* that "Leverett has a well-established, deliberative process that considers departmental budget requests and integrates those requests into an *affordable* town budget that best serves the residents of Leverett. That means sometimes asking departments to operate leaner than they wish ..."

**Complete Streets**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) senior transportation planning engineer Laurie Scarbrough and transportation program manager Beth Giannini gave a presentation on Leverett's participation in the state's "Complete Streets" grant program.

Giannini described Complete Streets as being "like extra Chapter 90 highway funding," which can provide up to \$500,000 in technical assistance and infrastructure construction money over a four-year period for transportation projects a town might not otherwise be able to afford.

Eligible projects must accommodate all modes of transportation including walking, biking, and driving.

Following a public meeting several weeks earlier and meetings with town officials, FRCOG identified 17 potential projects in Leverett, ranging in cost from \$45,000 for crosswalk and intersection improvements to \$13 million to develop separated paths along the Franklin County bikeway. Giannini and Scarbrough suggested some of the listed projects could be completed in phases, and that the bikeway proposal would involve "a lot of phases," but was good to have on the radar.

The next step in the application process is for the town to rank the projects in priority order.

Board members identified five areas as higher priorities for improvement: the intersection of Depot, Shutesbury, and Montague roads; pedestrian crossings at the town hall, post office, and church; the bus stop at the post office on Montague Road; parking and crossings at Leverett Pond; and crossings in the North Leverett historic district.

Giannini said she would re-order the list based on the board's feedback and return on March 11 to finalize it for the state. Links to a "story map" outlining all the proposed projects, and Scarbrough's email address for comments and suggestions, are available on the town website. Comments may also be addressed to town administrator Marjorie McGinnis or selectboard members.

**Other Business**

The board decided not to pursue the sale of a parcel of town land on the Sunderland line inquired about at their previous meeting. Duffy said there were "issues with abutters," and all three members said they saw no benefit to the town in selling the land.

The board appointed Liz Kibel to the fin com.

Hankinson reported that he had heard from staff at the state Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office that it was a "dynamic time" for federal funding, and that funds coming to the state were "very, very uncertain."

Silas Ball reported that the *ad hoc* committee for the future of the Field building has re-formed, and hopes to have some progress to report at the selectboard's next meeting.

**TOWN OF MONTAGUE • PUBLIC HEARING  
FY 2025 CDBG APPLICATION**

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. during the Selectboard Meeting, via Zoom (please refer to [www.montague-ma.gov/d/8934/Selectboard](http://www.montague-ma.gov/d/8934/Selectboard)), to solicit public response to the Town's submission of an FY 2025 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

The meeting will be held via Zoom regardless of the weather.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the contents of this application. The Town is considering applying for the following activities: social service programs, an Avenue A Streetscape Improvements project in downtown Turners Falls, and possibly a housing rehabilitation loan program. Montague Town Officials and HRA representatives will be available to discuss the FY 2025 CDBG application's activities. The Town is eligible to apply for up to \$850,000. If awarded, the Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the CDBG Program.

The Town encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.

The Town will make reasonable accommodations for handicapped, non-English speaking, or hearing-impaired participants with seven days advance written notice to the Selectboard's Office. Any resident unable to participate in the public hearing is welcome to submit written comments to the attention of the Town Administrator, Montague Town Hall, Turners Falls, MA.

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**Montague Community Television News**

**You, Too, Can Watch Meetings**

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – It's another one of those blurbs about meetings! This week you can find both the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings as well as the most recent Montague finance committee meeting. All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page.

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**IMPACT** from page A1

and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA).

Govoni said two “substantial” programs her agency administers – Section 8 housing assistance vouchers and community development block grant (CDBG) funding for local towns – come from the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), but that she has not yet heard “directly” from HUD staff whether they will be affected.

“No news is good news,” Govoni told the *Reporter*. “What we’re telling all of our participants, landlords and contractors, is that if we have a contract we have a contract, and we’re going to honor that.”

And Allison Van der Velden, CEO of the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC), said she wondered whether “anybody will even read” an application for a rural health outreach grant she submitted last month to the Health Resources & Services Administration, and that her organization’s “Section 330” payments from the Community Health Center Fund are arriving again – after a surprise nationwide freeze in late January.

“We were not able to access our grant funding for a few days, and then it was turned back on after creating a lot of anxiety,” Van der Velden said. “It’s worth noting that the Community Health Center program has had bipartisan support since 1965, and that this has never happened before, so it really did create a lot of stress to see that they actually did shut off our access to funding.”

**Shock Therapy**

That funding freeze, which affected state Medicaid agencies across the country as well as community health centers, was overturned quickly by a federal district court injunction, but its unexpected and far-reaching nature set the tone for the next month as it signaled the incoming Trump administration’s determination to test novel means to slash federal spending.

Local towns, agencies, and residents could be affected in the coming weeks and months by at least six broad categories of federal reduction: freezing or canceling grants already under contract; disappearance of expected new funding opportunities; civil-service layoffs affecting departments’ ability to carry out their work; enforcement of ideological litmus tests; reduction of federal “pass-through” money that underwrites many state programs; and the anticipated passage of an FY’26 federal budget mandating cuts so deep they will impact previously guaranteed programs.

Much of the controversy in Washington this month has hinged on the administration’s assertion that the executive branch has a right to “impound,” or refuse to spend, money already allocated by the legislature, and that the Impoundment Control Act, a 1974 law prohibiting this behavior, is unconstitutional.

The theory is now being tested with a patchwork of funding freezes and contract cancellations. Some of these have been targeted at programs seen to be at odds with executive orders Trump signed in his first week of office, including #14151 (“Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing”), #14168 (“Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restor-

ing Biological Truth to the Federal Government”), and #14173 (“Ending Illegal Discrimination And Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”).

Many, however, have not been, and to complicate matters a slew of legal challenges have been filed to these orders and actions – 94 as of press time, according to a tracker maintained by Just Security ([www.justsecurity.org](http://www.justsecurity.org)). The result is that local towns, cities, and agencies are still trying to gauge the ultimate effects.

Dunlavy said FRCOG has created a survey, “at the request of our legislative delegation,” that will ask the county’s municipalities, economic development organizations, and human service non-profits to detail their reliance on federal funding, say whether any has been “cut or frozen yet,” and describe the impact of the loss if so.

“What we’ve heard from legislators is that telling the story is very important,” Dunlavy explained. “We will likely ask everyone that we send it to to keep sending us information, so that we can keep a running tally.”

Thus far, the FRCOG director told the *Reporter*, she is only aware of cuts affecting Hampden County cities, though in Franklin County “several organizations have been asked to say they will comply with the President’s executive orders.”

The Council of Governments itself, she said, is “about 50% federally funded.... We have federal Homeland Security funding, emergency preparedness funding, public health funding, transportation, economic development, climate resiliency.”

Reimbursements under these programs are currently flowing, Dunlavy said, but FRCOG was recently working with multiple local towns to apply for grants from the Department of Transportation – the PROTECT and RAISE programs – only to see the funding opportunities disappear.

FRCOG’s regional animal control and building inspection programs, she noted, are both locally funded, and thus “safe.”

**The Storm to Come**

“The most immediate stuff for [Montague],” Ramsey said, “is that we have a lot of federally-funded grants for capital projects that are in midstream – that are under contract or under construction – and so we’re trying to figure out what that means.”

These include a \$2.48 million combined grant and loan from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Rural Development program to replace the large screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility, a project the selectboard authorized to proceed Monday night.

“It’s hard to get clear answers from anybody, but we haven’t heard otherwise, and it is under a contract,” Ramsey explained. “We’re moving along cautiously, but still proceeding with all these projects.”

Another major funding package in the pipeline is the town’s next tranche of CDBG funding, which is administered by the FCRHRA. Montague uses each round of CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation loans, an ongoing streetscape improvement project in downtown Turners Falls, and several small social-service grants.

“We understand that there will be a program [this year],” Ramsey said. “There’s an open application

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

# Hole Gets Deeper; Trip Probed

By **MIKE JACKSON**

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The regional school committee must approve a final FY’26 budget at its next meeting on March 11. Due to state Chapter 70 aid coming in lower than hoped for a second year in a row, the current budget cycle has so far been marked by austerity, with two to three positions anticipated to be cut under the preliminary budget.

This Tuesday business manager Joanne Blier delivered further bad news. The preliminary budget had hoped about \$200,000 in surplus funds from the current year could be cleverly moved around and applied as revenue next year, but the way things are going, she explained, the district is running toward about a \$200,000 deficit. In other words, another \$400,000 will need to be either found or eliminated by March 11.

The current deficit, Blier said, is being driven above all by transportation and tuition costs for out-of-district special ed placements.

“It is something that is becoming an issue in every district,” chair Jane Oakes of Gill commented.

“It’s out of balance,” said Carol Jacobs of Montague.

Two members of the junior class at Turners Falls High School gave an extensive presentation to the committee, accompanied by class advisor Alyssa Comeau, on a proposal to take their senior class trip next year to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The proposal involved chartering a bus and driving down for a 10-day stay at an estate with a pool. Educational day trips were included in the proposal.

Responding to questions from the committee, the students indicated that about 35 of their 55 class members were interested in joining the trip, and that if 50 attend the price per participant would be as low as \$700 or \$800. They vowed to fundraise to help defray the cost.

After the presentation, school committee members discussed the proposal at length, with Montague member Heather Katsoulis particularly adamant that class trips these days are too extravagant, and a number of other members expressing concern for students unable to join the trip due to financial constraints or other commitments, including athletics. No vote was taken.

The school committee’s next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

and solicitation, and we’re operating under the program guidance.”

Ramsey said that for the most part, Montague town hall has its “hands full” carrying out the projects funded by the large wave of grants in the last five years, and that he hopes “folks at higher levels” will sort through the meaning of new federal policies for small towns.

The federal situation, he said, is “leading us to think in a fiscally conservative stance moving forward.... We need to be really smart with how we use our money, and maybe adjust our expectations. We’re going to have to work hard to protect the services we’re able to offer.”

Ramsey said he attended Connect 351, a statewide conference held last month by the Massachusetts Municipal Association featuring speeches from the state’s US senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey.

“They tried to put a positive spin on things, but it was kind of a tough atmosphere – a little frustrated and downtrodden,” he recounted. “There was talk about just kind of hunkering down and being in solidarity together, and just trying to weather the storm to come....

“I know the state’s actively planning to help mitigate whatever impacts happen through loss of federal funding – they’ve been very proactive in that – so hopefully that will help ease the impacts to the towns.”

**Keeping Close Watch**

Govoni, the FCRHRA director, also said she believed the next CDBG round is moving forward. “We’re still full-steam-ahead with those proposals,” she said, explaining that the block grant funds flow from HUD to the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), which also administers a number of other funding streams the housing authority receives.

The state branch of the National Alliance of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), she told the *Reporter*, is “keeping close watch on the federal resources,” and she is also staying in touch with the office of US representative Jim McGovern in her effort to “keep tabs” on any word from HUD.

“So far there’s no news,” Govoni said. “We’re certainly hearing rumors about large reductions in force

at HUD, but we haven’t seen it yet.”

The announcement last week of the firing of over 6,000 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employees, as it turns out, could also affect local housing development.

This Thursday FCRHRA plans to apply through the state’s Community One Stop For Growth grant portal to secure a key piece of funding for 176 Main Street in Greenfield, where it plans to tear down a single-floor commercial structure and replace it with a four-story building with 32 upstairs apartments.

“That is the Low Income Housing Tax Credit [LIHTC], which is the largest subsidy source for affordable housing in this country, and it’s run through the IRS,” she said. “It’s not part of HUD. So we will see if there are any implications there....”

Govoni warned that reductions at HUD would impact the local economy beyond hurting low-income tenants.

“These are not subsidy programs that act outside of the business market we all live in,” she said. “The Section 8 program supports small landlords, the CDGB program supports a lot of local contractors.... It would be a real shame to hinder programs that are such vital parts of a market housing system, and I really hope they consider that before any of the people who work with federal funds at HUD are impacted.”

**Probably Careening**

Van der Velden, the CHCFC head, said that last month’s freeze was brief enough that the center still made payroll, and the Section 330 program only amounts to 15% of its revenue. Still, she said she expects fewer federal grants to be available going forward – and even if opportunities are posted, grantwriting is “an expensive and time-consuming process,” and if actually receiving funding becomes more of a gamble it may not be worth the time.

Van der Velden also told the *Reporter* she worries about the long-range impact of deep budget cuts, particularly if funding is reduced for Medicaid, which underwrites the state’s MassHealth insurance program.

“Any cuts to Medicaid are likely to impact us, but we don’t know

exactly how,” she said. “Massachusetts’s budget will have a huge shortfall, but the impacts it has on the health centers will be determined by how the state manages the shortfall.”

If there is “competition for the state budget,” Van der Velden said, other state grants the center depends on could be next on the chopping block, including one that covers sexual and reproductive health services.

And CHCFC, which today serves roughly 9,000 patients out of facilities in Greenfield, Montague City, and Orange, is “most concerned” that some of those patients – including immigrants – might lose MassHealth eligibility. The organization offers a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients, but it is an expensive prospect.

CHCFC is a member of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, which helps it “decipher information” and “respond to each of these crises,” Van der Velden said. The organization also participated in a recent emergency summit of local social-service agencies convened by United ARC, the United Way, and NELCWIT.

“My takeaway from that meeting,” Van der Velden said, “is that the impact in this region of these cuts, if they all come to fruition, is really extreme – there’s no way anybody who lives here won’t be affected.... I think that we’re probably careening towards a recession.”

Like Govoni, Van der Velden described the ways in which cuts aimed at low-income people will affect the population more broadly.

“When you decrease healthcare access by cutting Medicaid, cutting services, or limiting certain types of treatments, you see an increase in more acute health problems,” she explained. “Funding cuts that impact primary care lead to overcrowded hospitals. Funding cuts at hospitals lead to overcrowded emergency rooms, and patients being sent home and dying of causes they shouldn’t have died of.”

“It doesn’t matter how poor or rich or what color you are, or who your spouse is,” she continued. “If you have a heart attack, you need care, and you need your medical team available and attentive. It is going to impact everybody, and it’s a lot.”



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**THE SPIRIT SHOPPE**

**ERVING** from page A1

since the 2020 Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) legislation mandating police academy training for all officers in the state. "POST really did a number on small communities," he commented.

**Historical Commission**

Historical commissioners Theresa Dodge, Kelly Loynd, and BettyLou Mallet asked the board to support reducing the number of commissioners from seven to five and to establish a new committee, the Pearl B. Care Museum committee. They explained that only five members are appointed to the commission, and if one is absent there is no quorum and they cannot conduct business.

The three said they were more interested in organizing and cataloging the artifacts in the Care Building than in their other duties as commissioners, and asked to be appointed as members of a separate museum committee.

The seven-member commission was created by town meeting in 1973, and changing the number of seats would require a town meeting vote. The board asked town administrator Bryan Smith to find out whether the commission's original charge included maintenance of the Care Building and its artifacts.

Dodge, Loynd, and Mallet agreed to bring up the issues with the commission and report back.

On Monday Dodge presented the commission's draft budget, with no significant changes from FY'25 budget. "Capital needs for the building maintenance and plans for the future will be reviewed in 2026," the narrative read. "There is a need to discuss whether the building is appropriate for public use as a museum or other facility, or if those functions should be better served elsewhere."

**The three said they were more interested in organizing and cataloging the artifacts in the Care Building than in their other duties as historical commissioners.**

Dodge said that the Care Building needs extensive repairs, with a preliminary estimate of \$500,000 for future work.

**Animal Control**

Erving has not had an animal control officer (ACO) for more than a year. Athol has been providing ACO services on an interim basis, and Erving police have been handling some animal control calls.

Holst said he had not budgeted for an ACO in his FY'26 request, as the position was vacant, but a candidate recently applied to the position. He noted that the town does not have a vehicle for an ACO; a capital request to replace the vehicle was denied last year because the position was vacant, and he did not resubmit one in the current budget cycle.

Selectboard and fin com members asked for information about the cost of a permanent contract with Athol, the cost of filling the ACO position, and the cost of buying or refurbishing an ACO vehicle. They plan to continue the discussion March 10.

**Senior Center Director Search**

Senior center director Paula Betters plans to retire in July. On February 20, the board discussed the approach for hiring a new director.

In a February 18 memo, Bryan Smith wrote that he and Betters had worked on a revised job description, and a profile describing the community. He asked for clarification as to whether the director is mainly responsible for the operation of the senior center, or for providing services to all seniors in town with the center as a primary responsibility.

**Smith asked for clarification as to whether the director is mainly responsible for the operation of the senior center, or for providing services to all seniors in town.**

The board recommended advertising the position in March, with the goal of interviewing in April, and appointing a new director in May.

Betters's FY'26 budget request had few changes from the current year, but she said she was concerned about rising electricity costs; January's bill was \$1,000 higher than the previous January's. The total request for senior services was \$192,470, with a new expense of \$9,689 for part-time kitchen help.

**Health and Recreation**

Board of health chair Jeffrey McAndrews reported that the FY'26 budget request was similar to this year's, except for an extra \$5,000 for an animal inspector, a position that has not been filled for two years. The board requested \$55,751 for the health agent and \$41,103 for salaries and expenses.

McAndrews recommended providing a vehicle for the animal inspector – possibly one shared with the ACO and health agent.

Library director Abigail Baines presented a level-funded request of \$269,034, but said the library really needs a 4.2% increase due to increases in the cost of electricity, heat, security monitoring, fire alarm services, and collections.

The recreation commission requested \$87,153, approximately \$1,000 more than FY'25. In his presentation, rec commission chair Thomas Glennon focused on future capital costs, such as removing the water tower at Riverfront Park, new playground equipment at Zilinski Park, and work at Veterans' Field.

According to Glennon, Veterans' Field renovations could cost \$1 million in FY'27, with the possibility of up to 50% paid by a grant. He reported that town consultant Tighe & Bond had estimated the cost of removing the water tower at \$240,000 and refurbishing it at \$540,000. He noted that people have been seen climbing it.

Fin com member Daniel Hammock asked whether townspeople had been consulted about the tower's removal. Bryan Smith said the open space committee was preparing a public survey, and could include a question about the water tower.

**Emergency Services**

The town's assessment for Northfield emergency medical services, as presented by Northfield

EMS chief Matthew Wolkenbreit, is \$42,924, an increase of about \$18,000 over the FY'25 assessment. Wolkenbreit explained that salaries have increased based on new staffing and competition, and that the assessment includes a 10-year capital improvement fund to replace aging equipment.

Northfield EMS covers ambulance service for the west side of Erving. Orange EMS, which serves the east side of Erving, is assessing the town \$85,339.90. Both services charge Erving using a formula based on population and expected number of calls.

Holst presented a replacement score sheet for an older police cruiser, saying "it meets the score for immediate replacement."

Capital planning and fin com member Debra Smith commented that the sheet was not official policy, and should not be used to justify replacing a vehicle.

All three selectboard members maintained that whether or not the cruiser is replaced, the department needs all of its vehicles to be functioning, and authorized Holst to have it repaired.

Fire chief Philip Wonka reported back to the board with information about replacing the 1989 pumper-tanker. According to a quote from Tax Exempt Leasing Corp, the town would pay \$166,446 annually under a five-year payment term for a \$750,000 tanker. Annual payments for seven or 10 years would be lower, but the total cost would increase.

Earlier in the month Wonka had presented revisions to the 50-year-old Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid (TSFMA) agreement, which allows fire departments from 47 Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts towns to cross state lines to provide mutual aid in emergencies. The selectboard had asked for more information from the town's insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA), and legal counsel.

In a memo provided on February 20, Bryan Smith responded that Erving carries the amount of insurance required by the TSFMA agreement, and that MIIA supports the town signing the revision.

The board authorized chair Jacob Smith to sign it.

**Other Business**

The selectboard authorized Jacob Smith, Erving school committee chair Mackensy Bailey, and Union 28 superintendent Shannon White-Cleveland to submit a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for funding a proposed roof and HVAC replacement project at Erving Elementary.

The school has requested \$200,000 from the capital planning committee, as the first step in the process, for the town's match to hire a project manager and conduct a feasibility study.

The board decided to schedule a special town meeting in March to confirm a prior vote on easements for the Church Street bridge project, consider paying a bill of a prior year, and appropriate the remaining \$75,000 for the public works office space. Bryan Smith will present a draft warrant at the March 3 meeting.

Almost Anything Goes bulky waste pickup will begin on May 5. The collection will begin in Erving and move eastward until complete.



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

*Here's the way it was on February 26, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Falls, the Great Falls, and the bike bridge at the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut rivers.

**Wanted: Skilled, Creative Chinese Visitors**

After getting none of the \$70,873 pledged in a Kickstarter fundraiser because the set goal of \$100,000 was not reached, the Millers Falls Arts Bridge organization, which seeks to restore Saint John's Church and provide residences for artists from China, is moving forward using Indiegogo, a rival crowdfunding website.

The group hopes to give Chinese artists a sense of the local community and has put out a call in Beijing for artists to design temporary installations for five local sites: at Ruggles Pond, the French King bridge, the oxbow below Millers

**A Leverett Leak**

During a spell of exceptionally cold weather, somewhere between 6,000 and 8,000 gallons of water burst from a cracked elbow in the Leverett Elementary School's sprinkler system on February 18, during school vacation.

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said he and about a half dozen school employees and volunteers pushed water down the hallway with snow shovels out the back door into a catch basin during the worst of the flooding. Four rooms were heavily damaged. A second smaller break occurred days later, causing further damage. "We're looking at weeks" of repairs, Brazeau said.

**20 YEARS AGO**

*Here's the way it was on February 24, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

cal farms, like Red Fire Farm and Upingil. Rosenberg explained that he believes a regionally-based food system would promote a far more ecologically sound and socially just world.

**Real Pickles for Social Justice**

Dan Rosenberg started out making just one product, dill pickles, and has since added sauerkraut, kimchi, and red cabbage to his Real Pickles line. He makes all of his pickled foods at the Western Mass. Food Processing Center, a shared-use commercial kitchen in Greenfield.

He calls his products "real" because they are raw and naturally fermented. All his products are 100% certified organic and made entirely with vegetables from lo-

**Feds Deliver for Taxpayers**

The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission is pleased to announce the receipt of an \$18,000 grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for improvements to the fieldhouse at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The grant will pay for repairs to the roof and interior renovations to improve energy efficiency and space utilization.

**150 YEARS AGO**

*Here's the way it was on February 24, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.*

history, and an exceedingly interesting conversationalist.

**Turners Falls and Vicinity**

It will soon be time for sugar parties.

If you happen to be in Stevens' ask him to show you a handsome specimen of crystallization which he has lately come in possession of. The aqueduct pipe burst on L street, yesterday, and the waste of water almost emptied the reservoir.

The Wilmington singers drew a large audience at the Baptist chapel, Monday evening, and were highly appreciated.

Hereafter a Sunday school session will follow the forenoon services of the Congregational society, in the German M.E. Church.

The Pulp Company is at present doing a better business than at any time for three years. They have more orders than they can fill.

Our oldest inhabitant is Uncle John Clark of Factory Hollow. He is a dozen bound volumes of local

Wise & Ripley have a large stock of oranges which they are selling cheaper than they can be had in the cities. Just think of it, they are selling large oranges for thirty cents a single dozen or two dozen for fifty cents. When the fine quality of the fruit is known, and the price, no one in town will fail to invest at least a dollar bill in the luscious fruit.

At the residence of A.E. Perry, Esq., Riverside, on Thursday evening last, was given a private masquerade party which will be long remembered by those present as an evening of unalloyed pleasure. Much secrecy was maintained previously as to the character each should represent, and when the company was ushered into the parlors and drawing rooms, all were amazed at the number of costumes, and brilliancy of the party, as it was generally believed that few would be masked, while on the contrary all came masked and maintained their disguise pretty generally till the time for unmasking.



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1  
staffing challenges, with three vacancies in its force of 18. Two of the vacancies have in theory been filled, but the new hires are attending the police academy in Boylston and will not be available for work until the spring.

The town has approved a bonus for police transferring from other municipalities who are already certified by the academy, but that policy has so far not produced the desired results.

In addition, Lieutenant Chris Bonnett is currently on paid leave pending the results of an internal investigation, and Sergeant Jacob Dlugosz was injured on duty on December 31. The staffing shortage led the department to pull Dan Miner, the resource officer at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School, two weeks ago in order to devote his time to regular duties.

The selectboard may therefore have been relieved to hear that Sevens had recovered rapidly, and is expected to return to duty March 3. "It's not a long period of 111F," Ramsey told them.

**A Double Search**

In other staffing news, the selectboard elevated assistant town clerk Tina Sulda, to the town clerk's position, replacing Kathern "Beanie" Pierce, who resigned effective February 13. Ramsey said that the state requires "that somebody be designated the official town clerk of record."

Sulda's appointment was made effective the previous Tuesday, February 18, and will continue until the position is filled, which Ramsey said could take two or three months. She will be paid at the rate of the regular clerk, which Ramsey said could be funded within the current budget.

The board then appointed Abigail Moore, a Greenfield Community College student who has been working in the clerk's office, as an "extra clerical/election worker" for a maximum of 35 hours per week until the end of the fiscal year in June. Ramsey indicated that Moore would rarely work the full 35 hours.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz proposed waiting to put the final touches on the search committees for both the town clerk and director of assessing positions until "somebody from the public" had been chosen to serve on each. This idea received an enthusiastic response from his fellow board members.

The current clerk-hiring committee, Kuklewicz said, is envisioned to include Sulda, assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, a selectboard member, and a member of the board of registrars. The assessor-hiring committee will be composed of Ramsey, a selectboard member, and assessor Ann Cenzano.

Selectboard member Matt Lord volunteered to serve on the clerk committee, and member Chris Boutwell opted for the assessor search.

For the public representatives

Kuklewicz, noting that the board would like to finalize appointments next week, said "letters of interest" would need to be received by Wednesday, February 26.

**Town Buildings**

Nolan-Zeller updated the board on the process of developing a plan to either renovate or replace the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. He said the steering committee overseeing the process was putting together a "request for qualifications" (RFQ) to hire an owner's project manager for the initial phase, which would lead to hiring an architect.

Asked how a project manager could be hired if the committee had not yet decided what the project would be, he said one of the jobs of the project manager as stated in the RFQ would be "of assistance in deciding our path moving forward."

Ramsey requested that the board transfer \$3,961.36 from the town's "community development discretionary account," which accumulates funds from federal block grants, to the "community development Shea Theater account" for needed repairs on the building.

The board approved this request, though Ramsey said he would look into the possibility of creating a repair account for the town-owned building, funded by its lease revenue.

"It was news to me that there's not a dedicated maintenance account for the Shea Theater, the municipally-owned building," he said, noting that this is year nine of the Shea Theater Arts Center's ten-year lease agreement for the theater.

**Other Business**

The board accepted the resignations of Richard Ruth and James Mussoni from the town's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, established under a 1984 state law to "implement economic development projects identified in the Economic Development Plan." One of the corporation's duties is overseeing the airport industrial park.

Nolan-Zeller noted that Mussoni was resigning from an "at-large" position with general qualifications, but that Ruth's seat is limited, under state law, to a person with "experience in industrial development."

Nolan-Zeller requested that the board allocate \$17,500 to the engineering firm Tighe & Bond to investigate the asbestos found in the utility lines attached to the defunct footbridge over the power canal to the Strathmore mill. He explained that although FirstLight Power owns the bridge, which is planned to be demolished, the town owns the utility lines and is responsible for hazardous materials abatement.

Funds for the project will come from a "footbridge settlement" fund previously acquired from FirstLight. The board approved the request.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held Monday, March 3.



# MONTAGUE-REPORTER



Turners Falls reader Victor Signore brought our January 2 edition with him to an art residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont. "I got here on Monday and have about a week left," he wrote, back on the 11th. "It's been an amazing experience so far!"



Paul Kroegel, 1864-1948, listens pensively as Joan Pillsbury of Gill reads from our January 16 issue, filling him in on what has happened since he was the first Pelican National Wildlife Refuge warden in Vero Beach, Florida, from 1903 to 1926.



## ON THE ROAD

Garth Shaneyfelt, our business manager, escaped to Colorado earlier this month (better bicycling, apparently), but could not bear to leave behind our January 23 edition. It ultimately came in handy, though, as a means of blocking the view of Boulder.



Just when we thought it had been overlooked, we learned that our January 9 edition traveled all the way to Phuket, Thailand last month with Montague reader Chris Goldhill!



And Leverett's Claire Hopley, a regular contributor to this section, smuggled a copy of February 13 to Rabat, the capital city of Morocco.

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

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

FEBRUARY 27, 2025



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## THE RIVER KNOWS YOUR NAME

By DAVID BRULE

**THE FALLS AT PESKE-OMPSKUT** – Imagine you are standing on the frozen shore, maybe a mile from where you are now, maybe more – it depends.

*Stand still. The trees and bushes beside you, the river before you, Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here. And you must treat it as a powerful stranger, Must ask permission to know it and be known. The river breathes. Listen. It answers, "I have made this place around you." If you leave it you may come back again, saying River... If what River does is lost on you, You are surely lost. Stand still. The river knows Where, who you are. You must let River find you...*

(Adapted from the poem "Lost," by David Wagoner.)

Who is this River?

River stretches before you, in deep February, a white frozen line through the ancient landscape, stretching up through Abenaki homelands to Quebec.

The waters are not still. Beneath the winter ice, the waters breathe and flow, irresistible.

Where you are standing has long been a place of flowing waters, mystery, and spiritual energy.

More than 750 million years ago, this place was a part of the supercontinent called Pangaea. This region was situated on the equator before shifting and drifting across the surface of the planet to wind up right here.

By the Mesozoic period 500 million years ago, before you would be spread a vast tropical Connecticut Valley lake with tall horsetail ferns and ancient vegetation thriving in the lakeshore mud.

200 million years ago, Jurassic-period dinosaurs were roaming this valley's muddy shores right here where you are standing. They left tracks in sand and mud which over time became fossilized.

Later, 19<sup>th</sup>-century collectors first thought they were finding tracks of ancient, extinct birds. By the late 1800s the beginnings of *ichnology* – study of stone prints – developed, as scientists came to understand the real origins of the tracks. Soon dinosaur tracks from this very spot were being sent out to museums across the world.

This riverscape has witnessed eons of change. Succeeding tectonic shifts split and uplifted the earth's crust right here on the Eastern Border Fault, creating towering Alp-like mountains. Multiple succeeding cycles of glaciers ground down those towering mountains to leave behind the gentle sloped hills before you.

The last glacier melted back 17,000 years ago, leaving a vast glacial lake in its retreat. After a life spanning more than four thousand years, the lake drained, and the river once again began to seek its primitive bed. Braided streams ran through this landscape to eventually join in one mighty river.

The dried glacial lake left behind sandy lakeshore beaches. Sand dunes formed, driven by fierce winds across the empty lake bed.

The first human beings arrived in this place around 14,000 years before the present. They came from the south, trekking across the dunes of the modern-day Montague Plains. Their campsites have been found less than a mile from this spot.

These first people were hunting the mastodon, mammoth, and caribou that crossed the pitch pine barrens of the dunes to find the oasis of water flowing through this valley.

These "Paleoindians" were the first humans to visit this spot, marveling at the three waterfalls that see **WEST ALONG** page B3

## BOOK REVIEW

# 'TimeLiners' Arrive: Hop Aboard The Latest in Literary Time Travel

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Start judging this book by its cover. It's called *TimeLiners*, a word we've never heard, and it's written by Emily Blaisdell, a writer we've never read.

Now check out the jacket blurbs: "Although I've been dead since 1946, I bloody well loved *TimeLiners*." That's by H.G. Wells, the author of *The Time Machine*.

Billie Holiday also liked it: "So fine, so mellow, so proud to be in *TimeLiners*, singing for my future fans." That's us.

Contemporary reviews are also over-the-top. "*USA Yesterday*" calls *TimeLiners* the "best – and wittiest – novel ever written about time travel." No question about it.

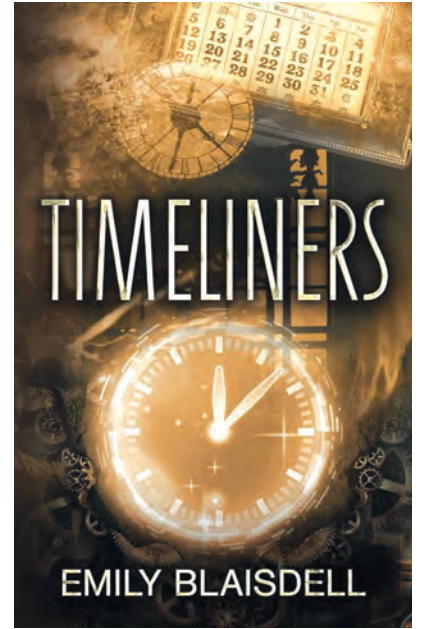
*TimeLiners* may also be the most creatively imaginative. Picture yourself going both forward and backward in time on the same day: you leave aboard the inaugural *TimeLiner* voyage on June 10, 2027, and arrive on that same day in New York one hundred years earlier. Just in time to see Charles Lindbergh in the city's

first ticker-tape parade. It's entirely spontaneous, and, in the local lingo of the time, "the berries."

Fellow pioneer Casey Clement is also there. Distinguished by her blue hair, sharp tongue, and useless credit cards, the closest she will come to Lindbergh is the dance that's named after him. The main reason for her time trip is to escape temporarily from the critical clutches of her physicist "Momster," Jill, whom she can never please.

It isn't long before *TimeLiners* and *Timeports* are popping up all over the country. And for all kinds of reasons: to see Albert Einstein without his tongue sticking out, to catch a glimpse of Clark Gable and Jane Powell in Hollywood, to hear Ronald Reagan tell Mr. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

Almost all the travelers are white. A Black couple in Harlem entertains the thought of a time-travel vacation, but they can't think of a place they can go that wouldn't be accompanied by their people's never-ending struggle for human rights. Even the Cotton Club and the Apollo Theater are segregated. Bet-



Emily Blaisdell, *TimeLiners* (2025, self-published).

ter off reading Langston Hughes in the comfort of their own apartment.

The most interesting travels for this reader are the ones made by people returning to singularly romantic moments in their own lives. Think about your first deeply felt kiss, for example. My favorite of

see **REVIEW** page B4

## RECIPES

# Carnival Around the World

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** – When it's Carnival, the go-to place in Brazil is Rio de Janeiro. In Italy, it's Venice; in Spain, it's Cadiz; in the Caribbean, it's Trinidad; and in United States it's decidedly New Orleans.

The craziest day is Mardi Gras, which comes next Tuesday, March 4. Most of us will remain right here in the Valley, probably staying warm indoors. Nonetheless, we can celebrate with Carnival and Mardi Gras foods.

Carnival recipes are many and varied because so many countries celebrate it, and regions have their own specialties. One thing they have in common no matter where they come from is that they use similar ingredients: butter, eggs, milk, and often sausage or other flavorful meats.

The explanation is that before the days of refrigerators and long-distance travel, food was scarce in winter. Christmas feasting would have disposed of most of the food saved from fall, so what was left for winter was stuff that could be stored, often because it was pickled or dried. Nothing would have been growing. There were no vegetables or fruit from balmier regions, and few eggs, because hens don't lay in the dark days of winter. By February and March, pickings were decidedly slim.

It's easy to see why people would be going crazy for a break, so always and everywhere there were winter festivals – often linked to a religion. In Europe Christianity made a virtue of winter necessity by instituting a 40-day fast called Lent before Easter. Fasting didn't mean eating nothing, though; it meant eating very little – already the order of the day in the depths of winter.

The Church's rules forbade animal products: no meat, eggs, butter, milk. Nothing indulgent. What was left was see **RECIPES** page B8



This New Orleans-style jambalaya is a classic regional way to say a quick "goodbye to meat."



KEVIN BRULE PHOTO

The Kwenitekw, looking north from the French King Bridge on Monday.

# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## 'MIA'

If you're looking for a loving, affectionate, and talkative feline friend, Mia is the one for you! This eight-year-old sweet girl adores being petted, loves to cuddle, and is happiest lounging on the couch right by your side. She's a certified couch potato, always ready for a cozy movie night or a relaxing afternoon nap.

Mia is a big fan of food and treats, but prefers to skip the wet food, thank you very much! While she hasn't lived with other animals, she may adjust with a slow and patient introduction to her new home.

If you're looking for a snugly, chatty companion to keep you company, Mia is ready to steal your heart – and your couch! Come meet her today!

Mia's adoption fee is \$299. If you're ready to adopt now and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt this pet, you can start the process by coming to the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield during our open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., or calling us at (413) 781-4000, or visiting [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

# MARCH 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 Craft.** Rabbit portrait. At all branches while supplies last.

**Every Saturday: Drop-in Community Puzzle.** Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

**Mondays, March 3, 10, and 17: Stress Relief for Tweens and Teens.** For ages 11 to 19. Brick House, 4 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, March 5: Knitting Club.** All ages. Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

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

**Every Thursday: Bilingual Music and Movement.** Montague Center, 10 a.m.

**Monday, March 10: Friends of MPL meeting.** Email [kristopherlangston@gmail.com](mailto:kristopherlangston@gmail.com). Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 12: Artist Reception.** Quilts by Ann Feitelson; refreshments and music. Montague Center, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

**Thursday, March 13: Book Club.** Octavia Butler, *The Parable of the Sower*. Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 18: Meet and Greet with Montague Villages.** Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 22: Reptile Nook.** Live animals. Discovery Center, 1 p.m.

**Sunday, March 23: Haiku Tiny Books.** For adults. Registration req'd: (413) 863-3214. Discovery Center, 1 p.m.

**Monday, March 24: Craft Club.** All ages. Montague Center, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, March 27: Book Club.** Octavia Butler, *The Parable of the Sower*. Montague Center, 7 p.m.

### LEVERETT

**All month: Feathers and Fur** by Mary Schreiber.

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

**Saturday, March 1: Tree Pruning Workshop.** Registration req'd: [leverettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:leverettlibrary@gmail.com). 12:30 p.m.

**Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong.** See

[leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org) for info. 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, March 4: Craft Circle.** Leverett 250th story scroll. For adults. 6:30 p.m.

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

**Wednesdays, March 5 and 12: Drawing in Color.** Registration req'd: [leverettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:leverettlibrary@gmail.com). 10:30 a.m.

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

**Saturday, March 8: Exhibit reception.** 1 p.m.

**Thursday, March 13: Green Burial presentation.** Also on Zoom via [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org). 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 18: Library Tech Help.** Drop-in 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 20: LEGO.** Ages 5 to 12. 4 p.m.

**Saturday, March 22: Spring Storytime.** 11 a.m.

**Saturday, March 22: Ancient Music of Living China.** 1 p.m.

**Saturday, March 29: Leverett Timber Industry.** 12:15 p.m.

### NORTHFIELD

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

**Saturday, March 1: Puzzle Pick-Up.** For more info, email [friendsofdml01360@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdml01360@gmail.com). 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting/Crafting.** 6 to 8 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, March 5: Book Group.** Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk*. 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 5: Tech Help.** Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

**Wednesdays, March 5 and March 19: Dungeons & Dragons.** Single-night campaign for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at [northfieldrec.com](http://northfieldrec.com). 5 p.m.

**Thursday, March 6: Spice Club pickup starts.** Sample and recipes while supplies last. *This month:* chipotle powder.

**Thursday, March 6: Environmental Book Group.** Charlotte McConaghy, *Once There Were Wolves*. 3 p.m.

**Friday, March 7: Coffee/Tea Social.** 10 to 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, March 12: Readings Group.** George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda* (books 1

through 3). 3 p.m.

**Thursday, March 13: Take-and-Make Craft.** Paper-plate lion. While supplies last.

**Thursday, March 13: Trivia Night.** Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

**Friday, March 14: Pi(e) Day.** Celebrate 3.14 with pie and hot bevies at the library. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 18: Friends Meeting.** 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 20: LEGO.** 3:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 25: My Summer with Ospreys.** Artist/author Pamela Lowell, Northfield Bird Club. 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 26: Poetry Discussion** with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

### WENDELL

**Saturday, March 1: Closing Reception,** art by Amy Fagin. 1 to 3:30 p.m.

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

**Mondays, March 3 and 17: Fiber Group / Mending Circle.** 6:30 p.m.

**Every Tuesday: Tech Help.** 3 to 5 p.m.

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

**Every Wednesday: CNC Playgroup** with Sylvia. 10 a.m.

**Every Wednesday: Movie,** 4 p.m.; **Yoga,** 6:20 p.m.

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

**Saturday, March 8: Tiny Art Opening Reception.** 11 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday, March 8: Silk Painting Workshop.** Registration req'd. 1 p.m.

**Sunday, March 9: Cookbook Book Club.** 4:30 p.m.

**Sundays, March 9 and 23: Writers' Workshop** with Paul Richmond. 1 p.m.

**Friday, March 14: Office Hour** with Rep. Aaron Saunders. 1 p.m.

**Saturday, March 15: Full Moon Coffee House** to benefit the Library. Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 20: A Deep Presence:** 13,000 years of Native American history. Archaeologist Robert G. Goodby. Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 22: Puzzle Along.** 1 to 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 25: Adult Book Group.** 10 a.m.

**Friday, March 28: Friday Night at the Library.** 5 to 7 p.m.

**Saturday, March 29: Craft Supply Swap.** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## Senior Center Activities MARCH 3 THROUGH 7

### 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 3/3

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
 11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 1 p.m. Kitchen Club

#### Tuesday 3/4

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
 3 p.m. Tai Chi

#### Wednesday 3/5

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent  
 10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
 11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo  
 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Thursday 3/6

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch  
 1 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday 3/7

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

### LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us). Please check the town newslet-

ter or [LeverettConnects@listserv.com](mailto:LeverettConnects@listserv.com) for more info.

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is March 5. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

### ERVING

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

#### Monday 3/3

9 a.m. Good for U  
 10 a.m. Seated Fitness  
 12 p.m. Pitch Players

#### Tuesday 3/4

8:30 a.m. Nail Clip  
 9 a.m. Nurse

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
 10 a.m. Line Dancing  
 11 a.m. Social Stringer

#### Wednesday 3/5

9 a.m. Interval Training  
 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
 11:30 a.m. Bingo  
 1 p.m. Veterans' Agent

#### Thursday 3/6

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

#### Friday 3/7

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting, Open Sew

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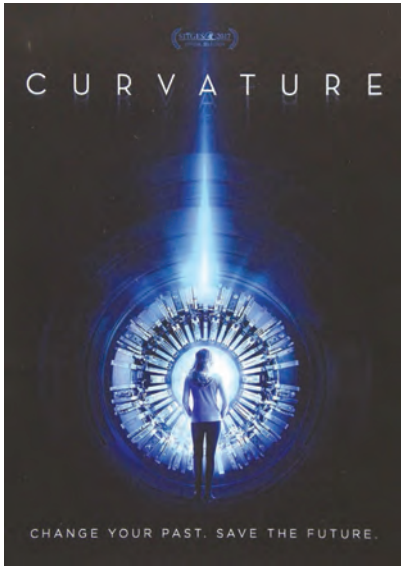
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MOVIE REVIEW

# Curvature (2017)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI



**GREENFIELD** – I like sci-fi movies. This made *Curvature*, a movie I saw online, a decent choice for me to see. It involves time travel, and I knew what the term “curvature” means due to having seen it explained in the 2003 movie *Paycheck* with Ben Affleck. It refers to seeing back through time.

In *Paycheck*, curvature is how they explain a machine can be created to see the future. A person is looking back through time to see a different version of themselves. This makes it a good title for a movie. And in *Curvature*, the concept is put into play in a big way. It ends up making this a huge sci-fi movie.

*Curvature* stars Lyndsy Fonseca as a woman who wants to prevent herself from doing a murder she now regrets. A time-travel machine has been invented, which is how she tries to do this. The machine does work, but there is a bit of a problem with it. Because she used it, she has a gap in her memory.

Another thing that comes into play is using the machine for nefarious purposes, when one of the motives is just to see if it can be created. The whole idea of nefarious purposes is something that has been used in

time-travel movies quite a lot. How it is featured in *Curvature* is a relatively good way to do it. The way they do it doesn't make the viewer ask why they did it this way.

The reason Fonseca's character wants to do what she believes she is going to do is a good one. But there is a little twist. She does the right thing when it comes to what is going on.

I have no complaints about how *Curvature* ends. Things convert, and by the end of the movie, she is truly looking back at herself. This makes it a decent sci-fi movie to watch anytime.



**WEST ALONG** from page B1

poured over the basalt ridge dam of the ancient Connecticut, just upriver from where you are standing.

Their descendants, the modern-day Indigenous inhabitants of this place, call themselves Abenaki and Nipmuck. They call the river *Kwenitekw, Quonektakut*, the Long River. These Indigenous peoples are still here among us, as are their Paleo ancestors who are present in the air that we breathe.

Here in this place, for more than 10,000 years, Native communities met to fish, to plant, to gather ceremonial and medicinal plants, to meet a spouse.

Tragedy and death befell those peoples seeking sanctuary and refuge from war here at Peskeompskut, the Thunder Rocks Place. In 1675 and 1676, during the clash between English settlers and Native forces known as King Philip's War, hundreds of Native people were massacred at the falls. The Nations of the Pocumtuck, Abenaki, Nipmuck, Narragansett, Wampanoag, and many others fell victim to the onslaught. Down the generations, they specifically avoided this place where the spirits of their ancestors were stuck in their greatest moment of torment. The descendants buried this tragedy deep.

They forgot this place. They didn't mean to, but they forgot. They did not seek to come back. In the aftermath, the river, the trees, these hills no longer spoke to them, no longer told them their stories, their histories here.

But the Native peoples have endured. They have persisted, and have returned to this valley despite the haunting darkness of the atrocities that took place here, and a slow process of healing has begun.

After the English colonists took over this space, other immigrants started arriving over the last 150 years. Faith communities came intending to live according to their understanding of the Creator's word. Speculators and entrepreneurs came because they saw the great potential of power at the falls that could be harnessed and turned to industrial use. Refugees arrived, fleeing poverty or the trauma of war.

Their stories have been told and recorded.

And now, here on this late winter day, the river is locked in the grip of the glacier's ghost. The booming of the ice reaches right into your bedroom. You hear the river's voice.

Soon, in early spring, the chaos of the breakup will move inexorably down, and a wall of ice will ram straight into this shore, scraping the cattail marsh, grinding against red rock, piling high in the debacle, then side-slipping away in reluctance and anger from the immovable shore and roiling through the choke point of the Narrows.

Summer will bring people to the river. Solitude and reveries will be violated by speeding boats, the penetrating sound of jet skis, the vulgarity of beer cans and picnic trash.

Autumn will bring the ducks and geese from the north. They carry with them the empty reaches of faraway places, the tundra, the taiga, the pine-scented wind wafting downstream.

You should be alarmed. The river will fluctuate erratically, out of balance with the natural cycles, drawn down several feet a day by the massive turbines of the Northfield project. Some say the River will flow backwards, drawing millions of living creatures to their doom. Then just as often the river will surge, flushing

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Fear of Bird Flu; Driver Found Passed Out With Beer Bottle; Nearby Road Detail Rescues Cat From Tree With Bucket

**Wednesday, 1/1**  
2:05 a.m. 911 open line with heavy static, West Gill Road. No response from silent call procedures.

**Thursday, 1/2**  
10:16 p.m. Main Road.

**Friday, 1/3**  
10:33 a.m. Welfare check, Boyle Road.

**Saturday, 1/4**  
12:20 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident, French King Highway. No personal injuries or leaking fluids.

**Monday, 1/6**  
6:34 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with larceny, French King Highway.  
11:49 a.m. Assisted another agency, Main Road.  
2:02 p.m. Bernardston PD requesting an officer, Raymond Drive.  
7:34 p.m. Paperwork service, Riverview Drive.

**Tuesday, 1/7**  
11:09 a.m. Medical emergency, Purple Road.  
6:15 p.m. Caller reporting a tractor trailer traveling westbound on the French King Highway with two blown tires.

**Thursday, 1/9**  
10:09 a.m. Caller requesting an officer to escort him to a Main Road address.  
12:15 p.m. Articles recovered, Lyons Hill Road.  
1 p.m. Citizen dropped off a copy of a crash report to the station.  
2:55 p.m. Served a warrant on Main Road.  
4:38 p.m. Caller reporting that a Dole Road house has lots of junk cars in their front yard and a demo car partially in the roadway.

**Friday, 1/10**  
9:56 a.m. Wanted subject seen in the Main Road area. Unable to locate.  
3:58 p.m. Recovered bike near Riverview Drive.  
4:59 p.m. Riverview Drive resident concerned that a dead seagull near the water died from bird flu.  
8:57 p.m. French King Highway caller reports an apparent drunk driver

ahead of her.

**Saturday, 1/11**  
8:37 a.m. Carbon monoxide hazard, Stonecutter Road.  
2:36 p.m. Wood Avenue caller advises they have a vehicle stuck on a private drive and AAA won't come to help.  
3:35 p.m. Caller from the rest area at Unity Park concerned about the safety of a person and an animal on the ice at Barton's Cove.  
6:19 p.m. Served warrant for Erving PD, French King Highway.

**Sunday, 1/12**  
3:58 p.m. Mohawk Trail caller reporting erratic operation of a small black hatchback, possibly an Audi, with marked lane violations.  
5:23 p.m. Served a warrant on Main Road.

**Monday, 1/13**  
11:25 a.m. Welfare check, River Road.

**Wednesday, 1/15**  
6:23 p.m. Car vs. pole accident in Erving at Pratt and Lester Streets. Multiple occupants, fluids and smoke.

**Thursday, 1/16**  
9:10 a.m. Fire alarm, Stonecutter Road.  
2:15 p.m. French King Highway check on Mass State Police.  
3:19 p.m. Caller requesting an officer to stop by his Oak Street residence regarding a scam.

**Friday, 1/17**  
9:47 a.m. French King Highway caller advises she was at the stop light when a tractor trailer pulled out of the Mill and hit her vehicle. She attempted to follow the vehicle.  
11:05 a.m. French King Highway 911 call. Caller traveling westbound in Gill would like to report a missing friend.  
11:46 a.m. Juvenile offenses, Main Road.  
12:58 p.m. Barton Cove Road caller would like to report harassment.  
5:37 p.m. Served warrant

for Erving PD, French King Highway.  
8:31 p.m. Citizen on Lamp-lighter Way reporting a lost passport and folder.

**Saturday, 1/18**  
3:17 a.m. Caller reporting she struck a deer on the French King Highway causing front end damage to her vehicle.  
4:30 p.m. Montague dispatch just took a report of a sedan hitting the side-wall of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and continuing into Turners. Same advises the sedan has front-end damage, but is unsure of damage to the bridge.  
4:52 p.m. Montague dispatch requesting an officer to respond to Avenue A disturbance.

**Sunday, 1/19**  
8:24 a.m. Main Road caller reporting that the road is slippery. Highway department advised.  
12:56 p.m. French King Highway driver was pulling into his driveway and was struck by a vehicle.  
6:05 p.m. Main Road caller advises that a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road just north of their address. Vehicle has a directional light on and has been trying to move back and forth. No description of vehicle.  
7:52 p.m. Report of a suspicious person who just exited the woods on the Gill side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.  
8:58 p.m. MassDOT driver reporting that he was plowing the French King Highway and saw somebody walking near the long rest area near Setback Lane.  
11:40 p.m. Gill highway superintendent requesting a welfare check on Barney Hale Road. He came upon a truck with a person passed out with a beer bottle between his legs.

**Monday, 1/20**  
3:30 a.m. French King Highway caller reporting

a Honda Accord parked in front of the store, impeding the plow.

**Tuesday, 1/21**  
11:17 a.m. Main Road caller stating that his neighbor walked over to his house and that he had gotten into a fight.  
1:56 p.m. Fire alarm, Conference Road.

**Thursday, 1/23**  
9:30 a.m. Disabled black Volvo on the French King Highway. Subjects will be back later today to retrieve the vehicle.

**Friday, 1/24**  
9:52 a.m. Mountain Road caller reporting an unknown cat apparently stuck in a tree in a wooded area across the street from her residence. Asked nearby detail to use their bucket truck to rescue the cat. They volunteered and the cat was recovered without incident and returned to its owner.

**Saturday, 1/25**  
5:45 p.m. River Road caller heard rapid gunshots. Stated that there is a car headed toward Main Road. No description of the vehicle.

**Sunday, 1/26**  
3:57 a.m. Fire alarm, Conference Road.

**Monday, 1/27**  
8:04 a.m. Dump truck left unattended in the middle of two lanes, blocking the stop sign at Main and Boyle roads.  
12:07 p.m. Assisted citizen on Camp Road.

**Tuesday, 1/28**  
11:30 a.m. A walk-in reports a large black trash bag in the travel lane on Main Road between two Mount Hermon Road intersections. Called the highway superintendent who will handle same.  
1:03 p.m. Assisted another agency on Main Road.

*Next edition: Two weeks' worth of the Montague Police Log Highlights!*

all manner of river life downstream.

This is your river. The river cannot defend itself. Do something about this.

River knows you. You are safe here. River is in your nostrils and lungs. River mud is on your feet, legs, arms. Sun reflected from the surface of water will burn into your face, into your mind, your heart will swell with its rank river scent.

If you accept your kinship with River, you will carry its spirit within you to places far away from where stand on this frozen shore in deep February.

Much has happened here. Much will continue to happen. If River has found you, you are surely not lost. You must speak the river's ancient name and River will answer.

That will give you responsibility for what happens next.

May you understand this. The river has given much, has made this place around us, and you must step forward to do what the river now needs from you.



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REVIEW from page B1

these voyagers are the two people who, separated by years and life choices, show up coincidentally at the same time and place. Maybe it wasn't a coincidence, but it sure is beautiful.

Enter Guy McVee. Known – until he isn't – as the first baby born in Brooklyn in the entire 21st century, he believes his “faux” parents also lied about their being his parents. Hating them for this and other reasons, he has this crazy idea to go back in time and kidnap himself before they can get the chance to raise him as their own. He's a nice guy but a little rudderless and has had a hard time showing up.

For more than 300 action-packed, thought-provoking, endlessly fascinating pages, we vicariously accompany many voyagers on their individual quests through amazingly detailed, visually articulated locations. Some of these characters come and go within certain chapters and are never heard from again. Weaving fully developed through them in a consistently engaging whole narrative are the individual adventures of Casey Clement and Guy McVee. It's only a matter of time before the two wind up together. The only question is where.

First they have to overcome a significant turbulence of their own in the person of Prof. Jill Clement-Holmes. Casey's Momster physicist. Her doctoral dissertation is 257 pages long, she teaches a college-level course in quantum time – the subject, not the speed – and thinks her 44-year-old single daughter should find a better way to improve the hu-

man condition than exchanging her career as a nurse for that of a stand-up comedian. If only she could locate the wayward Casey!

As Judge Jill travels back and forth across the continent in search of her daughter, we readers get to enjoy some truly entertaining narrative techniques, among which are two send-up panel discussions hosted by *New Yorker* editor David Remnick with guest writers Adam Gopnik, Elizabeth Kolbert, and Jill Lepore. Text messages appear on the novel's page the same graphic way we see them on our iPhones. Meanwhile, we get to continually experience throughout Blaisdell's book numerous Proust-like madeleines that send us flying into our own memories and associations. I breezed through a page and a half without recalling a word of what I'd read because I'd been revisiting my own times in Ray's Pizza on 12th and Sixth in Greenwich Village during the 1970s.

Casting a dark shadow over all this is the Timemaster who created *Timeliners*. A genius without a recognizable heart, he makes false promises, tacks on unexpected seat and baggage charges, and doesn't care what happens to his voyagers. If some of them get stuck in some of the times in which they find themselves, that's their problem.

And though he is admired for his brains, he's loathed for his behavior. No stranger to the judiciary and the media attention in which he basks, charges against him range from stock market fraud to felonies involving drugs. He's had seven children with seven different women – one with his long-suffering wife

– is photographed with Vladimir Putin, and plans to use his time-travel invention to have sex with Betsy Ross while she's still “hot.”

Sound familiar? I learned little about our current Boy Wonder from Blaisdell's characterization, but considerably more from Prof. Jill's journal about quantum physics and how time can be understood through some of the same principles scientists apply to light.

The more I read, however, the more Jill's prose began to sound like what I'd experienced in local author Bruce Watson's exquisitely articulated history of light published in 2016.

Similarly, the vast, spectacularly detailed panoramas in author Blaisdell's book parallel in a kind of imaginative Vista-Vision Watson's big-screen accounts of the 1912 textile strikes in Lawrence, Massachusetts; the events pertaining to the 1927 execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, also in Massachusetts; and the voter registration drive in which three Civil Rights activists were viciously murdered by members of the KKK in 1964.

So then I had to ask myself, “Why would Bruce Watson write a book like *TimeLiners* and publish it under the pseudonym Emily Blaisdell?” Perhaps he thought a light-hearted examination of time would damage his well-deserved reputation as a noted journalist and eminent historian.

I doubt it. Watson's reputation as an accomplished intellectual who can articulate complex thought in engaging, accessible prose is beyond challenge. Perhaps he just wanted to free himself from the conven-



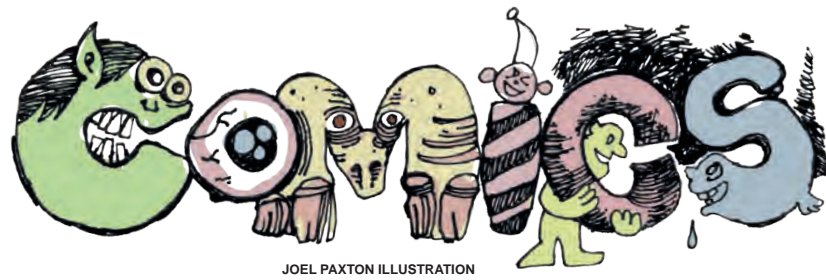
The “author,” as pictured on the book cover.

tional constraints of his profession and take pleasure in writing the kind of fun read he'd wanted to write for a long time.

A lie that tells this truth: we live in a terrible time, and 2030 is more of the same only worse.

Is it any wonder, then, that Casey Clement and Guy McVee, having traveled separately to many locations in as many different times, consciously choose to live together and raise a family in the relatively safe, stable, and secure time of San Francisco in 1955? There is the threat of mutually assured destruction brought on by the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, to be sure, but Casey and Guy already know how that will turn out.

What are their chances of success? Is their hope for them and their yet-to-be-born daughter Betsy, who was conceived in 1904 by someone other than Guy? Time will tell.



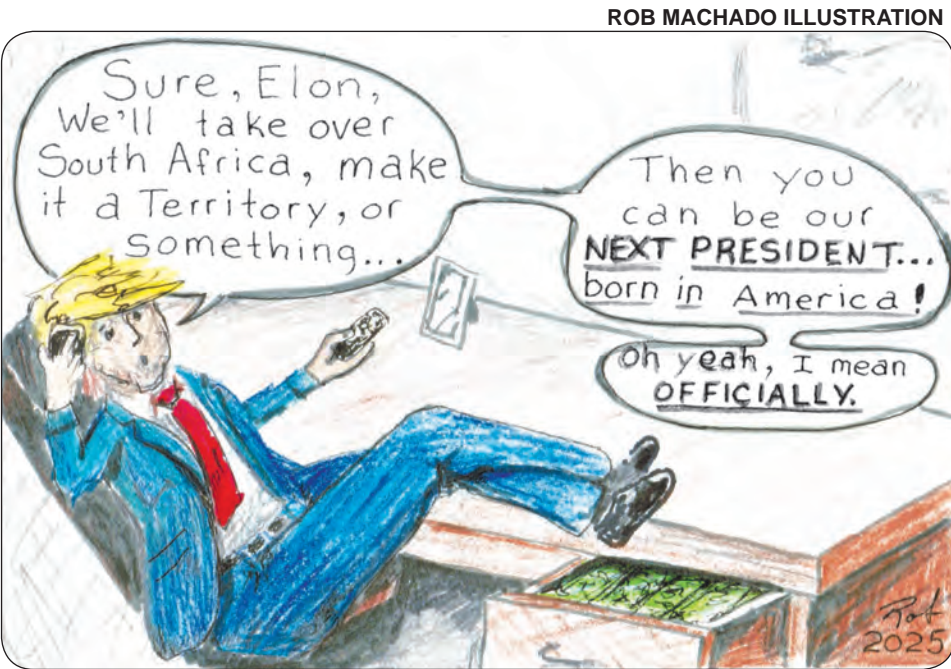
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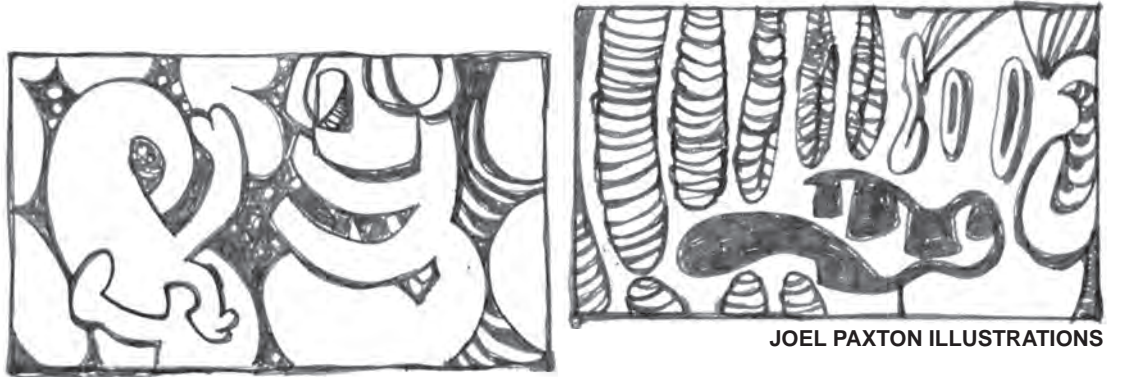
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Advertisement for 'A Game in Green vintage' featuring a silver spoon and the text 'nice things for nice people like you'. Location: Northampton (The Vintage Cellar) and to Chester, VT (Stone House Antique Center). Website: agameingreenvintage.com

Advertisement for 'Booska's Flooring Tile Lino Carpet'. Contact: Dennis L. Booska, Jr., Phone & Fax 413-863-3690. Address: 169 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Member of The Flooring Network.

Advertisement for 'Music Connection'. We buy and sell vinyl, compact discs and movies. Contact: (413) 512-3540 | 187 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Website: musicconnection.us

# Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a [spanish@montaguereporter.org](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org).



## OPINIÓN

### ¿Y qué se puede hacer?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**GREENFIELD** – Vivimos en una democracia y tenemos que aceptar que no siempre va a ganar las elecciones el partido de nuestra preferencia. Aún así hay espacio para estar disgustado, para no sentirse cómodo con las decisiones del gobierno e incluso para enrabietarse en el momento en que todo se convierte en una absurda realidad.

Y en este mes, me he enfadado múltiples veces conmigo misma. Siento que no decir nada, no hacer nada no va a ayudar a resolver los problemas. Y esto hace que me ponga de muy mal humor.

Si alguno de ustedes ha leído mi página antes, sabrá que cuando yo nací en mi país había una dictadura militar, católica y de derechas. Mis padres nacieron al terminar la Guerra Civil, y crecieron la mayor parte de su vida adulta en la dictadura franquista.

La mayoría de las personas en mi país en aquellos años no conocía otra forma de gobierno, solamente los que podían viajar al extranjero (no muy normal en aquellos años), o tenían familia en otros países sabían que en gran parte de Europa y en los Estados Unidos el congreso y el senado eran otro tipo de instituciones, no como las que existían en España que eran una pantomima de la verdadera democracia. La información en esa época era muy limitada, y siempre pasaba por el colador del gobierno franquista y fascista, y la censura se ejercía a todos los niveles, desde la literatura pasando por la educación y terminando por los periódicos nacionales y locales.

Vivíamos en un mundo falso, pero tan inmersos en él, tan privados de la realidad y de la información, que tan solo unos pocos, los menos, conocían la verdad de la falsa democracia inventada por Franco.

El abuelo Paco había hecho creer a los ciudadanos con sus discursos dados desde la Plaza de Oriente y retransmitidos por Radio Nacional, que era la única que entraba en todas las casas, su información sesgada que él era el salvador de la nación y que sin él, España estaba destina-

da al fracaso. Nunca se olvidaba en sus discursos de reírse de la información que algunos periódicos extranjeros publicaban sobre la dictadura y ponía todo su esfuerzo en convencer a los oyentes que todos menos él estaban mintiendo.

Y la gran mayoría de los españoles por muchos años no supieron ver más allá de ese espejismo creado por la dictadura. Por supuesto hubo otros factores que contribuyeron al éxito de la dictadura, como la falta de educación (en los años 40 el índice de analfabetismo en España era de un 25%, siendo mayor en las mujeres), el miedo después de la violencia que se había visto durante y después de la Guerra Civil, y la ayuda del Opus Dei.

¿Pueden ustedes ver algunas similitudes con la actualidad?

Y pasó el tiempo, y los españoles empezaron a educarse, a leer en secreto y con cuidado todo tipo de libros, a poder viajar al extranjero, y poco a poco la percepción del régimen fascista fue cambiando y el miedo se fue perdiendo.

Recuerdo en aquellos últimos años del régimen en los que yo todavía era pequeña y en los primeros años de la Transición cuando veía a los hermanos mayores de mis amigos manifestarse cada día y sin saberlo, era testigo de una historia de lucha. Estaba acostumbrada a ver a mi padre esconder los archivos de sus colaboraciones con la CNT en los lugares más insospechados de mi casa, o en correr al salir del colegio porque la policía tiraba con pelotas de goma y no se paraba a pensar si eras una colegiala en uniforme o un estudiante protestando. Y poder leer a García Lorca y que tu madre te dijese que ella no había podido hacerlo, ni tampoco abrir una cuenta en el banco siendo mujer sin autorización paterna o del marido.

Y todos estos cambios se los debíamos a esos héroes sin capa que cuando estábamos sentados en el sofá de nuestra casa, estaban protestando, uniéndose y preparándose para unos tiempos mejores, es decir, luchando en la sombra por la libertad y la democracia para todos.

Es por ello que creo que se puede hacer algo y estos son algunas de

las ideas, y hay muchas otras siempre en la legalidad y amparadas por nuestra constitución.

No puedo obviar que estoy escribiendo estas líneas desde el privilegio, soy mujer blanca heterosexual, procedente de un país europeo, casada con un estadounidense, y con educación universitaria. Por ello, tengan en cuenta que estas líneas están escritas desde mi posición de privilegio, pero con el respeto más profundo a los que no gozan de ellos y con la única intención de ayudar.

- **Conozca sus derechos.** Todas las personas en este país tenemos derechos, no importa si somos ciudadanos o tenemos cualquier otro estatus migratorio. En esta página web citada abajo pueden conocer cuáles son sus derechos como el guardar silencio o hablar con un abogado: [www.iamerica.org/es/know-your-rights/](http://www.iamerica.org/es/know-your-rights/).

- **Participe en la vida política en su localidad.** Hay siempre espacio para participar en comités escolares, en el gobierno de la ciudad, o en otros tipos de comités como la biblioteca o los museos. Participar en formar parte de la comunidad, y ahora más que nunca debemos promoverla.

- **Contacte o hágase voluntario en organizaciones** como ILRC (Immigrant Legal Resource Center) que es una organización que trabaja con y para los inmigrantes, colabora con organizaciones comunitarias y con el sector legal para crear una sociedad democrática que valore la diversidad y los derechos de todos. Uno de sus recursos es la "tarjeta roja" que se puede descargar en formato PDF desde su sitio web completamente gratis. Algunas organizaciones sin fines de lucro, iglesias y centros de asistencia legal también las distribuyen sin costo alguno. Todas las personas en los Estados Unidos, independientemente de su estatus migratorio, tienen ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. La tarjeta roja de ILRC ayuda a las personas a hacer valer sus derechos y defenderse en muchas situaciones, como cuando los agentes de ICE visitan una casa. Si los agentes

del ICE ven que la persona indocumentada muestra la tarjeta, saben al verla que conoces tus derechos. En esta página pueden encontrar el texto de dicha tarjeta.

- **Infórmese, done y colabore con ACLU** (Asociación estadounidense por las libertades civiles) que defiende derechos fundamentales establecidos en la constitución como el debido proceso, la protección a la igualdad o la libertad de culto.

- **Ejerza sus derechos como votante** si es que puede hacerlo. Contacte con sus representantes políticos y hágales saber sus preocupaciones y sugerencias. Todos los ciudadanos tenemos derecho a ser escuchados.

- **Mantenga su espíritu crítico.** No crea todo lo que lea simplemente porque está escrito. Conozca sus fuentes y no se fíe de cualquier mensaje que le llegue en las redes sociales.

- **Escriba en un periódico** ya sea local o nacional. Es uno de los derechos que nos otorga la constitución estadounidense, es gratis y no solamente le ayudará a ventilar sus que-

jas sino que puede que ayude a otros que las lean. Y por supuesto, compre periódicos locales, infórmese y colabore con su comunidad.

- **Proteste y manifiéstese.** Es otro de nuestros derechos. Si tiene tiempo y se ve con el valor de hacerlo es otra posibilidad. A nivel local hay protestas cada fin de semana a las que usted puede adherirse.

- **Preste atención a sus vecinos y amigos.** Sea amable con otros y trate de comprenderlos sin entrometerse, pero haciéndoles saber que si necesitan ayuda, pueden contar con usted.

- Es igual de importante tratar de **aceptar todo lo que no podemos controlar.** Los votantes han decidido estos próximos cuatro años. Debemos enfocarnos en cuidar de nuestra salud física y mental que sí está en nuestras manos. Procure hacer ejercicio cada día y mantenga su mente ocupada en actividades que le llenen y sea meditar, pasear o estar con sus seres queridos. Y rodéese de personas vitamina, las va a necesitar.

- Y por último, si lo necesita, **tómese un respiro.**

### Texto que se incluye en la 'Tarjeta Roja':

#### USTED TIENE DERECHOS CONSTITUCIONALES:

- **No abra la puerta** si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
- **No conteste ninguna pregunta** de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho a guardar silencio.
- **No firme nada** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está fuera de su casa, **pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse** y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- **Entréguele esta tarjeta al agente.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

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# EVENTS

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

UMass Thomas Center, Springfield: *Social Justice Stories: Documenting Local Black History through Research and Film*. Panel discussion and community conversation with historian Erika Slocumb and documentary filmmaker Evan Goodchild. 5:30 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Jazz Jam*, open session, with *Two For Jazz*. 6 p.m. By donation.

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

Nova Arts, Keene: *Mary Elizabeth Remington, Darling Hill, Jasmine Bete-Mitchell*. 7 p.m. \$.

YMCA, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Roller Derby* recruitment night. No experience or gear required. All genders and bodies welcome. Register at [pioneervalleyrollerderby.com](http://pioneervalleyrollerderby.com). 7:15 p.m. Free.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Matthew Shipp*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Marie Siou*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Melt, Léa the Lox*. 8 p.m. \$.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Rattlesnake Gutter Gutterknives*. 6 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Four Rivers Drama Club presents *Treasure Island*. 7 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 7 p.m. No cover.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Lisa Fischer*. 7 p.m. \$.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Greg Burk*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: Comedy: *Jane Condon & Maureen Langan*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

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



*The New Incarnation, a progressive/indie rock band featuring members from Blackstone Valley Tech, Nipmuc High School, and UMass Amherst, plays a free in-store show this Saturday at the Music Connection in Turners Falls.*

**MUD SEASON MUSIC FESTIVAL, MARCH 15 AT THE SHEA THEATER, INVITES ACTIVISTS, NON-PROFITS, AND ORGANIZERS TO SET UP A TABLE, GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT, AND FUEL THE RESISTANCE.**

**THIS YEAR MUD SEASON CHOSE THE THEME "PEACE, LOVE, AND PROTEST,"**

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Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Matthew Shipp*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Marie Siou*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Melt, Léa the Lox*. 8 p.m. \$.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Matthew Shipp*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Marie Siou*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Melt, Léa the Lox*. 8 p.m. \$.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Montague Villages Meet & Greet*. 10 a.m. Free.

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Kids' Art Show Reception*. 5 p.m. Free.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Film, SAMSARA*. 5 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Book reading, *Ophelia* by Sylvia Wetherby. Snacks, music, craft. 5:30 p.m. Free.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

Brattleboro Food Co-op, Brattleboro: *Bread Fest*, celebrating local bread with an amateur baking competition, demos and tabling, and a talk and book signing by Jonathan Stevens, author of *The Hungry Ghost Bread Book*. 12 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Four Rivers Drama Club presents *Treasure Island*. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A Bridge Too Far*. What about building new bridges in Gilded Age Turners Falls drove neighbors, and whole towns, against each other? Join DCR staff as they piece together questions affecting Montague's five villages in the 1800s. 2 p.m. Free.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Bluegrass jam session*. 4 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms,

Northfield: *North Street Collective*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Deep Thoughts, Northampton: *Bad History Month, Mibble, Bryan Gillig*. 6 p.m. \$.

Music Connection, Turners Falls: *The New Incarnation*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Leverett Elementary School, Leverett: *Community Contra Dance* with musicians *Van Kaynor, Annika Amstutz, and Becky Hollingsworth*, caller *Steve Howland*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

First Church, Amherst: *Song & Story Swap with The Hill Town Ham Hocks*. People of all experiences can contribute a song or story on the theme of "Death and Loss." 7 p.m. By donation.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Sylvie Courvoisier*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Recent History, The Kill Phill*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Bravo*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *To Breathe Freely: Tenements of Turners Falls*. As the brick blocks went up, the Turners Falls tenements tested every aspect of the town. Join DCR staff as they use photographs, maps and news clippings to step back in time and learn about life in the tenements. 2 p.m. Free.

Online: Film, *Ancient Sea Peoples of the North Atlantic*, a chronicle spanning nearly half a century of research and discovery by scientists and tribal representatives exploring a profound and little-known chapter in Native, Northeastern culture. Panel discussion to follow. Presented by the Nolumbeka Project. Register at [www.nolumbekaproject.org/events](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org/events). 2 p.m. By donation.

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *Pioneer Valley Balfolk Dance, Mardi Gras Bal Masqué*. French-Breton music dance party with fun and easy dances. No partner necessary, instruction provided. Masks optional. *Hors d'oeuvres* potluck. Jam session 2:45 p.m., dance 4 p.m. By donation.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. 3 p.m. No cover.

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Feb 18th Short Film SPRINT! 6:30-8:30 \$15	Feb 20th STILL LIFE SOCIAL CLUB 6-8pm \$10	EVERY FRIDAY MAKE OUR MERCH! 3-5pm Free
Feb 22 COLLAGE CLUB! 1-3pm \$10	Feb 26 OPEN MIC FOR WRITERS! 7-9pm \$10	Feb 27 Figure Drawing 6-8pm \$15
March 1st Vision MAPPING 1-3pm \$15	March 2 Writing Workshop with Stella Corso 4-6pm \$40	Tuesdays in March Expressive Arts Shindig 6:30-9pm \$15
March 5 Risograph Mini Zine Workshop 5-8pm \$60	March 6 Still Life Social 6-8pm \$10	March 8 Simple Darning Workshop 1-3pm \$15
March 9th Quilting 101 Part 2 (3 week series) 3:30-6pm \$155	March 12 Make a Marionette! (7 week series) 6-8pm \$225	March 15 Needle Felt Penguin 12-3pm \$35

Find tickets and details at [LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD.COM](http://LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD.COM)

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Montague Villages Meet & Greet*. 10 a.m. Free.

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

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Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Book reading, *Ophelia* by Sylvia Wetherby. Snacks, music, craft. 5:30 p.m. Free.

## EXHIBITS

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Atomic Dog: What I did to beat the blues**, paintings by Ryan McGinn, through April.

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Where We Are, Together**, paintings by Cameron Schmitz, March 1 through May 26. *Deep Roots: A History of Agriculture in the Connecticut River*, on display in the hallway.

**Montague Center Library: Ann Feitelson: Quilts**, March 3 through May 2. Reception Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Jacqueline Strauss**, guest artist showing soft sculpture creatures. Through March.

**Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon: Faculty Art Exhibit**, works by NMH teachers Steve Allison, YeJin Han, Charley Neisner, Bill Roberts, Jamie Rourke, and Mona Seno, all working artists outside of the classroom,

through March 6. Email [jroure@nmhschool.org](mailto:jroure@nmhschool.org) to arrange a visit.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: Forward**, a community art exhibit exploring evolution, change, and movement, with work by 37 local artists, through this Friday, February 28. *Teen Art Show*, work by youngsters across Franklin County, March 14 through April 25, with a reception Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield: New England Dreamscapes**, new paintings on slate by Sarah Adam, through April. Reception Saturday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Annual Photography Exhibit**, 19 New England photographers exhibiting in black and white and color. Through March 30. Reception this Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

**Gallery A3, Amherst: Depth be Depth**, work by Daniel Feldman, through March 1. *Sue Katz and Gloria Kegeles*, photographs, painted wood, and

assemblage. March 6 through 29. Reception Thursday, March 6, at 5 p.m.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral**, paintings by Edith Bingham. Reception this Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

**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.

## CALL FOR ART

The Montague Center Library is looking for artwork and poetry for a community exhibit at the library from May 5 to July 2. Create an artwork inspired by a poem, or write a poem inspired by an artwork, and bring both the work and its inspiration to the library on April 30. For more information, email Kate Martineau at [kmartineau@cwmmars.org](mailto:kmartineau@cwmmars.org).

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# CALENDAR



## looking forward...

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Wishbone Zoe*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Tarp*. 4 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Paint Fumes, Grem, Killer Kin, Klaxon, Ian St. George, Red Herrings*. 4:30 p.m. \$.

### MONDAY, MARCH 3

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: Film, *The Sheik* (1921), with live accompaniment by *Jeff Rapsis*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Jim McRae*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: Film, *Four Winters: A Story of Jewish Partisan Resistance and Bravery in WWII*, with director *Julia Mintz* to answer questions. 7 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Baxbys, Autumn Drive*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Parti Gras, PWRUP, Slobdrop, Film & Gender*. 8 p.m. \$.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Death Panel*, with speakers from the death industry. Part of a series on death and dying. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m. No cover.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Silverback Swing*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: *Film Sprint Festival*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Taproot, Williamsburg: *Clancy Conlin, Wendy Eisenberg, Aviva Yarrow*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Rear Defrosters*. 7 p.m. \$.

YMCA, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Roller Derby* recruitment night. No experience or gear required. All genders and bodies welcome. Register at [pioneervalleyrollerderby.com](http://pioneervalleyrollerderby.com). 7:15 p.m. Free.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Easy-paced, one- to two-mile guided walk, geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Film, *Casablanca* (1942). "Speakeasy" with music at 6 p.m., BYOB and snacks; feature at 7 p.m. By donation.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Ruth Garbus Trio, Stella Kola, Cowperson, The Classics, Ruby Lou*. See [www.backporchfest.com](http://www.backporchfest.com) for full schedule. 6 p.m. \$.

33 Hawley, Northampton: *Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole, Expandable Brass Band, CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band*. See [www.backporchfest.com](http://www.backporchfest.com) for full schedule. 6 p.m. \$.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Next Tuesday, March 4 at Amherst Cinema, director *Julia Mintz* will be on hand to discuss her documentary *Four Winters: A Story of Jewish Partisan Resistance and Bravery in WWII*. *Mintz's film features interviews with the last surviving partisans, who sabotaged and attacked Nazi occupation in Eastern Europe.*

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Slow Pony, Zoé Basha, Wishbone Zoë, A Dusk on the Land, Sneff the Clown*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Carol Devine & The Mighty Fine*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Nova Arts, Keene: *George, David Kontak*. 7 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Next Stop Comedy*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Tank, Agawam: *Conifere, Prayer Position, Compress*. All ages. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Suzanne Vega*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ben Richter*. 8 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Windscour, Cryovacs, Plucking Feathers from a Swan Song, Silbert/Tonne*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Roos-Rohde House, Hampshire College: *Bromp Treb, Bird Organ*. 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Songs of Neil Young*. 8 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Winter Farmers Market*. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Maple Fest 2025*. 12 p.m. No cover.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Films, *The Mill at Montague and Factory Tour of Millers Falls Tools*, with question and answers, presented by the Montague

Historical Society and the Friends of the Discovery Center. For teens and adults. 2 p.m. Free.

Retreat Farm, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Everwhat Brass Band*. 5 p.m. \$.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Goldsetter, Sapien Joyride, Jeff Coyne, Splendid Torch, Normal Jean, Karlo Rueby*. See [www.backporchfest.com](http://www.backporchfest.com) for full schedule. 5 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery: *Chick-N-Wire*. 7 p.m. No cover.

### MONDAY, MARCH 10

Stone Soup, Greenfield: *Community Soup Night*. 5 p.m. By donation.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Alan Doyle, Fortunate Ones*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Death Café*. Part of a series on death and dying. 5:30 p.m. Free.

The Drake, Amherst: *Sean Mason Quartet*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$

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

### THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Honky Tonk Heartbreak*, vinyl listening party. 8 p.m. No cover.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Easy-paced, one- to two-mile guided walk, geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope Story Hour* for ages three through six, accompanied by an adult. Learn about spring in the Connecticut River Watershed through story, activities, and crafts. 1:30 p.m. Free.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Moon Hollow*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Alash Ensemble, Garth Stevenson*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Charlie Chronopoulos, Midnight Betty*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Wishbone Zoë Band* playing *Cheap Trick, Pearl Sugar, Cowperson*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ashley Rhodes*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mud Season* feat. *The Dave Bulley Band, Bow Thayer, Pre-Emption Road, Chica Fuego, Lee Toten, Valerie Newman, Space Bar*, and more. 12 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *The Rhizome Project with Moira Smiley*. Community singing workshop, 3 p.m.; potluck, 5 p.m.; concert, 6:30 p.m. No one turned away for lack of funds. Tickets at [www.weathervane-arts.org](http://www.weathervane-arts.org). \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery: *BluGroove*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Travelin' McCourys, Sam Grisman Project, East Nash Grass*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Surfjquettes, The Black Widows*. 7 p.m. \$.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Huntertones*, six-piece jazz-funk. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *An Acoustic Evening with Trey Anastasio*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *SoulKeys*. In the lobby. 8 p.m. \$.

Firehouse, Worcester: *Bromp Treb, Bicentennial Memorial, Accordion Chair, Playbackers*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BTown Jazz Trio*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Robbie Fulks, Whiskey Treaty Roadshow, Tony Trischka's Earl Jam*. See [www.backporchfest.com](http://www.backporchfest.com) for full schedule. 1:45 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Abstract Turntablism Workshop* by *Maria Chavez*, 5 p.m., followed by a concert at 8 p.m. \$.

Quarters, Hadley: *Dungeons & Dragons Trivia Night*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Lucinda Williams*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Sulis Studio, Florence: *Axine M, Karol Konstancia, Joe Mygan*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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**RECIPES** from page B1

beans, grains, and fish, usually dried.

Knowing that Lent was coming, it made sense to eat anything that would infringe its rules ahead of time: in effect, to say goodbye to meat. That's the origin of the word *carnival*: a mashup of the Latin for meat, *carne*, and goodbye, *vale*.

While eating up the last goodies, why not enjoy yourself? That's how Carnival became a time of eating, drinking, dancing, wearing fancy costumes, and cocking a snook at winter's evil weather by acting the fool. The last day of Carnival falls on a Tuesday – March 4 this year.

In French it's called *Mardi Gras*, which means "Fat Tuesday." In German it's *Fastnacht* – literally the night before the fast.

In England Mardi Gras, called Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday, is low-key. It's celebrated at home with thin, dinner-plate size pancakes. Tossing them is an art, with failed catches providing the fun. In France, too, pancakes are the thing to have. In Italy different regions have a favorite Carnival cookie, often fried rather than baked.

Donuts are another way to dispose of frying fats such as lard and butter. In Poland donuts called

*paczki* are big, pillowy, and filled with jam, traditionally made of rose petals. In Greece *loukades* are bite-size donuts soaked with syrup.

In Lucerne, Switzerland, fireworks waken the world before dawn to signal Mardi Gras with a bang and a brilliant display of lights over the dark lake. There are lots of fried pastries to enjoy, but in the cold Alpine air, sausages chomped down with beer are stick-to-the-ribs favorites too.

Some of the most famous Carnivals happen in warmer places, such as New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro. While brass bands with warmly-costumed players and celebrants revel in the streets of Lucerne, the dancers who parade in New Orleans, Rio, and the Caribbean need only sequins and feathers.

These feasts often feature favorite local foods: jambalaya and gumbo in New Orleans, for example. Corn soup and "doubles" – fried flatbread stuffed with curried chickpeas – are served in Trinidad. Cadiz, Spain prides itself on fried fish, so bulging paper cones of it are handed out free in Plaza de Candelaria on the Sunday before Mardi Gras. Another plaza provides *patatas aliñado*, the local potato salad with red onions.

While some Carnival foods sound exotic and some require deep-frying, which most home cooks are not well-equipped to do, others are easy to pull together. Like Carnival itself, they're just the thing you need in winter.



## CORN SOUP

This soup is a favorite street food and a Carnival specialty in Trinidad. Serve as a hearty main dish.

- ¾ cup green split peas
- 8 cups vegetable stock, or water
- 3 cups winter squash in bite-sized chunks
- 3 Tbsp. oil
- 1 large onion
- 1 celery stalk
- 2 carrots
- 5 garlic cloves
- one 14-oz. can creamed corn
- one 14-oz. can coconut milk
- 1 sweet potato
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 to 4 tsp. powdered chili salt to taste
- 2 cobs of corn (frozen is fine)
- ¾ cup flour
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar



Shaping the dumplings for this soup.

stick blender or potato masher. Heat the oil in a large pan. Chop the onion and celery, and gently cook them for 5 minutes. Slice the carrots and mince the garlic, and stir them in, followed by the creamed corn and coconut milk.

Cut the sweet potato into bite-size chunks and add them, along with the rest of the squash, half the cilantro, the thyme, 2 teaspoons of powdered chili, and salt to taste. Simmer for 30 minutes. Cut the corn on the cob into 1-inch slices and add it.

Put the flour in a small bowl with the sugar and a pinch of salt. Slowly stir in water to make a stiff dough. Take small lumps and roll them between your palms to make thin dumplings – called "spinners" in Trinidad. Drop these in the soup and simmer for 15 minutes.

Stir in the rest of the cilantro, and more salt and powdered chili if necessary.

Serves 6.



HOPLEY PHOTOS

## JAMBALAYA

Jambalaya ingredients vary. The New Orleans style includes tomatoes as well as celery and bell peppers with spicy sausage (traditionally andouille), probably chicken, and definitely shrimp.

The ingredient list is long, but jambalaya is easy to make.

- 2 tablespoons oil or lard
- 1 medium-large onion
- 1 stem of celery
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 red bell pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb. spicy sausage
- 1 to 2 cups bite-size chicken pieces salt to taste
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. thyme
- pinch of dried red pepper flakes
- 1 cup long-grain rice, rinsed
- 2 cups vegetable stock, fish stock, or water
- one 14-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 lb. shelled shrimp



Heat the lard or oil in a large pan over moderate heat. Chop the onions and celery and cook them in it for 3 or 4 minutes. Cut the peppers into strips, add them, and cook a couple minutes more.

Stir in the garlic, sausage, and chicken, seasoning with the salt, cumin, thyme, and pepper flakes. Stir then cook for 5 minutes.

Add the rice; stir again, then pour in the two cups of stock or water. Add the tomatoes and bay leaves. Heat to simmering and cover the pan, tilting the lid to let

out steam. Cook for 12 minutes.

Check to see if the rice is *al dente*. If not, cook 3 or 4 minutes longer, adding more liquid if the mixture is not moist. Also adjust the seasoning and spices to taste.

Finally stir in the shrimp, cover and cook 3 minutes longer, or until the shrimp is opaque. Serve with hot sauce for those who want extra spiciness.

Serves 6 to 8.

## PANCAKE TUESDAY PANCAKES

- 2 cups flour
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 or 3 cups milk
- a little lard, or flavorless oil
- sugar
- lemon halves

Put the flour in a bowl or a food processor. Make a well in the center and pour in the eggs and a little milk. Beat them in, adding more milk until you have a thin batter, a little thicker than heavy cream. Cover and let stand for an hour.

Grease a 10-inch non-stick frying pan with a teaspoon of lard or oil. Heat well. If you hold your hand three inches above it, it should feel very hot – not warm.

Pour in about 2 tablespoons of

the pancake mixture, quickly tilting the pan to spread it all over. Cook for about a minute until all but the center looks dry. Turn and cook the other side for about half a minute. Toss it if you dare.

Note: It's common for the first pancake to be a bit messy. Things get better. After the first pancake or two, the pan needs little if any more lard or oil.

Serve each pancake as it's made, serving each person at the table in turn. Have sugar and lemon halves on the table so everyone can sprinkle sugar and drops of lemon juice to taste. If the mixture thickens while standing, stir in more milk.

Makes 8 to 10 pancakes.



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