

# The Montague Reporter

## New Selectboard Members Elected in Erving, Wendell

By JAMIE SIMPSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – New selectboard members elected Monday in Erving and Wendell aren’t wasting any time getting to work. Longtime Erving resident and four-time selectboard member William “Bill” Bembury stepped down in June 2023 after 12 years on the board. “I was just tired,” he said in a phone interview yesterday. After a two-year hiatus, though, he decided to run again this spring after seeing that no one else had submitted nomination papers. For part of his previous time on the board, Bembury said, there were just two selectboard members, which made it difficult to accomplish town business. As an active participant in town governance, he didn’t want to see that happen again. Bembury told the *Reporter* he didn’t know the other write-in candidate, Gerald Sykes III, who threw



William Bembury

his name in the ring after him. According to the preliminary results, out of 161 ballots cast, Bembury received 65 write-ins and Sykes 45. Since leaving the board, Bembury has remained chair of Erving’s senior housing committee, a position he has held for about 10 years. His wife Linda Downs-Bembury, herself a former selectboard member, has

see **MEMBERS** page A6

## Leverett Voters Fund Park, Trail, Track; Accept Forest; Rip Off School ‘Band-Aid’



Townpeople sailed through a 37-article warrant on Saturday, approving all but two.

By MIKE JACKSON

**LEVERETT** – It was the first time in recent memory, Saturday, that Leverett’s annual town meeting did not include a citizen-petitioned article to declare the town’s stance on matters of national or international import, but voters found plenty of other things to argue over. Along the way, they agreed to accept a gift of 146 acres of land for a public forest; to spend significant money making a park at the library, shoring up Rattlesnake

Gutter Road, and replacing the high school track; and to fill various vacant committee seats. The elementary school auditorium was packed, and voters tackled the election first. Incumbents were kept on the selectboard, boards of health and assessors, and library trustees, and Tom Masterson was maintained as constable. Three openings on the finance committee were filled with Elizabeth Kiebel, Steve Weiss, and Phil Carter, and three on the school committee with

see **LEVERETT** page A8

## SPRING CLEANING



Last Thursday signs advertising a “Bread and Roses”-themed May Day rally drew at least 300, some say 400, to a festive parade through downtown Turners.

## Town Meeting Runneth Over To a Second Wednesday

By WILL QAULE

**MONTAGUE** – “All right, let’s do this!” exclaimed temporary moderator Elizabeth Irving, whose selection was the first order of business at Montague’s annual town meeting, held Wednesday evening at Turners Falls High School. Irving steered the occasionally spirited members through the first 17 of 31 warrant articles over the course of three hours, before collective weariness dictated that the meeting be adjourned until next Wednesday. All 17 articles passed, including every operating budget and five capital requests. Though aspects of the proposed budgets drew some discussion, all were approved without amendment: \$12.75 million for the town operating budget, an increase of about 2.7%; \$12.66 million to the Gill-Montague regional schools; \$3.12 million for the Clean Water Facility (CWF); \$841,660 to the Franklin County Technical School; \$425,732 for the airport; and \$52,250 for the Colle building.

see **OVER** page A6

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD Group Moves Forward on Plans for New Playground

By GEORGE BRACE

Following Leverett’s annual town meeting on May 3 (see article, *Page A1*), the selectboard had a light agenda for their meeting on Tuesday. The main order of business was a request for support from a group seeking to install a new playground at Leverett Elementary School. Playground committee member Brieta Goodwin appeared before the board seeking support around a playground improvement project the group has been working on since 2018, when an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan analysis found that the school’s playground lacked “a sufficient number of accessible play components,” as well as accessible routes to reach them. Goodwin said the committee wants to create a playground that is “accessible, inclusive, addresses all of the ADA requirements, and also provides accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to be shared across generations.” She presented a draft plan and proposal from the Missouri-based company Miracle Recreation to replace the current playground with

see **PLAYGROUND** page A5

## Third Candidate Joins Race for Montague Board

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – In the final weeks before the May 20 town election, a third candidate has publicly declared herself for Montague selectboard. Marina Goldman, a longtime Montague Center resident, will not appear on the ballot alongside incumbent Chris Boutwell and challenger Ed Voudren, but has reportedly launched a full write-in campaign that will include handing out ballot stickers. “I think our selectboard is doing a great job – I’m going to add to it,” Goldman told the *Reporter*. “There’s a need for somebody with a lot of energy, a lot of vision, and good organizational skills who’s going to collaborate across the five villages, within Franklin County, and on the state level.” Goldman is a retired nurse practitioner. “I was working as an addiction specialist – I was on the Franklin County Opioid Task Force, and we had a separate reproductive opioid task force, but during COVID I was furloughed for eight months so I started volunteering with FR-COG,” she said. “During the very beginning of the pandemic I vaccinated thousands of people at the John Zon Center.”

Goldman is new to town politics, though she has volunteered and raised funds extensively in the local area, including at the Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst and the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Her husband is president of the organization currently operating the town-owned theater, and she played Lennox in the recent staging of *Macbeth*. Since January, Goldman said, she has been getting involved in political organizing, but it was only last week when she was getting a permit for a downtown rally at Montague town hall that she decided she “could make a lot more change putting my butt in a selectboard chair.” Goldman pointed to federal cuts, an aging population, and a



Marina Goldman

housing crisis as the most pressing issues the town faces. Asked to comment on more specific issues, she acknowledged the work ahead of her. “The answer to any of them is that I’ve got to do my study,” she said. “I’m good at relationship-building, I’m good at listening to people, and I’m really good at just picking up the phone and saying, ‘What should I do?’ [Selectboard members] Rich [Kuklewicz] and Matt [Lord] are both excellent resources, and they’ve been doing it for a long time – I’m going to work with them.” Goldman said her late-start campaign strategy involves activating dozens of neighbors she is already working with on political mobilizations, “going to a lot of community events... pounding the pavement, hanging out in the restaurants and local businesses.... I’m going to put a table outside all three polling stations and I’ll man them, seven to seven, with my team.” She added that she has been filming short campaign videos for social media, and “you’ll be seeing my face on every telephone pole, sorry!” As for the ballot stickers, Goldman said she has consulted with interim town clerk Tina Sulda about “the rules and regs.” “That’s not a problem,” Ed Voudren said when reached this week

see **THIRD** page A5

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town May Ban Commercial Parking On Streets Overnight

By JEFF SINGLETON

At a brief Montague selectboard meeting Monday that took less than an hour, a proposal to restrict parking on town roads and municipal lots by commercial vehicles generated the most discussion. Other topics included a proposal to extend the time frame and cost of “barrel” trash stickers to cover one year rather than six months, the warrant for the May 20 town election, and the removal of two ash trees from downtown Turners Falls. The proposal to place tighter re-

strictions on parking by large commercial vehicles was primarily a result of complaints by neighborhood residents that a tractor-trailer truck frequently parked near the sharp corner of Prospect and L streets in Turners Falls was creating a dangerous situation. At a well-attended April 14 meeting, they said the truck was forcing drivers entering the intersection into the adjacent lane while blocking their ability to see traffic coming in the opposite direction. That night, the selectboard voted to make the portion of L Street

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

### All These Meetings Are Where Power Is Contained, Not Built

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August 2002

Letters to the Editors

Montague Election Right Around the Corner

We are following up on our two-part article covering the open and elected positions available with Montague’s commissions, committees, and boards.

This is a reminder to readers that the deadline to register to vote is this week, May 10. If you haven’t registered, take a moment and go to the state website so you can participate in our local elections: [www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/).

The town election is on Tuesday, May 20. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can go to the town’s website to find polling places: [montague-ma.gov/p/240/](http://montague-ma.gov/p/240/)

At the ballot box, you will see that some of those who have already been serving on boards, committees, or commissions are asking for your vote again. There are also a few open positions for people who want to become more involved. For instance, there are open seats on the Library Trustee Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Veterans Memorial Committee, and the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. Plus, there are open town meeting member positions in

some of the precincts.

At this point, anyone interested in serving in any of these roles would need to be a “write-in candidate.” To learn more about this, contact our Town Clerk’s office.

In addition to voting, residents in Montague Center have the opportunity to participate in local district meetings. The Montague Center Light District annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at the Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, followed by the Montague Center Water District annual meeting. It is worth noting that there will be an election for a new Commissioner at the Montague Center Light District annual meeting.

Finally, the Montague Center Fire District annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station on Old Sunderland Road.

Let’s make all of our voices count!

**Judith Lorei  
Leigh Rae  
Montague Center**

Monosson, Letcher For Marina Goldman

We are clearly living in uncertain times. But there are glimmers of hope here and there.

One is right here in Montague – our selectboard – and we are thrilled that our neighbor, Marina Goldman, a 38-year resident of Montague, is stepping up to run as a write-in candidate in our local election on May 20.

Marina was the first person we met in town when we first moved here, over 30 years ago. Over the years we have come to know her as a passionate community leader, a caring nurse practitioner, a force behind the revitalization of the

Shea Theater, and someone who cares deeply about the town and local community.

Our town leadership is essential and strong. There is little doubt that in the months and years to come there will be difficult decisions to be made. We are fortunate to have our highly-dedicated current board members, and we hope to see Marina join them, which is why we will be writing in Marina Goldman for Selectboard on May 20.

**Emily Monosson  
Ben Letcher  
Montague Center**

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



*Kimberly Peila wrangles a six-month-old calf back towards the barn at Sunrise Farm in Gill. The family farm is the home of Peila's Creamery, which supplies pasteurized, non-homogenized milk to local markets including Food City in Turners Falls and Foster's in Greenfield. Non-homogenized milk has a rich flavor with larger fat molecules, and is said to be easier to digest. They have a store at their farm on Main Road in Gill – look for the signs, and follow the driveway to the top of the hill!*

Former Town Admin Endorses Write-In

I just learned that Marina Goldman is running a write-in campaign for the Selectboard. What a great opportunity for the Town of Montague!

Marina is smart, compassionate, and a committed listener, and will work tirelessly to bring positive and reasoned energy to our town government. A 36-year town resident and nurse practitioner, she has raised her family here and has roots and family ties with Turners, Millers, and Montague Center.

She will support quality schools, work with builders and our talented town staff to create housing our residents can afford, and continue to diversify our tax base with cultural and economic development.

Please join me in writing in Marina Goldman, 71 Main Street, for Selectboard on town election day, Tuesday, May 20.

**Deborah Radway,  
Montague Center**  
*Former Town Administrator*

Marianis Also for Marina

Montague voters! We have a choice!

Marina Goldman, our neighbor in Montague for over 30 years, is running as a write-in candidate for a seat on the Selectboard. The election for the Town of Montague is May 20, and between now and then, you will find media coverage and interviews with Marina about her public service experience and her innovative problem-solving skills.

Marina is a dedicated community member who listens and learns and acts in the public interest. We wholeheartedly endorse her as a write-in Candidate for the Town of Montague Selectboard.

**Eileen and Paul Mariani  
Montague Center**

**Gibson Uguccioni For Goldman**

I support Marina Goldman running for the Montague Selectboard. A write-in campaign for her election is in the works for the May 20 special election.

Marina has lived in Montague for over 36 years. She cares deeply about our community and is committed to building stronger connections between the five villages of Montague. She helped re-open the Shea Theater, making Montague a hub for arts, culture, and local business. Now she is willing to devote her time and efforts to building a stronger community working together with the residents of our town.

Please vote for Marina Goldman (71 Main Street) on May 20!

**Helen Gibson Uguccioni  
Montague Center**

New Tree Book Out

Thank you for *Celebrate Trees in Montague!* in the April 24 edition, and the lead article, *If We Are Not More Careful, Our Streets Will Be Shadeless.*


As some of my fellow *Montague Reporter* readers may know, I am a lifelong advocate for respecting Nature. That led me to co-found The Enviro Show on Valley Free Radio and locally on WMCB – 107.9 FM, and streaming at [www.wmcb.net/Listen.html](http://www.wmcb.net/Listen.html) – in Greenfield, 20 years ago this August.

More recently, I co-founded Trees as a Public Good and worked with various tree and forest protection groups in the Commonwealth and beyond. During that period I learned how critical healthy forests and trees are to life on Earth. It is no understatement to write that future generations will be dependent on how we treat not only the trees and forests, but the planet as well.

With all this in mind, I want to share my most recent effort at spreading the word on forest and tree protection. *It's the Trees* is a collection of poetry and prose published by Levellers Press in Florence. All proceeds from sales of the book go to Levellers, because these are tough times for small presses and I see this as just another part of my effort to defend forests and trees.

In closing, please help to [#EndLoggingOnPublicLand](https://www.change.org/p/stop-logging-on-public-land).

**Don Ogden  
The Enviro Show  
Florence**



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# TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

(Title still temporary.  
Haven't found  
something better yet.)

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Back in 2006, when the Brick House Community Resource Center had only recently moved into its current Third Street building, Shelburne Falls artist Kerry Kazokas worked with youth in the teen center to conceive, design, and execute a mural on the building across the alley.



That was 19 years ago, and the mural has aged significantly since then, and “the Brick House neighbor who owns the building has noted its wear and tear and requested a change,” staff member Kaia Jackson (no relation) tells us. “Plans are underway to tell the story of the first mural, memorialize it within our community, and make space for something new.”

Staff and youth have been working on that something new – working “to imagine a mural that reflects our youth and community now” – but many of the folks who were involved in the original project two decades ago are still around, and might have input about that. So might other, newer arrivals.

Kaia let us know that next Friday, May 16 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., the center is hosting a “Meet & Greet and Community Listening Session” to invite all interested community members to meet with Nellie and Clark, the artists facilitating the new mural project, “to hear more about what they’ve been envisioning with local youth, and to respond to questions and feedback.”

Free dinner, and free interactive art activities, are also on the docket. Questions, dietary restrictions, and accessibility needs can be communicated to [kjackson@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:kjackson@brickhousecommunity.org).

I’ve been involved in the Brick House myself over the years – as a neighbor, as part of its epic and ultimately successful skatepark campaign, as a volunteer and occasionally as a staff member – and I’ve spent cumulative hours in passing looking at the 2006 mural and wondering all kinds of things about it. I bet there are things that can be saved, if they are particularly important, but I

also get the sense that it would be awesome if the wall is something that feels exciting and engaging to the kids going there now.

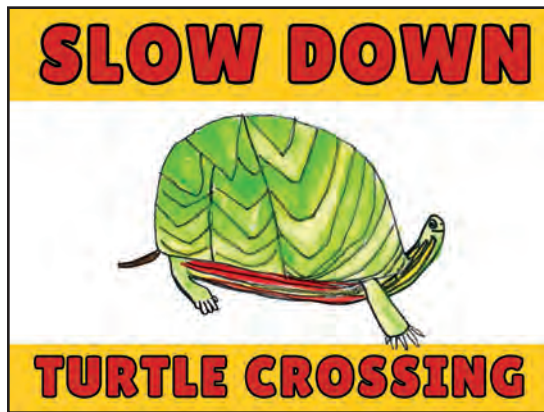
It’s a tricky balance, and I encourage anyone with an interest in any part of it – or just supportive, or hungry – to hit up the dinner next Friday.

While I’m shilling for the Brick House, the next morning, Saturday the 17th, is the annual Brick House 5K! You don’t need to be a runner to enjoy this race. Walkers, volunteers, and spectators are always in need. See you there.

In other Third Street-related news, fans of the former Five Eyed Fox restaurant may be interested to know that chef Ashley Arthur has launched “Goldie Fox,” a pop-up eatery/drinkery, over in Greenfield at the Mesa Verde space on Fiske Avenue. We missed the “soft opening” on Saturday – too tired to go out after sitting through Leverett town meeting and driving through the ensuing deluge – and it seems like it’ll be an irregular occurrence, so keep an eye out for pop-ups and let us know if you make it over there.

Amherst Cinema announced Wednesday that the National Endowment for the Arts grant funding two-thirds of its Bellwether series was vaporized, mid-contract. The program has brought a *ton* of cutting-edge directors to screen their work and discuss it with a local public audience.

I guess high culture is only going to be for patrons who can afford it. Not a big surprise given *what’s happening*, and not the worst thing happening, but disappointing nonetheless and another tangible local impact of *the changes*.



This is my favorite of the Turtle Crossing signs students in Melissa Winters’s second-grade class at Sheffield Elementary have produced, a collaboration with the Montague planning department and Great Falls Discovery Center. Look for the signs *and the turtles* along Montague City Road. Fantastic work, everyone.

We’re more than 10 years into Berkshire Gas’s moratorium on new natural gas hook-ups in Greenfield and Montague – the original announcement came in December 2014. It has been a slow bleed, and it’s hard to gauge the impact – in 2019, we wrote that it might even be stimulating sales of air-source heat pumps – but here and there we do hear about it. A brick-fired pizza oven that was unable to be installed, for example, or dryers that can’t be substantially upgraded because their draw would exceed a property’s allotment.

Has the moratorium impacted you? Do you even remember it exists? Write in and let us know.

FirstLight Power, the hydroelectricity people, wrote to let us know that starting next Monday the 12th, they will be closing the canalside bike path between Eleventh Street and Depot Street – from the bridge into the Patch to the path’s outlet down in Montague City – for up to a month.

This is the same section that was recently closed for months, and it’s for the same reason: the company is doing work to prevent the canal’s “left dike,” its wall on the bike path side, from leaking into the ground, an problem endemic for the entire century since the canal was extended. Get your jogging/biking/sulking in this weekend, if it’s a favorite spot.

Saturday the 17th is also Bulky Waste Day. If you have “tires, appliances, refrigerators, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items” you need to get rid of, it is no longer socially acceptable to fling them into the canal or down an embankment.

Bring them instead between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon to the Erving transfer station, the Whately transfer station, or Mohawk Trail Regional School for our West County readers. Bring cash. The fees aren’t bad, and are listed at [franklin-countywastedistrict.org](http://franklin-countywastedistrict.org). “Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this collection,” the Solid Waste Management District warns. “There are six regional mattress recycling locations across Franklin County, which are open year-round...”

The rest of the announcement is too long to fit here, but hit up the District’s website if you’re curious what you can and can’t throw away.

Several key *Reporter* people are on their way back to Massachusetts, or else back to full health.

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## Another Letter to the Editors

### Kennedy Sound; Trump Alliance an ‘Error’

I find that it’s very difficult for people, even progressives and solid left-wingers (where I am), to come to terms with the extent to which the mass media, and even some alternative-seeming media, are now dominated by Big Pharma. The sad result is that Big Pharma can control what’s said in “trusted” outlets like MSN-BC or *The New York Times*, and can be major funders of *The Guardian* and even Bernie Sanders (yup).

Unfortunately, the *Reporter* appears to have fallen into this trap, believing reports about RFK Jr. without properly researching them. Specifically, you attributed statements to him that are supposedly from his book *The Real Anthony Fauci* that you obviously and regrettably haven’t read. I encourage you to explore which news outlet told you these things, and why.

So, for example, you state in your editorial that he doesn’t be-

lieve sickness is caused by germs, and that “He believes in *miasmas*, general vapors of badness.”

Now let’s look at what he actually writes: “‘Miasma theory’ emphasizes preventing disease by fortifying the immune system through nutrition and by reducing exposures to environmental toxins and stresses. Miasma exponents posit that disease occurs where a weakened immune system provides germs an enfeebled target to exploit.” (pg. 285).

Huh! Suddenly doesn’t sound so wacko, does it? In fact, he’s expressing what the vast majority of health conscious people tend to believe these days, including plenty of progressives in western Mass.

Notice also that he in no way denies the role of germs; in fact, he’s saying that germs are what ultimately does the damage! He’s just saying that germs seek out weaknesses to exploit, and that’s where

they get their power.

And yes, he does believe that vaccinations as they are currently used are one of the factors weakening immune systems, and there are many dozens of peer-reviewed, published studies that back that view. (That doesn’t obligate anyone to agree with it. I’m just pointing out that it isn’t a wacko opinion.)

So please take a look at where you got “general vapors of badness” from. I think the answer will be revealing.

RFK Jr.’s career has had little to do with vaccine policy until pretty recently, by the way. He’s been an environmental lawyer fighting toxins in the environment for decades, with a focus on reducing children’s exposure to health-damaging chemicals. He knows science very well, including how to assess the quality of a scientific study, as he’s won case after case over these many years by ar-

guing the science. You could scarcely be more pro-science than he is.

I hope you’ll read the book. You’ll learn fascinating and disturbing history about the US’s quest for dominance in the biological weapons arena, and about what Kennedy refers to as “medical colonialism.” He’s the only person who has run for president in my lifetime who publicly uses the word “imperialism.”

And next time you hear what RFK Jr. has supposedly said or done, please investigate it carefully. He has definitely made some errors, not least of which is his alliance with Trump, but most of what’s said about him is invented or deliberately distorted. Follow the money, and you’ll keep encountering funding from Big Pharma, which considers RFK Jr. its biggest threat in our times.

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OP ED

Unconstitutional: A Call for Massachusetts  
Leaders to Respond to Executive Order 14288

By JIM ASBEL

GILL – On April 10 the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a unanimous 9-0 ruling that Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a legal resident of the US and husband and father of US citizens, must be returned from the notoriously brutal El Salvador prison to which he was flown by agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Garcia has not been returned, and President Trump has said that he has no intention of complying with the Supreme Court ruling. Thus, he has effectively overturned the Constitutional relationship between the branches of federal government and, by consequence, the authority of the executive branch over the states and the people.

Similar abductions have occurred throughout Massachusetts. We are seeing our neighbors “disappeared” before our eyes while our State leaders mouth words of disapproval and give us no hint that they have a plan for our protection, let alone its actual procedures.

Massachusetts governor Maura Healey and attorney general Andrea Campbell surely recognize that there is no time left for dithering. Trump has already begun a process aimed, ultimately, at controlling police functions in our state. His April 28 executive order empowers federal agents to arrest and prosecute Massachusetts law enforcement personnel who resist or merely refuse to cooperate. Meanwhile, the same order protects his own agents from civil or criminal legal action.

And it is not only our immigrant neighbors who are now at risk, as if we don’t care about them.

Excerpts from the executive order:

*Sec. 4. Using National Security Assets for Law and Order. (a) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of agencies as appropriate, shall increase the provision of excess military and national security*

*assets in local jurisdictions to assist State and local law enforcement.*

*(b) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall determine how military and national security assets, training, non-lethal capabilities, and personnel can most effectively be utilized to prevent crime.*

*Sec. 5. Holding State and Local Officials Accountable. The Attorney General shall pursue all necessary legal remedies and enforcement measures to enforce the rights of Americans impacted by crime and shall prioritize prosecution of any applicable violations of Federal criminal law with respect to State and local jurisdictions whose officials:*

*(a) willfully and unlawfully direct the obstruction of criminal law, including by directly and unlawfully prohibiting law enforcement officers from carrying out duties necessary for public safety and law enforcement; or*

*(b) unlawfully engage in discrimination or civil-rights violations under the guise of “diversity, equity, and inclusion” initiatives that restrict law enforcement activity or endanger citizens.*

These are not the edicts of a legitimate government, but a full-throated declaration of totalitarian rule.

Governor Healey! Attorney General Campbell! Don’t wait until it is too late. Our state must push back against this dangerous order. The following is a suggestion of the kind of statement required under these circumstances:

“Upon review of President Trump’s Executive Order 14288 issued April 28, 2025 (the “Order”), we believe a response on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is warranted, as follows:

“1. In this Commonwealth as in all States, the policing power and policing functions lie primarily with the Commonwealth government and should not be intruded upon by the federal

government except as necessarily and directly a function of federal law.

“2. Accordingly, the primary responsibility for the management and governance of all law enforcement agencies and personnel of the Commonwealth will remain with the government of the Commonwealth. The Office of the Attorney General shall remain responsible for ensuring that the enforcement of our laws is conducted in accordance with our laws and with the Constitutions of the Commonwealth and of the United States.

“3. The civil rights and all other Constitutional rights of the people of the Commonwealth will continue to be enforced and defended in this Commonwealth, notwithstanding any provision of the Order directing or implying action that would endanger those rights.

“4. All diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives undertaken by the Commonwealth are consistent with and never restrict law enforcement activity and never endanger citizens. The Order will have no impact on those initiatives.

“5. It is the position of the Commonwealth that the withholding of federally appropriated funds by any federal administration or agency for the purpose of coercing compliance with federal demands or policies, unless expressly authorized by the United States Congress, is unconstitutional.

“6. It is the position of the Commonwealth that the employment, as described in the Order, of so-called ‘private-sector *pro bono*’ legal services extracted by the Trump administration from large law firms by threat of financial damage is unconstitutional.

“7. The Commonwealth rejects as unconstitutional any directed or coerced use of federal ‘military and national security assets’ for local law enforcement.”

Not only would such a statement advise the Trump administration of the firm stance of law enforcement in our state, it would be a good start to earning our confidence in these dangerous times.

James Asbel, a retired teacher, lives in Gill.

DISPATCHES FROM THE CARNEGIE BASEMENT

## What More Space Would Mean For the Downtown Library

By CAITLIN KELLEY

TURNERS FALLS – After interviewing four construction management firms, the Library Building Steering Committee signed a contract with Downes Construction, a firm based in New Britain, Connecticut that has worked on several library projects, including three with the Hartford Public Libraries.

The Downes team demonstrated their interest in our project by attending a Library Trustees meeting, took the time to familiarize themselves with the ins and outs of the state library construction program, and hit the ground running, as they promised, by helping the Steering Committee finalize a request for qualifications for an architect/design firm just a week after being hired.

We hope to select an architect by mid-June. In the meantime, Downes will review existing information about both the Carnegie Library and 38 Avenue A, and determine what additional site inspection needs to be done.

Most of the entries for this column will focus on what the Library Building Steering Committee is working on and opportunities for public input. Since this month’s update is brief, I thought I would go over why we’re pursuing this project, and what kinds of spaces a new or improved main library would offer.

Through surveys and public input, community members have let us know that they value the materials and services that the libraries offer, and appreciate that library staff go above and beyond to help people. Program attendance, circulation, *and* library visits all increased last year, despite the small size of our libraries. We want to keep this momentum rolling, but we cannot grow in the Carnegie Library as it is.

Accessibility is the main challenge. Only a couple sections of the Carnegie are accessible to walk-

er, wheelchair, or stroller users. The front entrance is challenging, and parking is inadequate and felt to be dangerous. We simply don’t have enough space for the activities and services people want to see, and our shelf space is so limited that older materials must be constantly removed to make room for new items.

A new or improved library space would be fully accessible, and would include:

- A large community room that groups can book for programs;
- A children’s room with space for play, reading with caregivers, and collections for children of all ages;
- A children’s *program* room for early-literacy programming, and activities of all kinds;
- A separate teen area that teenagers might actually want to hang out in;
- Quiet study rooms for solo or small group work, with all the technology needed to take video calls, etc.;
- A cozy reading room with comfortable chairs, worktables, and plenty of outlets;
- An accessible local history room, where photos, documents, and artifacts can be safely stored and displayed, and which can also serve as a meeting or program space; and
- Centralized staff workspaces, which would improve efficiency and ease of patrons’ access to services, from in-depth research help to technology assistance, readers’ advisory, circulation assistance, and more.

The Library Trustees, Steering Committee, and I are excited to bring a library design to the community that will fill Montague’s unmet needs and allow the Montague Public Libraries to continue growing our programs, collections, and services for the public.

Caitlin Kelley is the director of the Montague Public Libraries.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Highway Equipment Upgrade, Salary Increase Approved

By LUKE DEROY

The Gill selectboard opened its May 5 meeting with an executive session lasting under 20 minutes. Upon returning to open session, members voted to move forward with a new contract for highway superintendent John Miner. Miner, a town employee of about 15 years, was approved for a salary increase, moving from grade 7 to grade 8, step F, retroactive to May 1.

In addition, the board approved \$11,466.92 to replace the multifunction controller on the department’s 2011 John Deere backhoe. This was said to be essential to resume paving work on West Gill Road, which had been delayed due to rain. Crews are expected to begin next Monday, starting from Main Road nearly to Atherton Road, and then from there to the Oak Ridge Golf Course.

The highway department holds the largest budget of any town division, and employs the most full-time staff. With recent positive reports and strong confidence expressed in the Gill police and fire departments, as well as Northfield EMS – services that all depend heavily on road conditions – the board deemed these investments necessary and beneficial to all.

“The most important thing we have in this town is good people,”

selectboard member Randy Crochier remarked.

The board quickly worked through the rest of their short agenda, and was able to adjourn with an hour to spare before the annual town meeting (*see Page A5*).

The annual lawn care contract was once again awarded to Artscape Landscaping, marking the company’s sixth year maintaining town grounds. A three-year renewal was also approved with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for inspection services including building, plumbing, gas, electrical wiring, and zoning enforcement.

Members of the planning board were officially designated as special municipal employees, a status that now applies to all current and future board members.

The county’s annual “Clean Sweep” bulky waste recycling day will be held Saturday, May 17 at the Erving highway garage, Mohawk Trail Regional School, and the Whately transfer station. For costs and full details, visit [franklin-countywastedistrict.org](http://franklin-countywastedistrict.org).

The Memorial Day committee invited residents to participate in this year’s Rose Ceremony and festivities, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 25 at the Gill Church. Participants will walk to the Slate Library as part of the event.

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**THIRD** from page A1

and informed of Goldman’s write-in candidacy. “Whoever gets the most votes wins.”

Voudren, a former Montague police officer who previously served on the selectboard from 1997 to 2004, reiterated his plan, discussed in prior interviews, to merge the Montague Center and Turners Falls water districts and sell fresh water from the Montague Plains aquifer to Greenfield in exchange for a takeover of the town’s wastewater treatment plant.

“Wastewater has got to be negotiated somehow,” he said, “because we can’t handle it – not well, anyway, not without putting a lot of people out of their homes in the future.”

Voudren criticized the annual town budget process, saying that while information is provided to town meeting members, it is not available to the “the tax-paying base that is represented by those town meeting members,” who “have no way of directing the town meeting members to vote.” To address this, he said, he would mandate biannual precinct meetings.

A long delay in 2023 in settling the Gill-Montague teachers’ union contract, Voudren said, cost taxpayers money. “I can’t believe nobody

said to the schools, ‘Stop this!’” he said. “Just because they get a budget voted in doesn’t mean the board of selectmen can’t say ‘Time out. We’re going to stop you at a six-month budget, and then we’re going to audit you every month.’”

Asked to clarify this mechanism, Voudren explained in more detail.

“The board of selectmen develop the budget for the annual town meeting – they develop it through the town fathers, then it’s given to the school committee,” he said. “But if it’s not being used appropriately, you can change that in a heartbeat.... Freeze their budget, and then we’ll give it to you every 30 days. It’s been done before.”

Merging the district with Greenfield schools, he estimated, might save the towns “\$20 million off the top, or more.”

Voudren told the *Reporter* his campaign is “staying on track,” and that people like what he has to say.

“It’s getting more interesting by the day!” Chris Boutwell, who is defending his seat in the May 20 election after five consecutive terms on the board, said when reached for comment Thursday morning. “I don’t think the word was out for 30 seconds when I

heard about it.”

Boutwell said he had no comment on the new three-way race.

“I can’t say anything bad,” he said. “I had people coming up to me, before and after the town meeting, telling me what I could do – I was even asked to consider doing lawn signs, but I said I really don’t want to go that route.”

He added that he does happen to have lawn signs in storage above his garage.

“Somebody mentioned how many boards I’ve been on,” he continued. “I’ve lived in town for over 50 years, I’ve been a town meeting member for over 30 years, and I was on the board of health for 24 years and 9 months. I’m the chair of the Franklin County Solid Waste District... Not to mention the selectboard. I’m actually the only one left on the Veterans’ Memorial committee....

“I definitely think I have the experience.”

The town election will be held Tuesday, May 20 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at three polling stations; check [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) for locations and precinct maps. The last day to register is this Saturday, May 10. (See Page A2 for more information.)



# Gill Knocks Out First Part of ATM

By KATE SAVAGE

Thirty-seven people gathered at Gill’s town hall on Monday night to unanimously approve three articles of the annual town meeting and honor some notable town residents.

In addition to standard votes appointing people to their roles and accepting state and federal funds, the town approved changes to the charter of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

“This is cleaning up a charter that was an extremely well-written document,” said selectboard member Randy Crochier, who disclosed that he works at FRCOG. “It is 30 years in existence. Charters don’t usually last that long.”

Crochier said the changes mostly clean up language in the charter, make it somewhat easier for its member towns to amend it in the future, allow towns to appoint FRCOG representatives who aren’t selectboard members, and add provisions for towns wishing to either join or terminate membership.

Votes on the final 10 articles were postponed until June, giving the town more time to complete the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year.

Before the voting, participants expressed gratitude to Crochier, who has served on the selectboard for 15 years and is not running again for his seat in the May 19 election.

“Randy’s public service has spanned over 30 years, if you include his time serving on the board of health and his role as a regional health inspector,” said selectboard chair Greg Snedeker. “His accomplishments and contributions are actually just too long to list, and his impact on Gill and the broader community is too great to quantify.”

Town administrator Ray Purington also thanked Crochier: “I could not ask for a better boss, mentor, sounding board, brainstormer, problem solver, coach, regionalizer – I think that’s a word, spellcheck didn’t highlight it – partner, and friend. It’s been a privilege working for you, and with you, Randy. It’s good to know that you’re still just a phone call or email away.”

Purington also thanked former fire chief Gene Beaubien, who retired this year after more than 32 years of service, and recognized Barbara Elliot as the town’s oldest citizen. Elliot celebrated her 93rd birthday in January. “Now that warmer weather is here, Barbara will be presented with the town’s bicentennial cane at a ceremony with her family,” he said.

Purington concluded by honoring two recently-departed residents. Fred Chase II, who passed away on March 12 at the age of 77, was an elected constable for more than 40 years. He also served on the police force, volunteer fire department, and many town boards. “He loved his town,” said Purington. “He had a wealth of knowledge of its history, and he would generously share that knowledge with all who asked.”

And Tom Hodak, who was the town’s tax collector and served as chair of the personnel committee, passed away on March 30 at the age of 72. “As tax collector, Tom was conscientious and highly principled, caring deeply about all residents in providing fair and equitable service to the law,” said Purington.

The entire meeting took 25 minutes. Gill residents who wish to participate in the second part of town meeting should gather at the town hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 9.

**PLAYGROUND** from page A1

one the committee believes would achieve these goals. The estimated cost is \$136,122 for playground equipment and resurfacing, plus an additional \$35,300 for removal of current components and site preparation, for a total of \$171,422.

Goodwin said her committee was currently applying for a municipal ADA improvement grant from the state, but was raising additional support, as well as seeking the board’s help in possibly working with the highway department to organize a cost-saving “in-kind” contribution to some of the work. An in-kind contribution, she said, along with a letter of support and local financial contributions, would improve the school’s chances of receiving the ADA grant.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson commended the playground committee’s work, but said it had “missed the cycle” for financial support from the town this year. He added, however, that he believed the town would be more than happy to work with the committee to facilitate in-kind work from the highway department if it meant saving the school money.

Board member Jed Proujansky questioned Goodwin on the amount of plastic and non-recyclable materials involved in the plans.

Goodwin responded that Miracle Recreation prides itself on being “green,” and that most of the components would be steel, though the roofs and slides would be plastic.

Proujansky then “strongly” encouraged her to look for alternatives to plastic, saying it would be “there forever” and tough to get rid of when it reaches the end of its life cycle. “There are alternatives out there worth looking into,” he said.

Proujansky also suggested that Community Preservation Commission (CPC) funding could be “a good avenue to pursue,” and informed Goodwin that Isaiah Robison and Grassroots Landscap-

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MONTAGUE TREE WARDEN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Montague Tree Warden will hold a Public Hearing regarding a proposal from the Town of Montague to remove or prune public shade trees on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in front of 56 Avenue A.

This proposal is a part of the Town’s ongoing Avenue A streetscape improvement project. The two ash trees located in front of the 56 Avenue A storefront have been identified by the Town as good candidates for replacement during this project, given their age, condition, and susceptibility to Emerald Ash Borer. The two Town trees located within the public way that are designated for removal and replacement have been posted with a notice of public hearing.

For further information, please contact Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, at (413) 863-3200 x109.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Proposed Regulation of Commercial Truck Parking on Town Ways and Lots

The Montague Selectboard proposes to amend the Montague Traffic Rules and Regulations by adding a new section #11 to Article V titled “Commercial Truck Parking Restrictions.” The regulation will restrict overnight parking of commercial vehicles on town ways and municipal lots. Violations shall be punishable by a \$50 fine or by towing. A draft of the proposal is available at [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov). The selectboard will hold a public hearing as part of their weekly business meeting on Monday May 19, 2025 at 7:00PM via ZOOM. Written or in-person testimony is encouraged.

Written comments may be directed to [walterr@montague-ma.gov](mailto:walterr@montague-ma.gov).

Richard Kuklewicz, Chair

ing had already volunteered to do some of the site preparation work.

### Other Business

Selectboard member Patricia Duffy reported that she was in contact with the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District and researching membership in the district, though a decision for Leverett to join would require funding approval at town meeting next year.

Proujansky said he and two other town officials scouted a possible location for an electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the Leverett Library parking lot. He said the trio had identified a good spot, and the next step to a potential charging station was to invite a vendor for a site visit and proposal.

The board appointed resident Bill Corwin to the conservation commission. Corwin said he is a member of the trails committee, a former attorney with experience in environmental law, and a longtime participant in environmental groups such as the Sierra Club.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford informed the board that she is looking into the use of a “clicker” system as an alternative to paper ballots when residents request an anonymous vote at town meeting. Stratford said some larger towns in the eastern part of the state are using these systems, and the towns of Erving and Deerfield have experimented with them recently.

Hankinson read the annual proclamation from the governor’s office declaring the observance of Memorial Day, this year on May 26. It read in part, “Throughout our country’s history thousands of Massachusetts residents have fought in wars and conflicts to defend our safety and way of life. Their legacy of patriotism and dedication to country is an inspiration to all Americans. It is appropriate that all Massachusetts residents remember the bravery of those who gave their lives so that their sacrifices serve as a reminder of the costs of our freedom.”

Proujansky offered to frame the proclamation for display.



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“Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket.”

Eric Hoffer, ‘The Temper of Our Time’



**MEMBERS** from page A1

served on the town’s relatively new capital planning committee for the past four years.

The couple lived for five years in Amherst, by way of Boston, and arrived in Erving 40 years ago. Bill first served on the board from 1998 to 2001, Linda from 2003 to 2009, and Bill from 2014 to 2023.

Erving residents have long wanted senior housing, Bembury told the *Reporter*, and his committee has focused on that. Once other town priorities like the new senior center and library were completed, the time seemed right for the housing project.

The committee found a developer – Rural Development Inc., an entity related to the Franklin County housing authority – willing to take on building 26 to 28 senior housing units, scaled back from the original goal of 30 to 60, across from the senior center on Care Drive.

Both RDI and the town have applied for grants to fund the build, and the selectboard has taken out a 100-year lease on two parcels across from the senior center. The project is estimated to cost around \$15 million, and even if that is entirely funded by outside sources, the town will have to install and maintain roads, water systems, and a pumping station.

As a member of both the selectboard and senior housing committee, Bembury said, “obviously I will have to recuse myself” when it is time to vote on the issue, but he

expressed excitement that the town’s vision is drawing closer to reality.

Other key priorities Bembury and the board will tackle include major repairs on two bridges; whether or not to appeal a tax assessment ruling in favor of First-Light Power; and the town budget.



Adam Feltman

In Wendell, meanwhile, newly elected selectboard member Adam Feltman, who is replacing departing incumbent Gillian Budine, attended the board’s meeting Wednesday evening, though he had not yet been officially sworn in as a member.

Feltman was the only candidate to submit papers in that race, and received 87 votes of the 95 ballots cast, according to preliminary results. Attempts to reach him before press time were unsuccessful.

Josh Heinemann contributed additional reporting.



**OVER** from page A1

The weeknight town meeting was an experiment. The quorum of members was never in question, but an early discussion on budget process and philosophy and the usual yearly complaints about how vocational schools costs come down on towns meant it was nearly 9 p.m. before the meeting reached the series of large capital requests on the warrant.

The purchases of a used mini-excavator, a portable generator, and two “thickened sludge pumps” for the CWF were readily agreed to, but the question of whether to appropriate \$3 million to rehabilitate man-hole covers and sewer pipes in Turners and Millers Falls received careful examination.

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller gave a presentation on the sewer project. The work would be part of a long-term control plan required to keep the town in compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

“Phase one is currently being executed, relining about 70 manholes in Turners Falls and Millers Falls,” explained Nolan-Zeller. “This is phase two: 15 pipes in Turners Falls, 22 in Millers Falls, and 74 manholes in Millers Falls. The extent of this work is known.”

“So that’s \$3 million of work that you just told us about?” an incredulous David Jensen, of Precinct 2, asked him.

“Yeah,” Nolan-Zeller replied.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey clarified that the phase already in progress was being funded by the state, that both phases must be completed within 10 years, and that town officials felt it was more efficient to do the second-phase work as a single project under one budget appropriation than in a piecemeal fashion.

“You’re doing a 10-year project next year?” asked Jensen. “How long is your project meant to go for?”

“We have 10 years to implement this project,” Ramsey replied. “This would be about one to one-and-a-half years to completion, if it gets funded now.”

Finance committee member John Hanold expressed strong support for the article. “This happens to come at a time when other borrowings are phasing out,” he reminded the meeting. “The high school will be paid off in the next fiscal year, and this will dovetail to some extent with that.”

Reassured by town accountant Angelica Desroches and Nolan-Zeller that “the repairs should outlive the debt,” members passed the article unanimously.

#### Anxiety Dump

As the hour reached 9 p.m., next up was a series of four requests from the highway department (DPW) for replacing aging heavy equipment and vehicles. These capital articles had received substantial discussion at an April 29 “pre-town meeting” session held over Zoom.

“Who’s got the energy to stay and talk about trucks, and who really wants to talk about trucks next week?” asked Irving. By a show of hands, members elected to stay and continue.

“Vroom vroom vroom!” she replied before ceding the floor to DPW superintendent Sam Urkiel.

Urkiel described the first vehicle to be replaced as a 2003 10-wheel dump truck, one of the town’s primary plowing vehicles. Coming on the heels of the \$3 million sewer appropriation, many members expressed sticker shock at the \$365,000 truck.

“I have this giant anxiety about how much money is on this sheet right here,” said Precinct 4’s Jennifer Waryas, a member of the finance committee. “I support all the work everyone does in the town and believe you need tools to do the job, but... it’s just sort of scary. I want to know, what is the impact on the bottom line for taxpayers over time?”

Ariel Elan of Precinct 1 noted that as a member of the capital improvements committee she had “gone over these truck replacements with a fine-tooth comb and brush, and comb again,” adding that she had sat in on a finance committee meeting where Urkiel gave a more detailed argument for the acquisitions.

“First of all, ‘dump truck’ is the wrong name,” said Elan. “These are massive snow-and-ice removal, landscaping, paving, and heavy-construction support vehicles. The bed alone can hold 18 tons.” She noted that



Elizabeth Irving, appointed temporary town meeting moderator following the resignation of the elected moderator, holds up a sign reminding speakers to state their name and precinct.

the size of the vehicles allows them greater efficiency over normal dump trucks: to plow a road in a single pass rather than several, or to carry twice as much material per load.

Addressing Waryas’s question, Elan recalled having heard from Urkiel or Ramsey that “the \$365,000 cost of this truck was covered by what we saved by the DPW building the South Ferry Road culvert” last year. “Just that one project,” she said, “would have cost at least that much more to farm out to an outside vendor.”

The article passed by a majority of many-to-one.

#### Given the Volatility

“Moving on to Article 17 – it’s more trucks, everyone. You guys still good with trucks?” Irving asked optimistically at 9:15 p.m. “We’ll do all the trucks?”

But the punchiness of the meeting members was growing apparent. When Irving asked if there were any questions about the second dump truck, a slightly smaller \$325,000 replacement for a 2002 vehicle, Sam Lovejoy of Precinct 1 shouted “What color is it?” before serious discussion ensued.

Melanie Zamojski of Precinct 6 said she felt two similar trucks in the same year seemed unwarranted, especially in a volatile economic climate. Jason Corey of Precinct 3 agreed. Precinct 2’s Matt Atwood noted that the meeting materials indicated one selectboard member had voted against recommending the article, and asked why.

“It could have been me,” said Matt Lord. “I think at one point in time I did vote against this, but I changed my mind – for the same reason but in the opposite direction as Melanie, given the volatility.”

“What we don’t pay for now we still pay for later,” Elan said, adding: “The whole point of the five-year capital plan is to even out the expensive purchases. You defer \$365K this year, it could add \$500K to what’s already on the plan for next year.”

“I trust the process,” Jen Audley of Precinct 4 said, expressing appreciation for the depth at which the DPW requests had been discussed at the pre-town meeting. “I appreciate the hard work of the committees that decided we need to buy this dump truck this year. And I’d like to make sure that folks on town meeting know that the funding source for this dump truck is town capital stabilization – this isn’t actually coming from taxation.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz reminded members that this truck would replace a 2002 vehicle, and Pam Hanold of Precinct 5 said it may have an even longer service life, as it would live inside the new DPW garage whereas the old truck lived outdoors.

With several audible *nays*, the second truck passed by a strong majority.

“Can we do one more round of trucks, or are you guys done?” asked Irving, but this time there was barely a pause before she said, “I think we’re done.”

Montague’s annual town meeting will resume at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday, May 14 with more trucks, plus bus stops, libraries, street safety – and the big one, if the amount of discussion it received at the pre-town meeting is a predictor: whether the town will change its approach to assessing the value of all the properties held by FirstLight Power, the town’s largest taxpayer.



FACES & PLACES

MATT ROBINSON PHOTOS

Matt Robinson, not just a sports reporter, writes: “Animal Science and Horticulture students showcased their agricultural education as Franklin County Technical School hosted the second annual Future Farmers of America Community Ag Day on Saturday. Events included a tractor pull and show, vendors, face painting, a petting zoo, cow plop bingo, and a pig roast.”

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MONTAGUE from page A1

near the intersection a “No Parking” zone and requested that town administrator Walter Ramsey draft tighter rules for commercial vehicles under the town’s “Traffic Rules and Regulations.” This was deemed necessary to address similar complaints from various neighborhoods, and could be voted on by the board after a public hearing, according to town counsel.

On Monday Ramsey proposed to amend Article 5 of the traffic regulations, entitled “Stopping, Standing, Parking,” with a new section regulating “Commercial Truck Parking.” If it is approved, certain commercial vehicles would be banned from parking for more than one hour at a time on town roads and parking lots, between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

These regulations would apply to any vehicle with a commercial plate and any of six characteristics: a carrying capacity of two and a half tons; more than seven feet in width, or more than 18 feet in length without a trailer; a trailer, or more than four wheels or two axles; over four square feet of advertising; a design capacity of more than 16 passengers, including the driver; or a placard indicating it transports hazardous materials, as required by federal rules.

Ramsey noted that there could be exceptions to these regulations – such as for emergency vehicles, or in an “unusual circumstance” by a vote of the selectboard – and that they would not apply to larger vehicles without commercial plates. He showed pictures of various vehicles that would be “not allowed” or “allowed” under the proposed regulations.

Ramsey noted that these new regulations would not apply to larger vehicles without commercial plates.

The town administrator explained the logic of the time restriction. “By preventing them from parking overnight, that would get them moving and not camping out,” he said. The fine for violating this rule would be \$50 per day, and the police would be empowered to have any vehicle in violation towed.

Mary Feeney of Central Street asked why the prohibition was only in effect at night, when the “active drive time in the area is from 6 a.m. to later in the evening.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said the board could “rework” the time frame after the public hearing, while member Matt Lord said it would be “unlikely and unusual that a commercial driver would repeat-

edly decide to park in a residential area after having to move the truck on a regular basis outside of that area overnight.”

The board voted to “move this forward to a public hearing at a future date,” and Ramsey suggested that date be in two weeks. As of press time, a hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, May 19.

In the meantime, the “No Parking” sign approved for L Street is reportedly back-ordered, and a *Montague Reporter* investigation indicated the truck in question was parked on the street as of Tuesday afternoon.

Longer Stickers?

Town treasurer and tax collector Eileen Seymour asked the board if so-called “barrel stickers,” which currently cost \$78 and allow for trash collection for a period of six months when affixed to barrels, be sold at twice the price and cover 12 calendar months instead. She argued that it would be better, “efficiency-wise and for the townspeople,” if they purchased the stickers once a year.

Showing the board a potential new sticker design with the year in large numerals, Seymour said such a policy would also make it easier for the trash hauler to recognize if residents had valid stickers.

She added that a January sticker would eliminate the “June rush of sales” at the treasurer and tax collector’s office, which sells the stickers. “December’s always busy anyway, so it would be the same as it is now,” she said. The sticker price is reduced over the course of the period it covers.

In response to a question from Kuklewicz, Seymour said that the policy would not begin until 2026, so residents purchasing stickers this June would be given notification of the change.

There ensued a brief discussion as to whether sticker prices, which do not cover the town’s entire cost of trash collection, should be raised in any case. Kuklewicz said he recalled a plan to discuss the issue after the town’s new hauler, Casella Waste Systems, has been here for a year, which will be roughly in July.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said he believed the finance committee was planning to evaluate the sticker price issue, as well as take a tour of the transfer station on Sandy Lane.

Ash Disposal

At the request of assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, the board endorsed a \$4,020.39 change order for the ongoing streetscape improvement project on Avenue A. The money will be used by the contractor, Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care, to replace two ash trees in front of Gary’s Coins “which were deemed

by consensus of the tree advisory committee to be two of the ones to be in the worst shape.”

The other 10 ash trees on the same block that Mountain View had offered to remove and replace, he said, would instead be protected during the renovation.

Nolan-Zeller said that the interim tree warden had been notified of the need for a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for next Thursday, May 15, for the removal of the trees, and that the change order can be funded under the project’s contingency account.

Downtown Library

Nolan-Zeller reviewed the status of the project to replace or expand the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, either of which would be partially funded by a state grant. He reported that the project’s building committee has hired a project manager and began a process to hire an architect, which should be completed in mid-June.

The building committee and library trustees will decide on a site and design, along with preliminary cost estimates, which must be submitted to the state library commission by the end of the year. The state would announce construction grants next February, but the town would be “on the hook” for matching funds, requiring a vote by town meeting that spring and most likely by a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion vote by residents.

If these pass, there would be another year to develop a final design, with construction starting either in the fall of 2027 or the spring of 2028.

Lord asked whether the idea of moving the existing Carnegie building to a new location was still on the table. Nolan-Zeller said there had been no official communication on the issue, but that he had been told by public libraries director Caitlin Kelley that the state historical commission does not look favorably on the idea due to a preservation restriction on the building.

Other Business

The meeting began with a dramatic reading by Lord of the warrant for the annual town election, which will be held Tuesday, May 20 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The warrant includes all town meeting seats up for election in Montague’s six precincts – a total of 56 – as well as elected members of boards and commissions, which includes one member each of the selectboard, board of health, board of assessors, Montague housing authority, parks and recreation commission, and soldiers’ memorial trustees, as well as three library trustees.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, May 12.



LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on May 7, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Gill Debates Dispensaries

The most hotly debated item at Gill’s annual town meeting, which asked attendees to vote to revise the town’s zoning bylaws to regulate registered marijuana dispensaries (RMDs), should one come to town, passed with a vote of 33 to 7. The article requires any RMD in Gill to be no more than 2,500 square feet, within the Village Commercial District, and outside a 300-foot radius of a school, day-care center, park, or playground.

Detractors to the article argued that the amendments were too lim-

iting. Selectman John Ward said that while the building size “may be arbitrary and capricious,” limiting RMDs to the commercial district definitely was.

Unity Park Glider

Parks and recreation director John Dobosz updated the Montague selectboard on the new Sway Fun Glider, a large hand-capped-accessible structure that can hold approximately eight people. It is designed for those who might be unable to use traditional playground structures. Dobosz announced that volunteers had poured the concrete for the base and ramp. The glider is scheduled to be installed on May 16.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on May 5, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Keeping the Guard in Iraq

A resolution calling for the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units stationed in Iraq was defeated 39 to 24 by Gill town meeting on May 2. The resolution stated it was not against the men and women serving in combat, but that since there was no direct threat to the nation from Iraq, calling the Guard to active duty was improper according to its mandate.

The vote highlighted the divisiveness the war has created among average Americans.

“We are Monday-morning quarterbacking,” said navy veteran Paul

Seamens. “Hussein was a vicious man. He was just like Hitler and Hirohito.” Diane Miller, whose son serves in the Army and is soon debarking for Afghanistan, said her son told her the Guard was needed to help do the job in Iraq.

Protecting Erving’s Water

The Erving selectboard is prepared to purchase 8.23 acres of land owned by Ken Mitzkovitz in Erving, contiguous to the elementary school, the police station, and an additional 17 acres of town-owned property. The purchase price is \$165,000, subject to approval at a special town meeting. Presumably, the town’s purchase will give permanent protection to the portion of its water recharge area.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on May 5, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Spring has come. The goats have returned to their wanted highway pastures.

The end of a stock drainer in the Keith mill fell out one day last week, without doing any damage to the mill.

Some of the Keith mill boys have engaged Colle hall for Saturday evening, May 15, for a social dance.

The bill authorizing the immediate construction of the new bridge over the falls passed the house Friday, and only requires the Governor’s signature to become law.

There is money for some man who will build a dozen small cottages on Pleasant Plain, or some other favorable locality. Numbers of people are continually inquiring for such residences, and at least a half dozen small families would move into such houses at once were there any.

Another spelling match is to take place to-night in Wood’s Hall, Riverside, for prizes of \$2.50 in gold and a silver dollar. Leonard Barton, Esq., will give out the words. Refreshments will be served during the evening, and a social dance will follow the spelling.

Some people tried to get a sleigh belonging to A.C. Lewis into the letter box of the Riverside post-office, the other night. Postmaster Johnson has been reading the regulations to find out in what class of mailable matter a sleigh belongs.

The horse which A.C. Lewis had been starving all winter is dead. Rev. Mr. Frost took pity on the animal and had it taken where it received every care, but it was too weak to revive. Let us see. What are the prices current of tar and feathers? We may not wish to buy any, but we like to keep posted. A man with a soul so small as to torture such a noble brute as a horse, some day may have occasion to pass opinion on the merits of these articles, and then we’d feel mighty mean if we couldn’t have some say in the matter.



Montague Community Television News  
Wendell ‘Elders’ Event on Montague TV

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The last event in the “Honoring Elders” series at the Wendell Meetinghouse took place Tuesday, April 8, with Karen and Michael Idoline as the honorees.

Watch the whole event on Montague Community TV. You can find us on Channel 9 on local cable, or on our Vimeo page which is linked from our website. You can also catch up with the whole neighborhood by watching

all of the selectboard meetings from Gill and Montague.

Or stop by to visit us! Our station is equipped with a studio, cameras, lights, and microphones, as well as friendly staff members who are available to help.

Stop by 34 Second Street in Turners Falls, Mondays through Fridays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., or contact us at (413) 863-9200 or [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook or find us on Instagram @montaguecommunitytv. Find videos and more on our website, [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org).

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LEVERETT from page A1

Tim Shores, Andrew Parker-Renga, and Liz Johnson.

Nearly every article on the warrant passed, except two which were tabled. One, an indicative vote on the future paving of Dudleyville Road, was deemed not town meeting’s business by Dudleyville denizens and a waste of time by others.

The other, a proposal to remove height restrictions from small pole-mounted solar arrays, brought impassioned debate but was put on pause after officials spotted additional text in the zoning bylaws that would need to be altered.

Coming Home

Voters approved a \$7,985,610 town budget, up 6.1% from the current year’s \$7,527,214. The increase was largely driven by education costs, including an 18% single-year increase in the Leverett Elementary School’s “Insurance” line and a 14% increase in the overall assessment to the Amherst secondary-school district.

Overtime selectboard member Gary Gruber commented that the regional assessment increase amounted to being “bullied by the town of Amherst,” and that it should be rejected and the budget renegotiated, but regional school committee rep Tilman Wolf and Amherst superintendent Xiomara Herman explained that the budget had already been cut beyond level funding.

The town’s big hike, they said, was instead the result of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) insisting that the district’s four towns could not legally continue to use an alternative assessment method each year that included “guardrails” capping the smaller towns’ increases.

The lights were dimmed, and voters were shown two charts illustrating that in recent years Amherst has been paying dramatically more into the district on a per-pupil basis than any of the other three towns, and that reverting to the method laid out in the original district agreement, mandatory according to DESE, would largely correct this disparity.

“We’re finding out that the guardrails didn’t benefit us,” said Bethany Seeger, a finance committee member and former school committee member. “This is the year we’re ripping the Band-Aid off.”

“It’s sort of a chickens-coming-home-to-roost,” said Sarah Dolven.

“Their tax base is way bigger than ours,” resident Ian Brody objected, pointing out that he and most Leverett residents spend their money at Amherst businesses. “A per-student basis is not the best way of looking at this.”

“Maybe it’s time to look at the regional agreement again,” said Judy Fonsh, to applause, though she advocated approving the assessment.

The regional assessment line, totalling \$1,863,803, passed on a voice vote.

Corrosion Barriers

“How many people are over 60?” Tom Wolff asked as the school-assessment smoke was still clearing. Nearly half the hands in the room shot up.

Wolff was flagging for dramatic effect one final line “held” in the town budget, \$10,440 on salaries for the Council on Aging (COA). The COA had requested money for a 15-hour-a-week events coordinator, he said, and was only given enough for 10 hours.

“We’re an important group, and we need in the future to get support when we ask for some additions,” Wolff argued. The line was approved, confirming the final piece of the town budget as proposed.

Voters agreed to pull \$75,000 from stabilization to buy a police cruiser – with a smattering of Nays – and another \$250,000 to spray a vapor-phase corrosion inhibitor inside the elementary school sprinkler system, a move hoped to defer a \$1.2 million replacement and “avoid hemorrhaging money on repairs” made necessary by ruptures and floods.

From free cash, \$9,450 was approved to rebuild the walkways and handrail at town hall – Fonsh said her husband, who uses a wheelchair, has been unable to access the building – and \$25,000 to pay lawyers’ fees, which are apparently running high in this age of abandoned candle estates and disputed blueberry patch right-of-ways.

The zoning bylaws were tweaked to remove the number of dogs from the definition of a kennel, as dog quantity is more appropriately regulated by other authorities, and to change “mobile homes” to “manufactured homes,” bringing the codes closer to state law.

Ruth West expressed worry that this could eliminate “tiny homes” on wheels. She was told the planning board plans to catch up next year with recent state laws on accessory dwelling units, which presumably include such rolling shacks.

By unanimous vote and with no discussion, voters agreed to a set of proposed changes in the Franklin Regional Council of Governments charter.

Weighing and Measuring

Three big-ticket investments from the town’s Community Preservation Fund were discussed at length.

The largest, \$374,529, went “to construct a multi-use accessible Pocket Park” at the Leverett Library. Library director Hannah Paessel read through a number of features and benefits it would provide in terms of recreation and accessibility, and pointed out that it would be the town’s first public park. Supplemental funds were coming from other sources, she said, and the park would not need much maintenance beyond leaf-blowing.

Maureen Ippolito moved that this article be voted by paper ballot. Her motion, however, was

defeated by a show of hands. The article then passed by a voice vote, with some dissent.

The next-largest, \$265,000, went to “restore and improve the discontinued town-owned section of Rattlesnake Gutter Road,” after a detailed presentation by Steve Weiss on the state of the trail along the ravine, which he called a “fundamental and iconic part of our town.”

“If we’re renovating the road, could it be reopened?” Steve Nagy asked.

“The answer is no,” selectboard member Pat Duffy replied sternly, though Weiss said the renovations would allow the road to be used by emergency vehicles, and added that future improvements could include remotely-operated gates at both ends.

The article passed, to the day’s loudest applause.

Less popular was \$176,000 for Leverett’s share of a new track at the Amherst regional high school.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson said the existing track was in “hideous condition,” and Dolven called it “embarrassing.”

Over the crowd’s general quiet grumbling, Tim Shores said that although he himself harbored a “lifelong annoyance with high school athletics,” speaking as the newly-appointed representative to the regional school committee he advocated approving the money so Leverett could enter a potential “long negotiation” over a new district agreement “from a position of good faith.”

The article passed, as did \$24,500 in Community Preservation money for mapping ruins and detritus at the former Graves Ironworks and \$8,000 to rescue the town’s official set of weights and measures, and the 1848-vintage cabinet containing them, from the basement of the Field building to the town hall for proud display.

At the end of this section of the meeting, Hankinson asked for another round of applause for Danielle Barshak, who is ending her tenure as chair of the Community Preservation Commission.

The Way It Wants To Be

Saturday’s last major topic was the Two Brothers Woodlot, a 146-acre parcel that has been cultivated for a half-century by respected forester Bruce Spencer and that Spencer has offered as a gift to the town.

An *ad hoc* committee met for over a year to study the pros and cons of taking the forest as public land and wrote a report to back up their recommendation that the gift be accepted. “I think it’s a big honor that he’s offering it to us,” said member Eric Donnelly. “We could be the town that has the Leverett town forest.”

The potential challenges, Donnelly said, were in reaching public agreement as to how the woods should or shouldn’t be managed, future complications of a right-of-way arrangement with an abutter, and the eventual cost of replacing the small

Write-in for Montague Select Board

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RFQ documents are available at the Selectboard office, Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or by sending an email to [chrisn@montague-ma.gov](mailto:chrisn@montague-ma.gov).

A Briefing Session and Site Tour will be held on May 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the **Carnegie Library**, located at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Attendance is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.

Bid responses are to be submitted to the Montague Selectboard’s Office no later than June 2, 2025, at 12:00 PM.

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wooden bridge into the forest, which by all accounts is in sturdy condition.

Donnelly added that while Spencer hopes the town would take a similar approach to his – the occasional “low-impact” harvest of timber from unwanted trees, allowing hunting so deer don’t prevent oak succession by overgrazing acorns – and would hire a professional to develop a forest management plan, “I don’t think he wants to write that in as a requirement.”

“I’m in favor of trails,” said Greg Salzman. “We have quite a lot. I’m not sure what the advantage is of having it be a town forest, as opposed to another parcel of land that’s taken out of development in the future.”

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky said that it was possible to reverse conservation restrictions. “The only way we know for sure that we can protect it is if we own

it,” he argued.

“The companies that log Leverett are doing, on average, a lousy job,” said Martin Wobst. “They take down the best trees and let the worst ones stand. We have a chance to remake the forest the way it wants to be, which is a mixed forest.”

In the end the article passed, with a small minority of Nay votes.

Though the room was full throughout the morning, attendance dwindled substantially after a chili lunch provided by the Leverett Village Co-op. A series of “housekeeping” items pushed to the tail end of the warrant, Articles 30 through 37, was rushed through by the town’s most dedicated meeting enthusiasts as the skies outside darkened and the air pressure plummeted, signaling the approach of an intense afternoon thunderstorm.



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER  
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By DAVID BRULE

**PESKEOMPSKUT / THUNDER FALLS** – It is an old story. 349 years old, in fact. The story of May 19, 1676 has been forgotten by many, sometimes through simple lack of knowledge, sometimes deliberately.

The white antiquarian historians portrayed the massacre on May 19 as a great English settler victory. The tribes who lost family members and elders there tacitly decided to bury the atrocity deep, to no longer remember, no longer travel to the site at the falls, which had been an annual destination for more than 10,000 years.

“We buried it, and then we forgot,” is what the Nipmuck historians told us recently about the massacre. They forgot. They didn’t intend to, but they forgot.

A one-sided version of the story remained in the scarce references to the attack, through simplified perspectives in occasional history books.

Succeeding waves and generations of immigrants, German, Irish, Polish, and others, came to the falls, but had no idea about what had happened, and likely didn’t care. Most were leaving and even fleeing terrible conditions in their home countries. Many were too driven and too desperate in their own lives to think about what had happened to the First People who lived here, who called this place their homelands.

But some of us have chosen to remember, to seek out tribal leaders and work together to find out *what really happened at the falls*. To bring a beginning of healing to Peskeompskut.

We will renew our Day of Remembrance by gathering on the banks of the river, this year on May 17, to tell the 349-year-old

story once again. We will call across time to all the lost Indians from 1676 and before to gather again: Canonchet, Mishalisk, Matoonas, Muttawmp, Metacom, Weetamoo, Wecopeake, Awashonks, Shoshanim, and many more whose names cannot be known.

On a morning much like this one, some, like Elder Old Gray Wolf, will rise at dawn and go alone to Peskeompskut to perform ceremony and to remember once again. At this place, the gunfire is now silent, the calls of the death songs have long ceased to echo at the falls, much as the voice of the river no longer thunders as it used to when calling out its name: *Peske-omp-skut*, the voice of the Thunder Rocks Place.

The falls are dammed up, that barrier strikes a canceling line through what was once a place of joy, happy fishing songs, the excited yapping of dogs, smoke rising from hundreds of cooking fires.

Some of us will remember those scenes on an imaginary voyage through the mists of time.

We will force ourselves to remember that tragic day of May 19, 1676, now 349 years ago.

Here in the next lines there will be the sad part of this story. But there will be a joyful part, too.

On May 18, 1676, Captain William Turner, age 63, old and sick as he described himself, led 150 men out of Hatfield and Northampton. The troop was composed mostly of settler farmers, plus a few garrison soldiers. They traveled through the night with vengeance in their hearts.

They arrived on the west bank of Fall River on the morning of May 19, and waited for dawn.

They had managed to avoid detection out of sheer luck. Native soldiers were camped where Unity Park is now located. Other Native coalition fighters were also camped on Canada Hill/Wissatinnewag, as well as on the islands in the Connecticut River near Rock Dam. These fighters were a combined force of Nipmuck, Pocumtuck, Abenaki, Narragansett, Wampanoag, Pennecook, Quabog, Nashaway, and more.

Leaving their horses tied above Fall River, the English crossed the shallow stream, climbed up the swales on the east bank, and waited. At dawn they swept down on the refugee camp on the land now known as Riverside. On the non-combatant camp of elderly, women and children, they vented their fury.

see WEST ALONG page B3



Liz Coldwind Santana Kiser, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Chaubunagungamung Band of Nipmuck Indians, will be the featured speaker at the Day of Remembrance on May 17.

The Week in High School Sports: Rain Soaks Through the Schedule

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Pocket thunderstorms and a three-day deluge played havoc with the high school sports scene this week. Last Wednesday the town of



Mia Marigliano of Turners Falls blasts a double during the bottom of the third inning Wednesday night against visiting Division 4 powerhouse Hampshire Regional.

Palmer was swamped, forcing the Pathfinder softball team to play a “home game” at Franklin Tech. On Saturday a storm swept through the Pioneer Valley, halting an individual tennis tournament mid-swing.

The deluge did not stop until this Wednesday afternoon, canceling all events on Monday and Tuesday and keeping supporters checking the forecast for more possible postponements. We were planning to report on Tuesday’s track meet against Greenfield, but it was canceled.

Schools are now scrambling to fill any open scheduling holes, including Saturdays and Sundays, with games.

**Girls’ Tennis**  
SICS 3 – TFHS 2  
PVCICS 4 – TFHS 1

Last Friday I stopped by the Turners tennis courts before heading to Tech, and asked girls’ coach Victor Gonzalez if his team might win two matches in a row. He smiled and said, “That’s always the plan.”

As it turns out, the Springfield International Charter School took three matches, halting Turners’ brief winning streak. Olivia Wolbach won first singles in two and Khiarieliex Huertas Hernandez and Lily Sumner took second doubles in three, but Avery Heathwaite and Gianna Marigliano were defeated in second and third singles, and Izzy Decker and Keira Feeley lost their match in first doubles.

On Saturday the Western Mass Individual Tennis see SPORTS page B8



Mexico City overwhelms, but Roma delivers.

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – I spent most of last week in the *colonia* (neighborhood) of Roma, a small area in the vastness of Mexico City. The city’s size is hard to fathom compared to our lightly populated part of western Mass. Greater Mexico City’s population has surged to 22.75 million in 2025, but the rate of increase is lower than ever in history.

There are all kinds of scary problems in CDMX, as it’s known – Ciudad de México – yet when most people visit, all they remember are the leafy neighborhoods like Roma and Polanco, the swanky cocktail bars, and the stunning museums.

Despite seeing the “poor air quality” indicators, it was only when I was entering and leaving CDMX that the shelf of pollution became really noticeable on the horizon. Even during an early-morning pickleball game in a park, the smog did not affect me.

Pickleball was a highlight. I met up with a group of locals called

“PBMX” who set up six pickleball nets in a park in Roma. Anyone can join for 200 pesos – about \$12 – for two hours. They provide lessons and games, which American expats have made popular here.

I had three nights in the city, and

a wide-open schedule. I used Uber to get around and it was pleasantly about half the cost of rides in New York City.

After a few attempts to find a proper food tour, not a “tacos on see TRAVEL page B4



Mexico City’s leafy Roma neighborhood.



# Pet of the Week



## ‘MAC AND MO’

Mac and Mo are well-mannered domestic medium hairs. Their human parents describe them as chill, curious, and playful. These love bugs are good with kids, but not good with dogs.

Mac and Mo are neutered and housetrained, and are being rehomed due to human health issues. They have been together since they were

kittens, and their parents would like to keep them together if possible.

Their adoption fee is \$10. To apply to adopt Mac and Mo, visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org) and find “Available Community Animals” under the “Adopt” menu. A potential adopter must submit an application, interview and meet the pets, and sign an adoption contract.

## Senior Center Activities MAY 12 THROUGH 16

**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.

A six-week class, “Mindfulness Meditation for Stress Reduction,” will be offered on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. starting May 22. Seniors 55+ from all towns are welcome. Call or email instructor Jean Erlbaum anytime for info or registration: (413) 230-1518, [jean.erlbaum@verizon.net](mailto:jean.erlbaum@verizon.net).

**Monday 5/12**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Potluck  
1:30 p.m. COA Meeting

**Tuesday 5/13**  
9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

**Wednesday 5/14**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch  
Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

**Thursday 5/15**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
3:30 p.m. MV Training

**Friday 5/16**  
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 newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv for more info.

**WENDELL**

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is June 4. 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. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

**Monday 5/12**  
9 a.m. Good for U  
10 a.m. Seated Fitness  
12 p.m. Pitch Cards  
1 p.m. Yoga

**Tuesday 5/13**  
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
11 a.m. Social Stringer  
1 p.m. Garden Club

**Wednesday 5/14**  
9 a.m. Interval Training  
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo

**Thursday 5/15**  
9 a.m. Barre Fusion  
10 a.m. Pilates Flow  
1 p.m. Scam Program

**Friday 5/16**  
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting,  
Open Sew



## Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

**SOUTH HADLEY** – I’ve just returned from the 50th annual Society for Sex Therapy and Research (SSTAR) conference, and it’s been an exciting few days learning from new and long-term leaders in the field. Coincidentally, I listened to Miranda July’s new book, *All Fours*, all the way down to Philly and back. I’ll mention some of my observations and reactions to this book as I share my experiences and learning at SSTAR.

Where to begin? SSTAR has a very international membership, with many attendees traveling from various provinces in Canada. I learned from one Canadian that research in sexuality is funded generously, compared to a very conspicuous lack of funding here in the US, explaining the vast number of Canadians presenting their research findings.

I also heard that many Canadians chose not to travel to the US due to the current political climate, and those that did made sure to wipe their cell phones, laptops, and tablets of anything that a border agent might find threatening. This made me feel even more upset at the state of our government.

Luckily, sex is an ever-focusing topic. On Thursday we had the opportunity to view a burlesque film, *Learning to Be Naked: Healing Through Burlesque*. The film was quite poignant as it portrayed several individuals who discovered empowerment and self-love, alongside healing from various challenges, simply by stumbling into local burlesque classes and immediately falling in love with the art form.

One dancer had recovered from bone cancer in the leg and wore a prosthetic, having also survived breast cancer, and shared how burlesque helped her learn to love her body again. Another had suffered a stroke in her 20s, leaving her a two-year long recovery journey to gain full mobility from prior paralysis. Burlesque not only helped her regain confidence in moving her body, but helped bring her out of severe depression and hopelessness.

On Friday we were treated to a special burlesque evening at Stir, a longtime gay club – of which Philadelphia wonderfully has many, unlike our region. Honey Tree EvilEye was our emcee and also danced. It had been a long time since I attended burlesque in person. The Pioneer Valley used to have a thriving scene, long before COVID. It was great to see confident bodies of all types teasing and taunting us, and even performing the splits!

But back to the conference – there was learning, too.

Midori, a nationally renowned kink instructor, gave the Saturday morning plenary, “Introduction to Kink.” Her main objective was to encourage the professionals and clinicians present to become kink-aware in order to best treat clients who engage in kink. She noted that at least seven out of ten people fantasize about kink or BDSM activities, and at least one out of five engages in kink activities.

Midori presented a tool she has developed over the years called an “appetite grid.” On this grid, folks may place themselves in boxes along two axes. The horizontal axis listed the categories of “neutral, dominance, submission,” and the vertical axis lists “neutral, sadism, and masochism.” If someone chooses neutral in both, their appetite falls into the “delicious vanilla” box. Or someone might pick neutral and masochism, the category of “egalitarian masochism.”

Her website, [www.planetmidori.com](http://www.planetmidori.com), offers more information on kink in general, and you can email me if you would like a picture of her chart.

Midori noted that thinking about kink essentially falls into two categories: appetites, or *what do I want tonight?*, and planning/negotiation, or *how do I get what I want?*

I appreciated her definitions of submitting, dominating, sadism, and masochism as “shorthand” terms “meaning that at the moment, the person is likely to experience sensual, sexual, systemic arousal, and/or desired change of state, through the temporary redistribution of authority, hierarchy or control” either, respectively, towards them or away from them, or through creating intense sensation in another or by experiencing intense sensation.

“Sensation,” she emphasized, is not automatically equated to “pain.” The desired state change may include slipping into a very calm or deep meditative state.

Midori noted that for some people “kink” is akin to their orientation, like being gay or asexual, whereas for others it may be more akin to a “leisure activity.” A third group may embrace both frameworks.

Her catchy, “meme”-style definition of BDSM is “childhood joyous play with adult privilege and cool toys. It’s cops and robbers with shagging – shagging optional.” She also shared a Japanese phrase which translates to *the spirit of a three-year-old until 100*,

urging us all to retain a connection with the joys of play.

For those just dipping their toes into kink, Midori suggested taking a “sandwich” approach, with the bread slices being the “regular, good sex” partners might typically enjoy, and a kink activity (role-playing, spanking, bondage, etc.) added between the bread to see how it goes. The sandwich can be endlessly customizable.

Listening to July’s book *All Fours* during this time confirmed much of what Midori described. The protagonist, a married and ostensibly bisexual ciswoman undergoing a perimenopause-fueled midlife crisis of gigantic erotic proportions, often seemed to experience a “state change” in both her solo and partnered “off-the-beaten path” activities.

I don’t want to give any spoilers, but July’s erotic and sexual descriptions were detailed, graphic, and quite direct. No delicate flower stuff, with events often taking very surprising turns. It all seems to emphasize the complete intensity of the protagonist’s new erotic goings-on, compared with her prior experiences of sex.

July’s honest, up-close, and personal descriptions of a woman fully exploring and embracing her emerging erotic attractions perfectly complemented Midori’s emphasis on kink as a way for people to experience intensity.

One final note. The theme of SSTAR’s conference this year was “Sexuality, Trauma, and Healing.” As such, Midori was asked about the rise in rough sex and choking.

She oriented us to use the term “breath play,” and stated that essentially the only safe way to engage in it is to tell your consenting partner to “hold your breath” – no touching their neck. At some point their brain will override and the person will breathe, neck intact and alive to experience another scene.

Stay tuned for a future column discussing the emerging dangers of choking, as well as a column sharing some of the research findings shared at SSTAR 2025.

*Stephanie Baird is a certified OWL facilitator and an EMDR psychotherapist and consultant who encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She is the author of the book EMDR Therapy and Sexual Health: A Clinician’s Guide (2023). She welcomes feedback and suggestions at [sexmatters@montaguereporter.org](mailto:sexmatters@montaguereporter.org).*

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WEST ALONG from page B1

Basket Maker, the Nipmuck storyteller, related what happened then: “... A loud clap of thunder and a burst of light awakened me with a start. I heard my mother scream and saw another flash of light inside the *wetu*. My little brother, who was sleeping next to me, screamed and I felt his body jerk then felt blood squirting all over me. The dogs and the rest of us inside the *wetu* were all scrambling now, desperate to get away from the thundersticks poking into the door flaps.

“I grabbed my little sister’s hands and began running through the dark, screaming and ducking whenever a gun went off. All was confusion and noise... I remember being at the edge of the cliff above the river. People were jumping into the roiling water and swimming towards the canoes... Suddenly I was in the river’s fast current, taking us towards the falls.

“I managed to climb onto a rock, dragging my half-drowned sister with me. We saw English soldiers coming down the cliff, shooting at everything...then I saw a sword come down and heard my little sister scream...

“I knew if I stayed in the rocks, I would be killed like her, so I jumped into the river again as I joined the large number of people swimming towards the falls. I was swept over, expecting to die as the others had on the rocks at the bottom...I don’t know how, but I landed in deep water and after falling down and down, I began to rise.

“I swam to the lower village in the river and found that the warriors had gone to the aid of my village on the other side of the river. But it was too late....”

(As recounted in *The Pond Dwellers*, a collection of oral histories by Kelly Savage.)

That was 349 years ago.

Ever since, Natives have tacitly

avoided the place at the falls. Even though after all those hundreds of years, they did not know why they stayed away, only that a dark burden, a dark spirit lingered here.

But we are working on healing this place by telling this story, and joining Indigenous partners in ceremonies of remembrance to honor the 300 victims of that attack at the falls.

Among us will be some of those who descend from the men of the settler force that perpetrated the massacre. There will be some of us who descend from the Nipmuck and Abenaki communities and other Nations whose citizens died that day so long ago.

But we will not be sad, we will not make this a Day of Sadness.

This Day of Remembrance will be one of a celebration of the lives of those who did not receive the dignity and respect that they deserved in their own lifetimes. Those whose spirits have been trapped for hundreds of years in their hour of torment. We will remember those whose names cannot be known.

The songs and words we speak will be part of the healing of the place where so many met with tragedy on that day in May. Over the years, and through our efforts, those trapped spirits have been released to continue their journey to the Creator’s home in the southwest.

We will join hands across the years with those lost Indians, and with those who have come here since. Together with our Indigenous friends and settler friends we will remember those who died defending their homelands against invaders from across the sea in the wars of so long ago.

An Annual Day of Remembrance will be held Saturday, May 17 at the Discovery Center from 1 to 3 p.m. at Peskeompskut, in the place now known as Turners Falls.



MOVIE REVIEW

Last Breath (2025)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – *Last Breath* was a movie I was interested in seeing in theaters, but I ended up watching it online. It features the true story of three deep-sea divers and friends. Two of them end up having to rescue the third – Chris, played by Finn Cole, who gets into trouble on a dive.

The other two divers, Duncan and David, are played by Woody Harrison and Simu Liu. Duncan mentions that this is supposed to be his last dive, but it turns into one hell of a last dive. David goes in first and is fine, and then Chris is next. Duncan observes everything they are doing from an underwater rig.

Then they get into trouble due to a storm. Chris drops into the ocean when the cable that allows him to be pulled out breaks. The others have to go down again to get him. This is pretty bad luck to begin with, but what they have for a video feed of the ocean also goes offline due to the storm. On top of this, Chris doesn’t have a lot of oxygen.

Enduring all of this, Chris has to get back to a spot where they can reach in order to get him out of trouble. A Navy ship on the dive with



them tries to help out with the rescue attempt – I won’t say how helpful they are with that. But the Chris character does get back to a spot where they can rescue him.

The film has a nerve-racking sequence to watch on screen. After all of that, no one knows for sure whether Chris is fine, though after this crazy incident all three go back into the ocean for another dive.

I believe men who do things like deep-sea diving have to be dare-devils. This was a pretty crazy incident to have happened with diving, yet they go back underwater again after it.

I have seen movies about incredible true events that have happened. But with *Last Breath*, it seems that they pulled off a miracle, or one ended up happening. I would be very surprised if this wasn’t a success in theaters.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Educator Threatened; Prowlers Hitting Vehicles and Yards; Manholes Loosen; Empty Car Jumps Out of Park and Crashes

**Monday, 4/28**  
7:21 a.m. Officer located disabled vehicle in the Turners Falls Road-Vladish Avenue area. Rau’s towing vehicle to owner’s home. Officers following.  
7:24 a.m. Caller states that a golden brown SUV with an elderly male driver was swerving back and forth on Turners Falls Road, headed into Turners from Montague Center. Officer located disabled vehicle that matches description. Investigated.  
8:23 a.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road states that her downstairs neighbor’s small dog just bit her and broke the skin on her leg. Report taken.  
8:30 a.m. Principal at Turners Falls High School would like to speak with an officer after receiving threats from the grandparent of a student. Advised of options.

**Tuesday, 4/29**  
10:31 a.m. Party into station to report that he had a side-by-side UTV stolen and it is now for sale online. Officer spoke with Massachusetts Environmental Police, and they said to report it stolen. Entered into NCIC as stolen. Officer called Lyndonville, Vermont PD and gave them our dispatch info as the Facebook post has been removed. Vermont PD advising they located the vehicle; will send location in NCIC. Owner of UTV will pick up from tow company tomorrow morning.  
2:12 p.m. Walk-in reports that her car window was smashed on Third Street. Referred to an officer.  
2:46 p.m. Report of trespassing and harassment on Greenfield Road. Referred to an officer.  
5:55 p.m. Caller from Montague Bookmill reporting a male party [redacted]. Left on foot 20 to 30 minutes ago headed toward Main Street/Turners Falls Road. Officer advising he stopped at the Montague store; they saw the male approximately one hour ago when he came to use the bathroom. Will call once owner is back to review video footage. Officer spoke with staff at the Bookmill; unable to see party on camera.  
6:24 p.m. Caller from Prospect Street reports that this morning he heard someone banging on the door. He and his girlfriend looked on their cameras and saw someone walking through the driveway carrying a bag. Would like an officer to watch the videos. Officer advises person on video not recognized; seems to have been cutting through while walking. Caller was

advised to call if this happens again.

**Wednesday, 4/30**  
4:40 a.m. Caller from South High Street states an individual just attempted to break into her locked vehicle, then took off on foot. Too dark to get clothing description, but sounded like an intoxicated male party. Unable to locate. Officers will be on lookout.  
6:36 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road states three vehicles were broken into overnight. Confirmed nothing missing. One party has footage from around 4:16 a.m. Subject appears to have a distinctive walk with a slight limp. Video footage will be obtained by caller. Report taken.  
10:05 a.m. 911 caller reporting smoke coming from attic vents on North Leverett Road. Transferred to Shelburne Control.  
10:36 a.m. Illegal burn at Montague and Griswold streets; chief advises male party is burning grass on his front lawn. Shelburne Control advised.  
11:59 a.m. Caller from Kingsley Avenue reports that his and his wife’s cars were broken into overnight. Change was taken; nothing else noticed at this time. Caller states vehicles were unlocked; center consoles were lifted and gone through. Report taken.  
1:06 p.m. Walk-in from Montague City Road looking to speak to an officer regarding their car being broken into last night. A GPS was stolen. Statement form completed. Report taken.  
2:33 p.m. 911 caller from West Main Street thinks there’s a gas spill in the bathroom that caught on fire. No longer on fire. Transferred to Shelburne Control.  
3:26 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states a female party is blocking her so she can’t leave her driveway. Caller called back advising the party is out in the road now, flagging down cars. Advised caller that officers are on their way. Received 911 call from motorist who stated that a female party flagged him down asking him to call 911, stating the landlord is harassing her. Officer advises units clear; situation mediated; states caller does have footage of party blocking her vehicle. Investigated.  
3:59 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with an officer regarding the previous call. They are not happy with the officers’ response and the way they treated the involved female party. Officer advised and speaking with

caller. Advised of options.  
4:30 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle into pole on Avenue A in front of Walgreens. Injury reported. Control advised; officer responding. Officer requesting Gill PD to assist. Officer advises pole is sheared in half and vehicle is lying against it. Advised Ever-source truck just pulled up. Officer requesting tow; advises operator and passenger are both conscious, alert, and speaking with medical personnel on scene. Officer requesting DPW be notified that several street signs will need to be replaced as well as the fence that runs along the sidewalk near the library. Officer advises operator and passenger transported to BFMC for evaluation. Investigated.  
8:30 p.m. Caller from Highland Avenue reports that while out walking, he and his wife saw someone on the edge of their neighbor’s property, which has been broken into several times recently. Caller states that the subject took off running when they saw them. Caller states he called his neighbor and advised him of what happened; he checked his cameras but was unable to see anyone. Caller wanted this on record. Advised to call if they see anyone else.

**Thursday, 5/1**  
9:09 a.m. Caller advising of a loose manhole cover at the corner of O Street and Pinewood Circle. DPW notified.

**Friday, 5/2**  
10:24 a.m. Report of minor two-car accident on Avenue A. No injuries. Report taken.  
11:11 a.m. Caller concerned about heavy traffic on Crescent Street, which is unusual. Traffic is from a detour due to roadwork on Bridge Street. Detail officer advised of complaint.  
3:01 p.m. Caller from Prospect Street states that someone backed out of a driveway and hit his parked car, damaging the door. Report taken.  
4 p.m. Caller reports that a female hit her daughter’s car in the parking lot at the tech school; doesn’t have any information at this time but will call back Monday. Report taken.

**Saturday, 5/3**  
10:44 a.m. 911 caller advising of minor motor vehicle accident in front of Greenfield Cooperative Bank on Avenue A. No injuries reported. Report taken. Vehicle operators exchanged information. Both vehicles drove away.  
3:10 p.m. Caller reports that the sewer cover on the corner of Park and Unity streets is lifting and water is pouring out of it. Officer requesting call to DPW. DPW states they will check it out.  
3:29 p.m. Caller reporting manhole cover starting to lift in the road on the Seventh Street hill. DPW advised.  
4:45 p.m. 911 caller reporting some sort of car accident near the Shea Theater. No one in vehicle. States vehicle is smashed and running; no one is around. Control contacted for EMS. Caller reports vehicle is a black BMW; plate comes back to a blue Jetta. Officer out with vehicle. No injuries; no fluids. Confirmed plate. No one with vehicle, which was left in reverse, leaning against a pole. Officer advises operator just came out of a store. Advising to cancel fire response; not as reported. Officer states party claims vehicle jumped out of park and went across the parking lot.

**Sunday, 5/4**  
5:31 a.m. Caller reporting tree down across half of the roadway on Main Street near the Routes 47-63 turnoff. Officer advises tree has been taken care of and is no longer a hazard.  
8:39 a.m. Caller states that several homeowners have placed “No Parking” signs in parking spaces on Main Street outside of their homes, preventing people from parking in public spaces. Not as reported; no hazard; no enforcement needed. Organizers state they placed cones to keep shoulder clear of vehicles for their May Day march from the post office to the common at 10:30 a.m.  
10:01 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street would like on record that sometime overnight, someone entered her fenced-in backyard and stole a grill and a table and chair set.  
2:30 p.m. Caller would like on record that the EBT benefits that she received yesterday have all been emptied from her account. Caller states she has not used her card in a couple of days, and it’s been in her possession the whole time. Caller will call EBT office in the morning to report the incident.  
2:38 p.m. Caller states that while driving on Main Street she hit the driver side mirror of a parked car with her vehicle. Caller was shaken after the incident and just kept driving back to her home. Caller is not sure of the make or model of vehicle she struck. Referred to an officer.  
6:24 p.m. 911 caller reporting two-car accident at Routes 47 and 63. No injuries, fluids, smoke, or flames. Officer requesting tow. Courtesy transport provided.

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TRAVEL from page B1

bikes” tour, I settled for one of the oldest tourist attractions in the city: the floating Xochimilco gardens, where tequila and guacamole and a canal boat ride with other visitors from the US and Europe was on tap.

There are more than 3,000 of these colorful boats, each of which holds about 12 people, and they are pushed up and down the Xochimilco canal by men with long wooden poles. While you sit at the big table enjoying chips and guac, the guide shares the interesting story of a big canal full of punters on a Tuesday morning.

Seafaring vendors play a key role, sliding up in their own boats to proffer Mariachi band songs, hot corn on the cob, and jewelry – here, let me bring it right on board to show you better! The friendly vendors add to the convivial atmosphere of this place, which goes back to the pre-Columbian era.

CDMX attracts many US travelers. Two of the couples on the boat were from Los Angeles and were spending the whole week in the city.

Burgers and Bikes

Without the need for a kitchen on this trip, I opted for a hotel instead

of my typical choice of an Airbnb. I enjoyed a stay at Hotel Stanza. They have doormen and good-sized rooms, and are conveniently located in the middle of Roma.

Dining in Mexico City turned out to be an unsuccessful chase for me. Many travelers are happy with the variety of tacos, enchiladas, and mole that Mexico offers – familiar foods that satisfy. They will find endless opportunities on the street to buy tacos, hot dogs, and tortas popular with the locals.

I couldn’t resist a hamburguesa, at a stand jammed with people waiting for theirs hot off the grill. But generally I didn’t have any meals I loved, even when I hit up a swanky cocktail bar called Rayo’s. For me, food highlights just weren’t there.

When you enter at Rayo’s, you ignore a giant iron spiral staircase and are taken instead to an ornate elevator. Then a barman enters and offers you the elevator cocktail, a diminutive, tasty sip to take you up to the third floor suitably prepared. A four-story wall of glass and an open-air rooftop await, plus those huge pieces of ice that make any drink cooler.

One of the traditions of CDMX is that every Sunday, the biggest avenue in the city, called the Reforma, is closed to cars, trucks, and taxis from 7 a.m. until 2:30 pm. This brings out thousands of bikers, bladers, and stroller-rollers of all ages. Volunteers man large banners to keep the bikers out of traffic when the boulevard crosses certain



Guanajuato's hills.

streets. It’s a wonderful, communal way to see the parks and enjoy the spectacle of no cars.

The bike rentals using the city’s ECOBICI rental system were cheap, less than \$10 for a 24-hour pass. Sadly, the bikes themselves are mostly pretty much beaten down to single-speeds from 5-speeds, but they work and get you around.

Getting Out of Town

After my three-night stay in CDMX, I wanted to discover a different state in Mexico. I took an Uber to the northern bus station to meet my luxury ride to Guanajuato, capital of the state of the same name.

Discussion of our friendly southern neighbor often brings up the red herring of the vast drug cartels

that have brought murder rates to all-time highs in some of the scary mountain villages where gangs are battling for turf rights.

As a frequent traveler I always assumed the cartels were in other states. I came to find out that this friendly, historic state of Guanajuato is now listed as one of the states with a high murder rate, along with Baja California, Michoacán, and Zacatecas. I asked friends of mine who have been living there for 20 years, who said they have never had any experiences of this violence or crime.

My trip from the CDMX Terminal Norte bus station to Guanajuato was four hours spent inside a Volvo luxury bus. First off, the seats were the kind of padded armchair you’d

see in a mall where they give foot rubs. Nice support for the calves comes up from the floor, and two clean bathrooms are accessible by a stairway inside the bus. (Tip: Bring your own toilet paper.)

The four-hour trip delivered me to the city where the Mexican Revolution began, fighting off Spain’s authority in 1810, and creating the modern Mexican Republic in 1820. In this spirit, two different bands of costumed singers parade around downtown in the evenings, drumming up participants for their singing, parading, and storytelling about Guanajuato’s history and the revolutionaries who lived here.

One of the things about any visit to this region is that the time of year matters. This was late April, the start of the hottest part of the year. May and June are the rainy season, when many locals choose to leave. My local friends in Guanajuato told me they are never home during the rains.

Like a similar city break trip I took last year to exciting Chicago, CDMX has a lot to keep any traveler engaged and entertained, including pickleball and excellent museums. Busy, with lots to do.

Max Hartshorne, from South Deerfield, is the editor of the GoNOMAD.com travel website and the host of the GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, with weekly short form episodes, every week: feeds.captivate.fm/gonomad-travel-podcast.



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

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Janel Nockleby  
Readers are invited to send poems to  
the *Montague Reporter* by email at:  
[poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)  
(Please note we are no longer  
accepting mailed submissions.)

# Our May Poetry Page

## A Big Answer & A Little One

Who was it? Wittgenstein? Mencken? Heidegger? One of those old white guys.  
Who said “for every complex human problem there’s a simple answer which is wrong”  
Well whoever I have news for them. There are two answers.  
A big one and a little one.  
Purpose.  
Intention.  
It was going along all right enough with people managing, growing,  
inflamed areas of incredible, persistent disease and distention, coping  
others marginally happy  
creating stress points on the body politic for personal gain but then  
democracy dropped low on the ladder falling into mud.  
How?  
The big answer:  
We decluttered, downsized,  
established a core wardrobe of collected pieces that mix and match  
grew good gut bacteria  
and detoxed and cleansed with collagen supplements  
searched for non-scam treatments to enrich the size of our booties  
found organic hair coloring, created pretty accents for the home with pops of color  
plumped lips and went to the gym. We sang songs of social justice.  
Should we increase our workouts? Make a putty of cannabis to keep in my cheek?  
Go to the minute clinic, show the NP a bruise that won’t heal?  
“How?” has a little answer:  
We forgot about it, nobody wanted to pick it up.

– Edna French  
Turners Falls

## Colors of Late

Mind the color of fog  
thoughts a darker grey

sullen sun muted in pewter sky  
clouds a shade of clay

nights as black as a miner’s lungs  
the moon begun to rust

yellowed stars dulled and wan  
grant wishes turned to dust

heart of cyanotic blue  
eyes a bloodshot red

tarnished life, darkened and dull  
lights the orbit from here to dead

– G. Greene  
Greenfield

This dreary morning  
The clouds are rippled ribbons  
Pale grey, almost white

– Sheila Damkoehler  
Bernardston

## Pillow Feathers in Plain Air

Like a wren in a run-in with a hawk  
I stopped making up the song  
of the seasons on my walk as it  
dawned on me how derivative  
it is – how full  
of mischief spring is with April  
cruel and all. And summer half  
through before you know you no  
longer need a coat. Autumn  
is a false friend coming on fast  
and leaving us cold. At least  
I hadn’t  
heard this before: If leaves  
stayed green all year they’d shade  
out the light we need in winter.

– Gerald Yelle  
Amherst

## Hummingbird

Life passed in a blur,  
like the rush of a hummingbird’s wings,  
decades transited with implausible speed,  
pausing mid-air for the briefest moment  
for us to appreciate,  
together,  
hovering, beautiful, perfect,  
then gone,  
so fast it’s hard to say  
how it ever reached this sad place,  
where it goes from here,  
or how it ends,  
easier remembered than seen.

– G. Greene  
Greenfield

## Contributors’ Notes

**Edna French** began life, an immigrant’s kid, in Queens and was most educated by the rain drumming on the roof of her tree house in Vermont, stacking wood and prepping for winter in Maine in her hunting camp, solo travels to Mexico, and camping in Europe. She stole the higher education she knew she wanted.

**Gerald Yelle** has worked in restaurants, factories, schools and offices. His books include *the bored*, *The Holyoke Diaries*, and *Dreaming Alone and With Others*. His chapbooks include “No Place I Would Rather Be” and “A Box of Rooms.” He lives in Amherst.

**Sheila Damkoehler** is a museum professional who enjoys dabbling in lots of different art forms – usually the visual arts. This is her first venture into poetry, inspired by a recent Haiku workshop led by Denise Fontaine Pincince for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association’s NEA Big Read of Ross Gay’s book of poetry *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*.

**G. Greene** is the author of *Poems In a Time of Grief*. His second book, *The Lonely Years*, will be released by Kelsay Books in the spring of 2026.

IMAGE: RENOR, STILL LIFE WITH FLOWERS AND PRICKLY PEARS, CIRCA 1885



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WITH CA CONRAD  
Saturday  
May 17th  
1-3 PM  
\$9

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Sunday May 18th  
1-3 PM  
all ages  
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W/ A SHOP  
Saturday  
May 24th  
1-3 PM  
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or JEAN  
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- Sunday -  
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# EVENTS

submissions:  
events@montaguereporter.org

## THURSDAY, MAY 8

LAVA Center, Greenfield:  
Film, *Our Projects, Our Visions*  
2025, by Traprock Center  
board member Liam O'Shea,  
followed by discussion.  
6:30 p.m. Free.

Amherst Cinema, Amherst:  
Film, *Far Out: Life On &  
After the Commune*, with  
post-film discussion with  
director Charles Light and  
commune members. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *William  
Tyler, Jake McKelvie,  
Frozen Corn*. 7 p.m. \$.

## FRIDAY, MAY 9

Great Falls Discovery Center,  
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy  
Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell:  
*Village Neighbors  
Meetup*. 4 p.m. Free.

Leverett Village Co-op,  
Leverett: *Gene Stamell*.  
6 p.m. Free.

Incandescent Brewing,  
Bernardston: *Rosie Porter*.  
6 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Meetinghouse,  
Wendell: *Community Freestyle  
Dance*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Montague Common  
Hall, Montague Center:  
*Montague Square Dance*,  
with *Michael Donahue*,  
*Alex Scala*, and caller *Sally  
Newton*. Jammers welcome.  
Families welcome for circle  
dances and beginner squares,  
6:30 p.m.; regular squares,  
8 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center,  
Turners Falls: *Michael Nix*,  
*Gloria Matlock*, and *Twice  
as Smart Children's Choir*.  
7 p.m. By donation.

Pioneer Valley Brewery,  
Turners Falls: *Deep C Divers*,  
*Couchboy*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Unnamed Books,  
Turners Falls: *Lou Marie*,  
*Jedidiah Crook, Sam Rush*.  
7 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton:  
*Kris Delmhorst, Rose  
Cousins*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke:  
*Videodome, Miracle Blood*,  
*Perennial, Velvetten*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester:  
*Emperor, Wolves In The  
Throne Room*. 7 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls:  
*Dani Derks, Enchanted Mirror*,  
*ZBS.MO, Ditch & Palisade*.  
7:30 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:  
*Roomful of Blues, Dave  
Keller*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:  
*Electric Bonnie, Aeolian  
Circuit, Zyn*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The  
Hendersons*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:  
*Dumbest Fella Alive, Hush  
Puppy*, one act TBA. 8 p.m. \$.

Tillis Hall, UMass Amherst:  
*Bruce Hornsby & YMusic  
present BrhyM*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Splendid  
Torch, High Tea*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro:  
*David Sancious, Will Calhoun*,  
*Mahavishnu Project*. 8 p.m. \$.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro:  
*Noble Beast, Free Body  
Estimate, Taggie & Friends*,  
*Salt*. 8 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket:  
*Mike & Ruthy, Warm  
Shadows*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Groove House, Amherst:  
*DJ Lucas, Lady J*,  
*AV Tha Kidd*. 9 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, MAY 10

Franklin County Fairgrounds,  
Greenfield: *Franklin County's  
Largest Tag Sale 2025*.  
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Mosher Trail, Leverett:  
*Moderate Loop Hike*,  
exploring the former  
Metacomet and Monadnock  
Trail, Rat Hollow Road, the  
Mosher Shelter, and the  
remains of an 18th-century  
home. Moderate terrain; under  
two miles. RSVP to *steve*.  
*weiss47@gmail.com*. Meet  
at 4H Forest parking lot on  
Shutesbury Road. 9 a.m. Free.

Greenfield Skatepark,  
Greenfield: *Celebration  
of Life: Dallas Anthony  
Willor*. "We will be honoring  
Dallas with a gift of nature,  
growth, and skateboarding  
on his birthday."  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:  
*Cut to the Chase: Writing  
Short Stories*, a writing  
workshop for teens with  
young adult author Kip  
Wilson. Registration required  
at *tinyurl.com/LAVAwriting*.  
12 p.m. Free.

Leverett Public Library,  
Leverett: *Tool Care  
Fair and Plant Share*.  
12:30 to 3 p.m. Free.

Unity Park, Turners Falls:  
*Música Franklin's 7th  
Annual Fun Fest*, with  
*Jazzkia Meets HipHop*,  
*Larksgrove, Orquesta  
Sensacional*, student  
performers, interactive drum  
circle with *Abdou Sarr*,  
puppet-led dance party,  
arts and crafts, and vendors.  
For all ages. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library,  
Wendell: *Opening reception*,  
paintings by *Nina Keller*.  
1 to 3 p.m. Free.



Singer-songwriter Kris Delmhorst  
returns to the Iron Horse in  
Northampton this Friday.

104 Fourth, Turners Falls:  
*Great Falls Books Through  
Bars Volunteer Day*. "Reading  
and responding to letters  
from folks in prisons." Main  
floor ramp accessible; masks  
required. 1 to 5 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery  
Center, Turners Falls:  
*Shared Spaces: Creating  
Bird-Friendly Cities and  
Communities*, celebrating  
World Migratory Bird Day  
with ornithologist Chad  
Witko. 2 p.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield:  
*Cranky-Fest*, epic illustrated  
storytelling. 2 p.m. Free.

Kitchen Garden Farm,  
Sunderland: *Space Camp*,  
*No Mouth*, farm drag  
show. Palestine solidarity  
fundraiser. 5 p.m. \$.

Incandescent Brewing,  
Bernardston: *AfterGlo*.  
6 p.m. No cover.

Raven Used Books, Shelburne  
Falls: Book talk, *KUN! A  
Japanese Vision and Practice  
for Urban-Rural Reconnection*  
by Richard McCarthy.  
Refreshments. 6 p.m. Free.

# EXHIBITS

**Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:**  
*Art=Work*, group show exploring how we  
value handmade work, through June 6.

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners  
Falls:** *Where We Are, Together*, paintings  
by Cameron Schmitz, through May 26.

**Montague Center Library:**  
*Art/Poetry, Poetry/Art*, group  
exhibition running through July 2.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:**  
*Vanessa Kerby*, guest artist showing  
ceramics, through May.

**Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount  
Hermon, Gill:** *Japanese Pop Art &  
Landscape*, paintings by Greenfield  
artist Kimiko Donohoe, through May 30.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:**  
*The Perennials*, group show by  
10 local painters, through May.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:**  
*Lydia M. Kinney*, solo exhibition;  
*The Overlap*, GCC student group

exhibition. Both through June 13,  
with a joint opening reception this Friday,  
May 9 from 5 to 8 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Portraits in  
RED: Missing and Murdered Indigenous  
People*, paintings by Nayanna LaFond,  
through July; *New Roots in Riverbanks*,  
exhibit about Eastern European  
immigrants to the valley, and work by  
painter Steve Howe, both through May.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:**  
*A World Below*, new paintings by  
Scout Cuomo, through May 30.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:**  
*STEAM Art and Science*, group show  
of art that incorporates elements of  
science, through May 18.

**Mill District Local Art Gallery,  
Amherst:** *Seen / Scene / Cene*,  
group juried exhibition of artwork  
by local trans women, cis women,  
intersex, genderqueer, genderfluid,  
and non-binary individuals, through  
June 26, with an opening reception  
this Friday, May 9 from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Confluence*,  
paintings by Paula Hite, through May.

**Science & Engineering Library, UMass  
Amherst:** *The Soil Beneath Us*, mixed  
media works by Malaika Ross about  
the rhizosphere; *Harvesting Color: A  
Seasonal Journal*, art about ecology  
and herbalism using a variety of green  
alchemic processes by Tonya Lemos.  
Both through May 30.

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:**  
*River Valley Radical Futures*,  
group show of local artists envisioning  
a future after capitalism, through  
May 25 with an opening reception  
this Friday, May 9 from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:**  
*Moments in Time*, illustrations by  
Fabio Deponte, through June 9.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:** *Copper  
Etchings in Bloom*, by Bobbi Angell, and  
*Dreams From My World*, oil paintings  
by Trina Sears Sternstein, both through  
June 29 with an opening reception this  
Saturday, May 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Montague Common Hall,  
Montague Center: *Open Mic*,  
with performers *On the Lam*,  
*Mark Gamble*, *Asaph Murfin*,  
*Lisa Pack Kirchenbaum*,  
and *Dean Zimmerman*.  
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Stay  
At Home Dads*, *The Buddy  
System Forever*, *Gianna*,  
*Hush Puppy*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners  
Falls: *Peter Stampfel*, *Cosmic  
Ray*, *Junk Orbit*, *J. Burkett*,  
*Wednesday Knudsen*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:  
*Música Franklin* afterparty  
with *Saskia Laroo*, jam  
session. 7 p.m. No cover.

Pioneer Valley Brewery,  
Turners Falls: *Mad’Atter*.  
7 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Meetinghouse,  
Wendell: *Community Contra  
Dance*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Four Phantoms, Greenfield:  
*Root Fiyah*. 7 p.m. No cover.

CitySpace, Easthampton:  
*The Maladaptive*, *Mibble*,  
*Maeve*, *Solimar*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater,  
Easthampton: *Loboko*, *Lollise*,  
*Selector Tomás*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners  
Falls: *13*, Taylor Swift  
tribute. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Episcopal Church of  
Saints James and Andrew,  
Greenfield: *Teenagers!* Works  
of Mozart, Shubert, and other  
historical composers written  
in their teens, presented  
by *Da Camera Singers*.  
7:30 p.m. Free.

Guiding Star Grange,  
Greenfield: Contra dance  
with *Countercurrent Duo*,  
*Liz Nelson* calling. 7:45 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:  
*Drag show*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Spelling*,  
*Feminine Aggression*,  
*Jessi’s World*. 8 p.m. \$.

33 Hawley, Northampton:  
*Gizeh Muñiz*, *Chris Weismann*,  
*Elle Longpre*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi’s, Westfield: *Weegee*,  
*Red Herrings*, *Ian St. George*  
& *The Emergency Index*,  
*Creative Writing*. 8 p.m. \$.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts  
Center, Great Barrington:  
*Del McCoury Band*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton:  
*Amulette*, *Mutineer*, *Monarchs*  
and *Masses*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Food  
House*, *Avas*. 10:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Leverett Village Co-op,  
Leverett: *Québécois Session*.  
Musicians and spectators  
welcome. 3 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube, Florence:  
*Communique*, *Noise*  
*Nomads*. 4 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, MAY 12

Stone Church,  
Brattleboro: *Tune-Yards*,  
*JayWood*. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Wendell Meetinghouse,  
Wendell: *Honoring Elders*:  
*Patricia Miller*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Montague Center Library,  
Montague Center: Audio  
documentary by Carrie  
and Michael Kline, *Eyes on  
Freedom: The Evolving Gifts  
of Simple, Nonviolent Living*,  
about Wally and Juanita  
Nelson, local “civil rights  
activists, peace activists,  
war tax refusers, subsistence  
farmers, and advocates of  
simple living.” 7 p.m. Free.

Deerfield-based peace activists Wally and Juanita Nelson are the subjects of a new audio documentary, which will play next Tuesday at the Montague Center library.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:  
*Eve Essex*, *Austin Larkin*,  
*Kevin Kenkel*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton:  
*Tune-Yards*, *JayWood*.  
7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Hutghi’s, Westfield:  
*The Toasters*, *Steppin  
Razor Blades*, *Futon  
Lasagna*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:  
*Curmudgeon Bingo*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton:  
*John Gorka*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro:  
*Carsie Blanton*, *Brittany  
Ann Tranbaugh*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Great Falls Discovery  
Center, Turners Falls:  
*Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Nova Arts, Keene:  
*Josh Johnson*, *The Argus  
Quartet*, *Maria Somerville*,  
*Roger Miller*, more. 3 p.m. \$.

Leverett Village Co-op,  
Leverett: *Stephen  
Merriman*. 6 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books,  
Turners Falls: *Poetry*,  
*CAConrad*, *Daniel Hales*.  
7 p.m. By donation.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:  
*Harm*, *Stace Brandt*,  
*Two Wrong Turns*,  
*Saliba*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners  
Falls: *Professor Louie  
and The Crowmatix*,  
*Frank Viele*. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell:  
*Eric Love*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst:  
*Gold Dust*, *The Croaks*,  
*Silvie’s Okay*, *Mibble*.  
8 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro:  
*Slobdrop*, *Oziem*,  
*Technicolor Ltd*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners  
Falls: *Eleanor Levine*.  
9:30 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Town Hall,  
Wendell: *Celebration of  
Life for Joshua Jay Dostis*,  
a.k.a. *Waffles*. 2 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners  
Falls: *Best of the ’70s*,  
with *Dizzyfish* and the  
*Uptown Horns*. 7 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Film  
& Gender*, *Nurse Joy*, *K.O.*  
*Queen*, *Space Camp*. 7 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theater,  
Keene: *Steven Malkmus*,  
*Mirah*. 7 p.m. \$.

Mount Toby Friends  
Meetinghouse, Leverett:  
*Joe Jencks*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater,  
Easthampton: *Cheap City*,  
*Pearl Sugar*, *The Leafies*  
*They Gave Me*. 7 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse,  
Wendell: *Do It Now*.  
7:30 p.m. \$.

Guiding Star Grange,  
Greenfield: Contra dance with  
*The Moving Violations*, *Lisa  
Greenleaf* calling. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst:  
*Frente Cumbiero*, *Mica Farías  
Gómez*, *DJ Shaki*. 8 p.m. \$.

Kilkenny’s Pub, Keene: *Paper  
Castles*, *Commemorative  
Cup*, *All Feels*. 10 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Califone*,  
*Amirtha Kidambi’s Elder Ones*,  
*Joan Shelley*, *Aisha Burns*,  
*Sam Moss*, *Sunburned Hand  
of the Man*, more. 12 p.m. \$.

Erving Public Library, Erving:  
*Clothing Swap for Teens  
and Pre-Teens*, ages 11 to 19  
years old. 1 to 3 p.m. Free.

Incandescent Brewing,  
Bernardston: *Moon Hollow*.  
2 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Meetinghouse,  
Wendell: *Cymbal Sound  
Bath with Matt Samolis*.  
4 p.m. No cover.

Feeding Tube, Florence:  
*Matt Valentine*, *Samara  
Lubelski*, *Barry Weisblatt*.  
4 p.m. By donation.

Lunder Center, Williamstown:  
*75 Dollar Bill*, *Alexander  
Turnquist*. 5 p.m. Free.

Cold Spring Hollow,  
Belchertown: *Swamp God*,  
*Plemp*, *Cute Hell*, *Recreational  
Vehicle*, *Max Julian Eastman*,  
*Dead Door Unit*, *Fricker*,  
*Dimension Viewer*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:  
*Allysen Callery*, *Karen  
Zanes*, *Jacquelyn Roy*,  
*Federico Balducci*. 8 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:  
*Madeleine Peyroux*. 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music,  
Northampton: *Sun Ra  
Arkestra*. 8 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Our Lady of Peace, Turners  
Falls: *The Singing Priests* of  
the Diocese of Springfield.  
Sacred music and classics  
from the Beatles, Bob Dylan,  
the Carpenters, and more. 7  
p.m. By donation.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Four Phantoms, Greenfield:  
Book reading: *Vanessa  
Brewster*, “No Such Thing  
As Fiction;” with *AT*, *Shea  
Mowat*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Nova Motorcycles, Turners  
Falls: *Stella Kola*, *Hands &  
Knees*, *Cycles Inside*, *Planet  
Dogg*. 7 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Great Falls Discovery  
Center, Turners Falls:  
*The Six Navigational  
Canals of the Connecticut  
River*, with historian Robert  
Comeau. 2 p.m. Free.

Dream Away Lodge,  
Becket: *Purple Dawn*, *Liz  
Durette*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Downtown Greenfield:  
*Franklin County Pride  
Parade*. 12 p.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield:  
*Pride Festival & Block  
Party*. 1 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Tanglewood, Lenox:  
*Nas with the Boston  
Pops*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Lunder Center, Williamstown:  
*William Parker*, *Patricia  
Nicholson*. 5 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Whately Town Hall,  
Whately: *Hot Club of  
Cowtown*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

MASS MoCA, North Adams:  
*The Mountain Goats*,  
*Guster*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Dream Away Lodge,  
Becket: *Home Body*.  
8 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Daily Operation,  
Easthampton:  
*billy woods*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Big E Arena, West  
Springfield: *ZZ Top*.  
7:30 p.m. \$\$.

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SPORTS from page B1

Tournament was held at Forest Park in Springfield. Two players from Turners Falls, Wolbach and Noah Kolodziej, competed. Neither was ranked, so they had to play against some of the best in the West.

On the girls’ courts, Wolbach lost her first set 6-3, “and then I saw lightning, and it started to pour,” she said after the match. “But I’m not disappointed that I lost the first set. I was going against the 4 seed.”

Wolbach’s rained-out match will be continued, weather permitting, this Saturday.

On Wednesday, the undefeated Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School defeated Turners 4-1. This match began after the Turners-Greenfield boys’ match ended, and I only caught the first few games before heading to the Hampshire softball game, so I don’t have the full results as of press time.

Boys’ Tennis

Greenfield 4 – TFHS 1

Competing in Springfield on Saturday, Noah Kolodziej lost a close match against fifth-ranked Hayden Richard of Minnechaug 6-2, 7-6, 7-3.

On Wednesday afternoon the Turners boys lost, 4-1, to Greenfield. As they were warming up, coach Steven Touloumtzis assessed the courts. Although the surfaces were deemed good enough to play on, he switched first singles to the far court, which seemed to have weathered the storm the best.

Greenfield, like Turners, is a hybrid team, and includes players from the Mohawk district. On a side note, Rick Miner is back as Greenfield’s tennis coach. He lettered in three sports when he was a student at Turners Falls High School.

This match came down to the final three sets. Turners was down 2-0 with three contests still raging. Unfortunately for Blue, Kolodziej eventually dropped first singles 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 and Philipp Tischled-

er and Lucas Black lost first doubles 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

On the second doubles court, Max Briere and Nethanel Martin outlasted their opponents 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 for Turners’s lone win.

Baseball

Mount Everett 7 – FCTS 1  
TFHS 2 – Athol 0

Franklin Tech lost a baseball game to Mount Everett, 7-1, on Friday afternoon. Before the game, coach Dan Prasol explained that he has been unable to send us stats because his tablet is broken, but he can at least provide the final scores.

On Wednesday, the Thunder defeated the Red Bears out in Athol. Blue scored both runs in the sixth inning as Trevor Lyons batted Jackson Cogswell in and Kainen Stevens scored on a Julian Kaiser RBI.

On the mound, Kaiser pitched the complete-game shutout, striking out six batters, walking three, and giving up four hits.

Softball

TFHS 12 – Wahconah 0  
FCTS 4 – Mohawk 0  
FCTS 7 – Pathfinder 0  
FCTS 4 – Hopkins 2  
Hampshire 5 – TFHS 1

The Turners Falls Softball Thunder traveled to Dalton last Thursday and defeated the Wahconah Warriors, 12-0. Mia Marigliano had four hits, Madison Liimatainen and Autumn Thorton had two each, McKenzie Stafford hit a double, and Marilyn Abarua, Madisyn Dietz, Ameliya Galbraith, and Addison Talbot each had singles.

In the circle, Liimatainen gave up two hits and a walk while striking out 14.

That same day, the Mohawk Trail Warriors came to Nancy Gifford Field and were shut out by Franklin Tech. Hannah Gilbert had the hot bat in this one, registering three RBIs off a double and a home run. She also pitched a no-hit shutout, walking two batters and fanning 14.



Franklin Tech senior Avery Heathwaite competes on the Turners Falls High School tennis team in second singles last Wednesday against the visiting Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School.

Lindsey Taylor had a double and a triple, Shelby O’Leary placed an RBI single, Sandra Johnson finished with three singles, and Cordelia Guerin had a base hit.

On Friday Franklin hosted the Pathfinder Pioneers, Tech’s third game in three days. Because their field in Palmer was flooded, the Pathfinders came to Tech, though as the designated “visiting” team the Eagles batted first.

After two pitches, they were up 2-0. Taylor bunted the first and Gilbert sent the second over the fence. “That’s almost as hard as yesterday’s homer,” someone in the crowd quipped as she rounded the bases.

Returning in the third inning, Gilbert clocked a standup double and was replaced on second by Samantha Duncan. Kylee Gamache batted her in to make it 3-2.

The Eagles’ next run was scored in a most unusual way. In the fifth, Ava Worden hit a single, stole sec-

ond base, and advanced to third on a fielder’s choice. Tech then got their second out of the inning, but assuming it was the third out, the Pioneers paraded to the dugout. Third-base coach Joe Gamache sent Worden home, and she waltzed in for an uncontested run.

Gilbert then ripped a triple, Worden was sent back out as a courtesy runner, and Kylee Gamache batted her in to make it 5-0.

Tech scored another interesting run in the sixth. O’Leary placed a single, and Abigail Dobias cracked a line drive into right field. The fielder retrieved the ball quickly, which should have held her to a single, but she didn’t stop. Knowing Dobias would be out by a mile, the fielder began to throw to second for the easy out, but just as she was about to release the ball she noticed O’Leary was rounding third.

Either base could have been an out, but the fielder was already

committed to second, and her throw wobbled. The second basewoman bobbled the catch, and both runners were safe. With a 6-0 lead, Tech wasn’t done. Taylor shot a double to the fence, scoring Dobias for Tech’s seventh run.

Gilbert led Tech with a double, a triple, and a home run; Taylor had an RBI double; Gamache finished with two hits and two RBIs; Gianna DiSciullo, Worden, Dobias, and O’Leary all made hits, and Duncan scored two runs. Gilbert also threw another near-perfect no-hitter, allowing one walk while striking out 17.

On Wednesday the Eagles avenged one of their only losses this season by defeating Hopkins Academy in Hadley. Gilbert, Gamache, Johnson, O’Leary, DiSciullo, and Brayleigh Burgh all made hits, with Gilbert clocking a double. She had another solid outing, allowing two runs on three hits, walking one batter and K’ing 13.

Later Wednesday night, the Thunder lost a close game against Hampshire Regional. This game was a scoreless tie until the fifth, when a two-out error led to an unearned Hampshire run.

In the sixth, the Hampshire pitcher seemed to be getting tired. She walked Liimatainen and Dietz on eight pitches, and then Marigliano laid down a bunt. The throw to first went wild, and Liimatainen scored the tying run.

Janelle Massey was then intentionally walked, loading the bases with no outs, but Turners couldn’t score the go-ahead run and the game went into the seventh inning tied at 1.

Blue got the first two batters in the seventh out, but that’s when the train went off the rails. Some mental mistakes and a couple base hits led to four more runs for the visitors. Turners got a runner to second base in the bottom of the inning, but couldn’t make up the deficit. Full stats had not been posted as of press time.



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