

The Montague Reporter

Library Trustees Favor New Construction as Best Expansion Strategy



The vacant lot on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street is owned by the town.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – After years of controversy that extend as far back as the early 20th century, Montague’s library trustees have determined that the Carnegie Library should be abandoned, and that a more modern facility should be constructed down the street to replace it. The town’s public library trustees and its library building steering committee, on the advice of architects hired primarily with state funding, voted last week that reno-

vating the existing Carnegie building is unrealistic and that a new facility should be built on the vacant town-owned lot at 38 Avenue A. This decision still leaves many questions, including the final design for the proposed new library and what would happen to the historic Carnegie building if it is replaced. The state has approved a grant to expand the town’s libraries, and is expected to cover between 50% and 60% of the costs of design, planning, and construction. While

see **LIBRARY** page A6

GILL SELECTBOARD

Towns Compete for Assessor

By KATE SAVAGE

The Gill selectboard held an emergency meeting on Monday to respond to the possibility of losing a certified assessor to the town of Erving. Members of the board of assessors attended to plead for a pay increase and job title change for staff member Diane Sumrall. The selectboard ultimately voted unanimously to change Sumrall’s title from “assistant to the assessors” to “principal assessor,” but did not move forward on a change in her pay. “Erving has a billion-dollar tax base,” said board of assessors member Tim Storrow. “They can offer more competitive salaries than

some of the smaller towns. That puts us in a tough spot.” Storrow offered to cut his own stipend in order to pay Sumrall more. “I’d love to try to keep her,” he said. “We’ve invested quite a bit of time with her over the last few years. She’s done the training. She’s gotten to know Gill. And I think she’s certainly qualified to be a principal assessor.” Selectboard member Greg Snedeker said he could not vote for a pay raise because the issue was voted down at the last town meeting. “As a selectboard member representing the town that just voted three months ago to say no – I’m supposed to now override their vote?” he asked.

see **GILL** page A8

ARRIVING IN STYLE



Fairy House Day on Avenue A, which fell last Saturday on the Turners Falls cultural calendar, kicked off this year with a bike parade up the Avenue to Peskeompskut Park. Attendees were invited to “come in the finest thing you can wear” to the park event, which was loosely geared toward children and featured three real little pigs and a real goose, pretend mermaids, a pretend witch, real butterflies, and real improvised psychedelic music at the bandstand. The parade, which was approved in advance by the town and escorted safely up the street by real police cruisers, was small but spirited in its inaugural year, with finely-dressed participants on foot, skateboard, electric scooter, bicycle, and unicycle. Though events at the park were cut short by a torrential downpour, organizers declared the day a success.

Solar Project Stresses the Capacity of Local Boards

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – As town officials consider an amended application for a solar array on Lockes Village Road, the board of health is deciding how to implement new regulations for battery storage systems, and the planning board is trying to find enough members to operate. The 11.6-acre project was first approved in 2018, but must be reviewed again after the developer, Nexamp, Inc., updated drainage plans and added an onsite battery energy storage system (BESS) to the design. Local residents have taken issue with the project’s potential impacts, and have shown up to recent conservation commission and board of health meetings asking pointed questions of the developers. Two planning board members have also stepped down, leaving chair Stephen Gross the sole remaining member. Douglas Tanner resigned two weeks ago, after receiving a letter

see **SOLAR** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Power Grid Upgrades Planned by Eversource

By JEFF SINGLETON

An initiative to add 65 megawatts of capacity to the local electrical grid, which could in theory significantly increase solar development in the area of Gill, Montague, Greenfield, and Erving, was announced at Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting. The proposal by the electric company Eversource was one item on a busy agenda, which also included a recommendation to build a new library, plans to rezone the former Farren Hospital land next week, and a possible tax on “short-term rentals” such as Airbnb units, though that discussion was postponed to a future date. News of Eversource’s proposal came in the form of an announcement by the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) that it will hold an online hearing on the proposal on Wednesday, September 10 at 3 p.m., along with a good deal of technical detail about the plan. Eversource says it plans major improvements at a substation located in Erving, and smaller upgrades at the Cabot Station hydroelectric

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Young Wendell Farmer Grows Bumper Crops of ‘Super Natural’ Tomatoes



After its first dozen years, Fallen Oak Farm has shifted away from raising animals and is more and more focused on scaling up vegetable production.

By BEN GAGNON

WENDELL – After buying a hillside farm that had been neglected for 50 years in 2013, Adam Zaykowski first experimented with raising up to 250 pigs, then kept about 600 laying hens, but finally decided his passion lay in raising vegetables – especially tomatoes. Although no one’s keeping track, Fallen Oak Farm is among the most prolific tomato producers in the region, growing more than 7,200 pounds last year and well on its way to another bumper crop. Zaykowski hasn’t gone through the lengthy process of obtaining certification as an organic farm, preferring to use the term “super natural” to describe his approach to agriculture. “I love the process of growing tomatoes, and they do really well here,” he said. “I don’t use any chemical pesticides or fungicides. I do proactive pruning to improve the air flow, which prevents fun-

gus, and I keep them off the ground to prevent splashing dirt. You don’t want to over-prune or they’ll get sunburn; you want to leave just enough leaves to shade the fruit – basically, they like to breathe.” Although he only has two pigs remaining on the farm, Zaykowski keeps them busy helping clear more land for his tomatoes and an array of other vegetables. “An old-timer gave me a tip,” he said, “to drive a six-foot pry bar into the ground next to a tree stump, fill the hole with corn, and the pigs will just dig around trying to get at the corn until the stump is loosened up enough to take out.” Every year there’s more room to plant rows of vegetables, which now include cucumbers, onions, lettuce, kale, string beans, broccoli, and watermelons. Zaykowski planted 90 blueberry bushes last year from Nourse Farms in Whately, and is now planning to raise

see **CROPS** page A6

May EBT Theft Massive, Local

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – This spring the *Reporter* covered anecdotes of a massive spike in Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) theft (May 15, *After Food Stamp Thefts, Victims Left High and Dry*). One local grocery store reported a “skimmer” found at a checkout line, but this did not account for the volume of theft. This week the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) responded to a records request with data. Here are some observations:

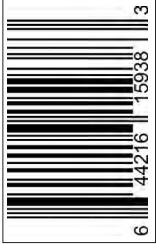
- From July 2024 to April 2025 DTA received a monthly average of

12.7 claims from Franklin County (one per 5,580 total residents) and 23.5 from Hampshire County (one per 7,036). This included smaller surges, peaking in January in Franklin County (45), then in March in Hampshire County (40).

- May alone saw 221 cases in Franklin County, with 77 in Montague and 112 in Greenfield. In June this dropped to 60 countywide, with 14 in Montague and 37 in Greenfield, though this could be consistent with recipients discovering theft that occurred in May. The May spike also did not affect Hampshire County, where the rates continued to drop.

The Time We All Have On This Earth Is Short. Please Subscribe

The Vicinity of Turkeys.....	A3	Human Predation and Ritual.....	B1
Thick Turquoise Eye Shadow.....	A3	Both Ways, or Every Which Way.....	B2
Paupers in Pup Tents.....	A4	Carbon Dioxide Poisoning.....	B3
Leverett Finds a Fire Head.....	A5	In the Shadow of the Castle.....	B4
Wendell’s Roads Wander Off.....	A5	First Ever Double Cryptojam.....	B4
A Rainbow Seen By Moonlight.....	A7	Abandoned Organisms Salvaged.....	B5
Footprints in a Well, Goats in a Boat.....	B1	Crank Sturgeon, Troll Milk, Cut Worms.....	B6-B7
That Multidimensional Shimmering Sound.....	B1	A Witch and a Planet-Eater.....	B8



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Spencer Shorkey, *Science Page*
Janel Nockleby, *Poetry Page*
Sue Blauner, *Events Calendar*
Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*
Jamie Simpson, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Staff

Garth Shaneyfelt, *Business Manager*
Nina Rossi, *Distribution*
Diana Pedrosa, *Subscriptions*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout & Images*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout & Images*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*
Brian Faldasz, *Technical Administration*

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

For Anas

We all know what it is, whenever the argument lands about what to call it. It is not unique in human history, but it is notable because in living memory most people believed we had developed institutions and technologies that could prevent it, or at least intervene to end it. A longtime, staunch military and economic ally of the United States and United Kingdom is engaged in a prolonged, open campaign of violence and material deprivation against a population of millions of their fellow humans who live nearly completely under their control. People so completely contained and controlled can still be brave and clever and hide, can even engage in brief and shocking acts of violence, but this happening does not change or negate the overarching, ongoing, one-sided relationship of domination.

The Palestinians of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem do not drive tanks and armored excavators into Israeli towns to tear up their roads. They don't set up checkpoints to detain Israelis traveling between their villages, they don't maintain extensive biometric databases to monitor and surveil Israeli civilians, they are not besieging by land and sea the territory in which the Israelis live, they haven't managed the number of food calories passing into that territory to keep the subjects of their occupation hungry but not visibly starving, and they certainly have never turned that knob to zero to five months to prove that the great powers will not stop them. The Palestinians have never responded to a 21-month mass campaign of Israeli civil disobedience by killing over 200 participants and wounding over 9,000, systematically shooting them in the feet and legs so that a generation of Israelis recognize amputation as a marker of one who once naively believed the world would help Israel if they renounced militant resistance. And never in history have the Palestinians responded to the loss of 1,200 Palestinian lives to Israeli violence, or the forcible abduction of 250 Palestinians, with a multi-year campaign of saturation bombing, ground invasion, and controlled demolition of Israeli buildings to the extent that every college and university, nearly every hospital, nearly every place of worship, every wastewater treatment plant, and nearly every food production and distribution facility in Israel have been destroyed, reduced to piles of

rebar and toxic rubble.

Because we would never let them do it, right? Because doing that would be wrong.

And, in fact, most people think that what is happening is wrong – typically, the more bystanders see the situation and understand it, the more they oppose the actions of this longtime, staunch military and economic ally of the United States and United Kingdom.

In the US, a Gallup poll last month found that only 32% of Americans “approve of the military action Israel has taken in Gaza.” This opinion, however, is very strongly determined by domestic political affiliations: 71% of self-identified Republicans said they approved of it, along with 25% of independents, and only 8% of Democrats.

Eight percent. And yet, continued support for this longtime, staunch military and economic ally is a litmus test of party leadership, by elected Democrats at the federal level chastised for criticizing the occupation – even as it becomes an openly acknowledged two-prong campaign to ethnically cleanse the majority of the Strip and permanently fragment the West Bank and East Jerusalem with settlements and settlement roads.

The reason only 8% of rank-and-file Democratic voters support the Gaza campaign is because they have seen it documented – because of journalists, professional and civilian. In response, *the Israeli state has been trying to kill them all.* The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified 190 media workers killed in Gaza since October 2023, and just as with every other crime, it is happening more and more openly. The targeted airstrike this month in Gaza City that killed Al Jazeera correspondent Anas al-Sharif and five colleagues in a clearly marked media tent is only the latest – but it should be the last.

We hope our readers will join the worldwide call for this staunch US ally to allow international journalists to enter the territories it controls. Journalists in Gaza deserve protection, support, and attention. Assassination of journalists should still be recognized and treated as a crime, and we should still have international institutions that can carry out such criminal prosecutions.

To our readers who are Democrats, in particular: It's time for you to talk to your electeds and party leadership.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Helen and Millie Postema arrange flowers for a client's wedding at Millie's home in Erving. The pair, who are in business as Bloemen Florals, source flowers from commercial growers as well as Millie's own extensive gardens. Find them on Facebook at "Bloemen Florals," on Instagram @bloemen_florals, or via text at (413) 835-1946 if you are looking for bouquets for a special event.

Letters to



the Editors

Comment Deserved Fuller Context

I'm following up in regards to Jeff Singleton's coverage of ZBA Hearing Continuation #25-10, which was published in the July 24 edition of the *Montague Reporter* in the article "Hearing on Trolley Barn Continues, Contentiously."

While I appreciate the coverage of issues affecting Montague City, and am generally a fan of Singleton's writing, this piece creates the impression that I meant something I didn't, when Singleton quotes me as saying "self-storage units are often inhabited by homeless people," without providing any additional context.

What I actually said is "I've known homeless people who've lived in their storage units," and the missing context is that I was responding to a direct question by a ZBA board member who asked me "How many times a week do you think one person is going to go to their storage unit?"

I responded, "It depends on what they're using them for. I've known homeless people who've lived in their storage units."

The article as written makes it sound as though I brought up homeless people as an additional ill associated with mini-storage units, and perhaps an additional reason to deny the special permit in question, when in fact the only point I was trying to make is that patterns of use at storage facilities vary dependent upon who is using them, and for what purposes. This seems patently true to me, but was a point of contention at the hearing.

This special permit request has been continued again, pending a site plan review, and will resume on Wednesday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m., at Montague's town hall and via Zoom. I hope concerned parties across town will attend.

Lilith G. Wolinsky
Montague City

Mug and Mini Mug Race Thanks!

Recently over 100 runners traversed the hills of Montague Center to continue the tradition of the Mug and Mini-Mug Races. For 44 years they have lined up at the Common, waited for the cannon to fire, and then followed the limed arrows to the finish line.

This year there was certainly a renewed interest in the 2-mile race. Many young runners lined up with their parents and came across the finish with big smiles.

A dedicated group of volunteers covered every aspect with enthusiasm and dedication. The members of the Montague Center Fire Department were stationed along the course to ensure a safe passage for all the runners.

Our list of sponsors include: Rau's Towing, Clarity Wealth, Eagle Construction, Moretti Landscaping, Greenfield Savings Bank, Falls Farm, Turn Lawn Care, Andy's, Renaissance Builders, Judd Wire, and Touch of Sakura. Thank you for your continued support.

As always, our local fiddlers gathered to provide some entertainment and to help keep Dave Kaynor's spirit alive. Oh, how he loved this race.

A request has been submitted for a tad cooler summer with less humidity in 2026, so plan on joining us. Thank you to all who supported our races in any way. These are great community events.

Ann Fisk, Race Coordinator
Montague Center



WILL QUALE PHOTO

Ivy Soto celebrates at the finish line of Saturday's Mini Mug.

Published weekly on Thursdays.

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:
editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
science@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:
\$40 for walking subscriptions;
\$50 for driving route subscriptions;
\$75 for mailed subscriptions;
\$40 to \$75 for digital subscriptions.

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

*ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE
LIMIT 4 PER YEAR*

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 6 months (23 issues) for our walking routes
4½ months (18 issues) for our driving routes
3 months (12 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email (optional): _____

TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Heading into our **final summer week off!** Our next edition will come out September 4.

Stone Soup Café’s 20th **annual harvest supper** will be held on the Greenfield common this Saturday, with music and appetizers beginning at 4 p.m. and the line for food starting at 4:30.

If you’ve never been to this huge, outdoor, pay-what-you-can feast – they say a thousand people might come this year – you should definitely check it out. There’ll be something for everyone, five different main dish options and plenty of meat- and gluten-free stuff on the menu. Get your face painted, run into people you haven’t seen in several years, eat as much as you want and contribute whatever amount of money you want including none at all. This is where the rubber hits the road.

Stone Soup also cooks, hosts, and delivers meals year-round, and has been invited by the state Department of Agricultural Resources to participate on the governor’s new and widely touted anti-hunger task force. Congrats and good luck to them on that front... they’re definitely doing something right.



CHRISTINA TRINCHERO PHOTO

Montague reader Christina Trinchero spotted this **pack of wild turkeys** last week on Falls Road during an early-morning bike ride.

Something about the morning dew rising in the fields and that many delicious Thanksgiving-themed birds in one place evokes strong feelings of autumn in the viewer. Or maybe it’s the sudden turn to cool nights?

Anyway. Wild turkeys on Falls Road!



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

A banquet was held earlier this month at the Schuetzen Verein for the state-champion **Turners Falls High School softball team**, and coach Gary Mullins was presented with a comfy-looking, fuzzy, synthetic fleece garment commemorating the team’s championship season.

Apparently he had been wishing out loud for a fur coat during one of the colder games of the season.... Very cute! But definitely not helping with that back-to-school feeling...

A **new preschool** is opening in Greenfield next week, and the public is invited to a ribbon-cutting celebration next Tuesday, August 26, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Blessed Trinity Parish on Beacon Street. We’re taking next week off, as I mentioned above, and will likely not send a reporter to the ribbon-cutting, but the church has been very proactive about extending us the invitation so we’re passing it along. Beacon of Light Preschool will be the only Catholic preschool in the county, our contacts emphasized, which we imagine might be either a pro or a con for various readers.

If you want to take a tour, RSVP to outreach@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org so they can provide roughly the correct amount of snacks.

Montague residents: at its meeting next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the planning board will discuss proposed **zoning changes in Montague City**, namely in the vicinity of the former Farren Care Center land, in order to foster the redevelopment of the site. We’ve extensively covered the historic hospital’s closure, condemnation, and demoli-

tion in recent years. Its owners have given it as a gift to the inhabitants of Montague to use as we see fit, and town officials have held a number of events to gather “input” about that; these changes, which would need to be approved at town meeting, in theory reflect that input.

Tuesday’s meeting is at the public safety complex, a.k.a. police station, on Turnpike Road, and can also be accessed from home via Zoom in case you have a warrant or are trying not to get sick. Check the town website for a link. As of press time the proposal isn’t yet available to preview, but we hear it should be out as of Friday. So far a majority of people seem to favor building some amount of housing on the land – how much housing, and who would do that, are the big questions.

Again, it’s falling in our **final summer week off publication**, so consider this a preview rather than a review of the news!

While you’re public-inputting, the current and basically final window for the public to sound off to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about a new **30- to 50-year hydropower license** for Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain closes at 5 p.m. next Thursday, August 28. The Connecticut River Conservancy website (www.ctriver.org) is a good general resource for info about these licenses to use the river as a utility, and includes helpful pointers about filing comments.

It’s a bit of a drive, but if you like art or mountains or incongruous combos you should check out **the Summit Show**, to be held over two upcoming weekends – August 30 and 31, and September 6 and 7 – at Skinner State Park in Hadley. Visitors are invited to “hike the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail and encounter artworks suspended from trees, nestled into forest undergrowth, and tucked within hidden tree hollows,” as well as inside the historic Summit House.

It’s the brainchild of curator Charlotte Kohlmann, who pulled together a similar show on the Northampton oxbow in 2021, and who works in the *Reporter’s* layout department. The Swamp Show was amazing, so this is a real primo tip.

Send your little bits of news to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Spectacular Fall Bulb Fundraiser!

Use our online order form and choose from 8 varieties of flower bulbs for planting in mid-October.

Order before Sept. 3 for local pickup and delivery.

Scan the QR code or go to: tinyurl.com/MRBulbs25

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

"It's just a stone's throw from reality."

Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods
Beer - Wine - Liquor

MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8
978-544-8646
Lockes Village Rd.
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street, Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com

OPEN three days a week
Tues, Weds, Thurs – 11 to 6
(also by chance or appt.)

OP ED

Down the Rabbit-Hole, Standing Out for Democracy

By JAN ATAMIAN

LAKE PLEASANT – In the spring of 2025, I renewed my interest in gardening after a strong wind blew down the corner of my 30-year-old, dilapidated backyard fence. I planted a robin’s egg blue hydrangea, divided and transplanted purple lilac bushes, and rescued several hostas amongst tangles of overgrown grapevines.

Gardening became my distraction from the cruel news of the day, which I absorbed every morning over a cup of strong coffee.

I am forever a creative person who feels compelled to make things with my hands. When the “Stand Out for Democracy” protests began this year, I was not happy about using my creative energy for sign-making or protest art. It felt like a chore in the category of drudgery.

But this was not so for my sister Cheryl.

In southern Maine, Cheryl stands out, two to three times a week, with cute, funny, hand-painted protest signs. With her hand-crafted, *papier-mâché* puppet Trump head, she conjures up clever slogans to address the horrific news that cascades like dark sludge out of our electronic devices.

This week, the Trump dummy head has grown arms and holds an “autopen” in one hand. Her cartoon bubble says, “I Don’t Draw.” Underneath the pen is a large cardboard poster with the outline of Texas. Inside the state of Texas, in large black letters, her puppet has written “MINE.”

The smiles, laughter, and enthusiasm Cheryl’s signs generate keep her going. Her

audience looks forward to seeing new signs. Hence, she has transformed herself into the unofficial town jester.

Occasionally, she appears with a sign at her local town hall for selectboard meetings, accompanied by a man who hides his face behind a white mask. This man is dedicated to stopping ICE agents from cooperating with local police.

Here in Greenfield at a Stand Out protest the Expandable Brass Band, dressed in large yellow polka-dot outfits, plays music that is joyous and loud. One of the band members runs up to me and kisses my forehead. My sign reads, “I.C.E. = Fascism.”

“Thank you for using the F word,” he jubilantly cries out.

An elderly woman next to me holds a small sign detailing the 14th Amendment. Passing cars cannot possibly read all the words. Perhaps she feels good about educating the general public as they speed by in a frenzy of Saturday morning chores.

I continue to dance to the Expandable Band, holding my Fascism sign. I am energized by the rhythm of the tuba, trombone, sax, and trumpet. Dancing connects me to the joy of movement, feeling free and alive. I am transported and beamed down to a more youthful self engaged in expressive dance. It is the Seventies, and my adolescent friend Liz and I are in her basement, choreographing dance moves to teach others for our high school musical, *Alice In Wonderland*.

We are living in Wonderland times now, falling down dark rabbit holes, scrambling to battle the next dictatorial Presidential execu-

tive order. Everything in Trump’s crazy cabinet reminds me of the Queen of Hearts’ shrill operatic voice, singing “Off with her head!”

What happened to our friend, the Queen of Hearts, her eyes caked in thick, gooey turquoise eye shadow, Liz wondered when she visited western Mass last month. Liz and I met in 1972, in front of the old Lost & Found box filled with smelly discarded gym suits. Did we both feel our youthful past? I transformed into a local tour guide, admiring the magic lake, hiking on wooded trails, visiting the animal rescue farm in Leverett as well as the Peace Pagoda.

The Queen of Hearts, Liz recalled, moved out to Utah to attend Brigham Young University. Later she denounced her strict Mormon upbringing, marrying a wealthy land developer, and she lived on a large estate, riding horses and attending personal parties with Mitt Romney and his wife. Liz said the marriage ended tragically, and when she met up with her decades later in Boston, she still wore turquoise blue eye shadow.

Engrossed in this heartfelt gossip, I said, “I will always picture her as the Queen of Hearts, singing, ‘Off with her head!’”

Sorry I’m rambling on – this is how you soothe a tired mind.

My sister called to say she counted 300 positive honks at her Stand Out protest today. That’s a big improvement. She continued: “There was only three f--- you’s with the finger.”

The last time I attended a Stand Out protest near the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, awaiting the cheering honks, the lead protest organizer

walked over to me and said, in a polite manner, “Your sign is too militant.”

My sign read “Trump and Netanyahu,” in large bold letters, with a cartoonish portrait of the two devilish leaders smiling. Beneath them in black paint, lay piles of dead bodies with splashes of red paint for human blood. Under this, the letters said, “= Death.”

“I liked it when I made it,” I replied, remembering the cathartic emotion it released.

“Perhaps you could add a pink tutu,” he suggested, pointing to the two world leaders.

“No pink tutus,” said another organizer at the Great Falls Harvest when I told my sign story at the Palestinian film and discussion group. “This is where we draw the line.”

The film we watched was banned from public broadcasting. It graphically depicts the targeted bombings of Palestinian doctors’ homes, and of hospitals. I could not sleep that night after viewing these atrocities, which were not blurred out, as they generally are on television.

I have taken a break lately from the local Stand Out protests, but I plan to return. Watching the mass starvation of the Palestinian people continue on, I understand my sign was stating the simple truth.

My new sign reads “Deport Trump and Co.” Here, Trump’s name emerges from some curly lines, resembling pubic hair, like the birthday card he drew for Jeffrey Epstein.

With this sign I plan to return to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to await the honks – and “f--- you” fingers. Hooray, Stand Out for Democracy!

Jan Atamian lives in Lake Pleasant.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316

RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

RENAISSANCE PAINTING

SINCE 1970
LICENSED, INSURED
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM

RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of August 25
BOTTLES & CANS
Week of September 1
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054



GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

Open Saturdays 9-1PM
May-October

Peskeompskut Park
Turners Falls, MA

Snap and HIP Accepted

Shop locally!
Support
Montague
Reporter
advertisers.



269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local Farmer-Owned


Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



[413] 774-1285

AT LARGE

Sewer Ratepayers Dealt Another Royal Flush

BY CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – *BREAKING NEWS (Five Bells):* President Donald Trump today approved raising the country’s annual sewer bill by 11 percent, checks made payable to the American Sewer System (ASS). Trump credited the Northfield, MA. Sewer Commission with adopting the equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), a one-size-fits-all bill whereby paupers in pup tents pay the same amount as kings in castles.

Community organizers are asking for donations via [goflushme.com](#).

All this is true – except, you know, those parts about Donald Trump and the gimme website.

Last week homeowners on Northfield’s town sewer were shocked to see their bills for fiscal year 2026 had jumped by the aforementioned 11% to \$1,416.

Most communities base their sewer bills off metered usage – water in and water out is accurate, and fair. But in Northfield every dwelling is equal, and every bill is the same. Homeowners who try to make ends meet by renting an apartment are billed twice as much; three apartments means thrice as much.

As a result, Northfield has become a town divided by septic tanks and sewer lines, by the rich and not-so-rich.

Recently at the Market Basket in Swanzezy I bumped into a neighbor who was waiting at the deli for a hot dog. She is friendly and talkative and lives in a well-appointed house on Main Street.

“Did you get your sewer bill?” I

asked her.

“Yes. It only went up \$100,” she replied.

“It’s \$1,400!” I exclaimed. “And everyone pays the same rate. I live alone and pay as much as my neighbors.”

“I live alone,” she said.

“You’re wealthy,” I replied.

On this much we agreed. The sewer system is broken, and the burden to fix it is on the backs of its 285 ratepayers.

The well-to-do can throw the bill to Jeeves to sort out. The rest of us are asking, in the words of the great Vince Lombardi, *What the hell is going on here?*

Reading the sewer commission’s latest meeting minutes would make you think it’s making progress, but this is a bottom-line issue, and the rate keeps spiraling upwards. Commission chair Karen Boudreau told me three years ago that a move was afoot to go to metered billing, but so far nothing has transpired. Boudreau won’t answer phone calls or respond to texts, and I can’t say I blame her.

The town could help pay for whatever’s ailing the sewer system, but septic tank owners say no way. “I’ve already contacted a lawyer,” one resident told me.

I’ve paid my bill and have \$50 credit toward the next one because I don’t want that wolf at my door.

Meanwhile, the administrative assistants of state senator Jo Comerford and representative Sussannah Whipps have returned my calls. I’m not holding out much hope they can help, but at least they listened.

Evangelist **Jerry Falwell** died on July 1, at age 90. Falwell founded Liberty University in 1971, and built a football program to give it the same recognition as other religious schools like Notre Dame and Brigham Young. Among the conquered was UMass, losers of six straight to the Flame.

Falwell walked the straight and narrow, and as *The Economist* wrote in its obituary: “He prepared for his calling by living cleanly; as well as praying hard for the salvation of his first cousin Jerry Lee Lewis whose life was a mess of cheating and drinking but who, with his ‘Great Balls of Fire’ was already a rock n’ roll star.”

Falwell’s holier-than-thou gambit nosedived in the late 1980s when a private detective caught him with a “pretty woman inside a hot-sheet motel along Airline Highway in New Orleans.”

For those appalled that Trump would suggest **Canada** become our 51st state, consider this quote by Virginia congressman Richard Henry Lee in 1775 from Rick Atkinson’s Pulitzer Prize winning book *The British Are Coming*: “No doubt is entertained here that this Congress will be shortly joined by delegates from Canada, which will then complete the union of 14 provinces.”

Alas, things didn’t work out after Benedict Arnold was wounded and Richard Montgomery killed in the Battle of Quebec City.

Country singer **Jeannie Seely** died in a Tennessee hospital on

August 1 of an intestinal infection. She was 85.

Seely sang from the heart and was the first woman to host her own segment on the Grand Ole Opry. The *New York Times* quoted from a story in the *Nashville Scene* describing her efforts to host a show: “I used to say to my manager Hal Durham, ‘Tell me again why women can’t host on the Opry?’ He’d rock on his toes and jingle his change and say, ‘It’s tradition, Jeannie.’ And I’d say, ‘Oh, that’s right. It’s tradition. It just *smells* like discrimination.’”

Elvis Presley died 49 years ago this month. His next concert stop was to be in Portland, Maine. He was 42, and I remember thinking at the time he was over the hill.... **Save the date:** UMass Dining will be serving steak and lobster on October 31 to celebrate their boss Ken Toong’s birthday. The public is always invited to eat at any Dining Commons location. Breakfast is \$12, lunch is \$16.25, and dinner is \$19.25.... *The Economist* claims that **Oasis** are the “greatest British band of their generation,” but doubts that head-butting brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher will ever go on stage as planned, quoting a social media user who said: “This is the first and only time you should pay the \$47 for event insurance.”.... Actress **Carrie Fisher**, on life’s ups and downs: “Sometimes you can only find heaven by slowly backing away from hell.”

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

SOLAR from page A1

from an attorney for Nexamp suggesting the possibility of legal action. Tanner had reached directly out to Nexamp, project engineers Beals and Thomas, and property owner Jake Doody with questions, some of which the attorney, Alan Seewald, said should be considered substantial discussions and better reserved for a public hearing.

Tanner posted Seewald’s letter to the town listserv on August 8. “As you know, all communications made in an official capacity are public records, and emails that suggest litigation or question the propriety of a contractual relationship between a private party and the applicant can create the appearance of undue influence or lack of impartiality,” the attorney wrote. “My intent here is not to escalate but to ensure everyone involved is protected and that the Town’s review process proceeds in a manner that is fully aboveboard.”

As the board had lost its three-member quorum, a hearing on the project set for Monday was first changed to an “unofficial meeting” and then canceled, and member Mary Thomas subsequently resigned. Thomas told the *Reporter* that serving as a member and clerk for the planning board on top of her job as Wendell’s conservation agent was becoming too complicated to do each job effectively.

Neither the planning board nor the selectboard responded to requests for comment this week. The selectboard held an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss appointing two volunteers to the planning board.

“[W]e are committed to ongoing collaboration with the Wendell community and local officials,” Nexamp spokesperson Keith Hevenor told the *Reporter*. “Nexamp will continue working with the Wendell Fire Department, Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and residents to ensure safety plans, emergency response protocols, and public communi-

cations are clear and accessible.”

According to senior vice president Michael Cucchiara, the company has been involved in developing between 250 and 275 solar arrays and energy storage projects nationwide.

The addition of the 2-megawatt (MW) battery to the plan will require a special permit from the Wendell board of health under new regulations the board adopted last fall. The agenda for the health board’s regular meeting on August 11 included a discussion of how the board should approach Nexamp about applying for a permit.

To the board’s surprise the developers joined the meeting, along with several concerned members of the public, and an hourlong discussion about noise, fire safety, and decommissioning costs followed.

“There is no demonstrable community benefit going to the abutters, either in terms of direct revenue coming from the property owner or from Nexamp,” said Ben Schwartz, an abutting property owner. “We’re left here to think about only exigencies, and what happens if the shit hits the fan. That’s not a very good place for us to be in as a town.”

The health board’s new regulations require the owners of all existing or proposed stationary rechargeable batteries, regardless of their size, to apply for special permits and meet a complex set of requirements, including annually filed emergency management plans, annual inspections, noise monitoring and mitigation, a \$10 million insurance policy, and a bond for decommissioning. If the board decides to hire a consultant to review an application, the applicant must cover their fees.

“What are the potential threats to human health raised by this project?” said board of health member Jim Frank. “We really have to keep our focus very narrow... we’re all thinking about money, we’re thinking about environmental damage, but the charge of the board of health is very specific. And that’s what we are hoping –

Nexamp will come to us with an application, and tell us how they are going to meet the requirements for permitting a battery storage facility.”

Nick Santangelo, a civil engineer at Beals and Thomas, said his firm had shared an emergency response plan with the fire department and was in ongoing discussions with them about what equipment and training might be necessary to respond to a BESS fire.

Each battery in the facility is encased in fire-resistant housing, he said, and a remote-monitoring system can turn the units off in case of gas build-up or heat, making a chain reaction “thermal runaway” fire very unlikely.

“[I]f you had thermal runaway, yes, the prescribed recommendation is to let it burn itself out,” Santangelo said. “Then there’s about a 100-foot plume of smoke. Most of these gases are very light – they rise up – and we feel with appropriate precautions and an action plan in place we could make sure, in that extremely, extremely rare situation, that everyone and the local abutters would be protected.”

Cucchiara said the array’s construction was delayed in 2018 pending upgrades to the Wendell Depot substation, and that the state’s Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program changed since that time to require developers of arrays over 500 kilowatts to include onsite batteries to remain eligible for incentives.

“In order for us to comply with those requirements, we had to bring in storage, with the state’s goal of shifting energy pushed out to the grid at times when it’s most needed,” Cucchiara said. “Although we’re producing mid-day to late day, those peak [consumption] times are not happening until later in the afternoon.”

Asked about the project timeline, Cucchiara said the company hopes to receive final approval from town boards by the end of the year, begin construction next summer, and bring the array online by 2028.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



OrigamiUSA

*Origami is for anyone,
anywhere, anytime!*

Join us at: **OrigamiUSA.org**
Email: **admin@origamiusa.org**
Tel: **212.769.5635**

- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

DIEMAND FARM
WENDELL, MA



**GRADUATIONS
BIRTHDAYS
MEETINGS
WEDDINGS
ANNIVERSARIES
FUNERALS**





THEDIEMANDFARM.COM
(978) 544-3806

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Guy Offered Fire Chief Job

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett’s selectboard had only one item on their agenda at their most recent meeting on August 12, and they decided unanimously to offer the position of fire chief to Tyler Bryant, currently a lieutenant in the Hanson, Massachusetts fire department.

The offer followed the unanimous recommendation of a hiring committee and an interview with Bryant at the previous selectboard meeting on July 29. Police

chief Scott Minckler also supported the move, saying he was “100 percent on board” with the decision.

Provided Bryant accepts the offer, the next steps are expected to include contract negotiations and establishing a timeline for his assumption of duties and move to the Leverett area. Deputy chief Amy Rice has been serving as interim chief following chief Brian Cook’s departure earlier this summer after four years in the position.

The selectboard’s next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26 at 7 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Impacts of Nay Vote Weighed

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard members are allowed to take vacations, so on August 13 the Wendell selectboard held its first meeting after the previous week’s tax override election with only two members present, chair Laurie DiDonato and member Paul Doud. Their regular meeting lasted just over an hour and a half, but it followed an hour-long money managers’ meeting which both attended, and they discussed some of the same issues at both meetings.

Both debt exclusion measures on the August 4 ballot had passed, allowing for the purchase of a new fire department tank truck and a regular payment for door and window repairs at Swift River School. Voters had rejected the two override questions, however, one to cover general operating expenses and the second to put \$40,000 into stabilization.

The money managers’ meeting focused on the consequences of voters rejecting the override, which immediately limited the current year’s town budget.

Highway commission chair Phil Delorey started with some good news: Wendell will receive \$424,000 in Chapter 90 road funding from the state. Answering a question from DiDonato, he said this money may be spent on payroll only for work on Chapter 90 projects – not for rehiring the road crew worker who was laid off this summer when the new budget came into effect.

Delorey listed possible ways to deal with a smaller road crew: no plowing from midnight to 6 a.m.; hiring someone starting in December for 19 hours a week without benefits; pulling money from the snow and ice budget to meet payroll; or stopping paving projects.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley said the problem is not being driven by wages as much as by health insurance costs. Like many local towns Wendell is a member of the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, which has made an emergency decision to raise premiums, which already went up by 18% in July, by a further 20% in October – a combined 42% increase.

The hike is driven by a sharp rise in claims, which some blame on GLP-1 weight loss drugs – no longer covered, except for their use for diabetes – and some on the fact that more people are living with serious illnesses. Both state representative Aaron Saunders and state senator Jo Comerford have blasted the Trust for the last-minute changes.

Manley said that “trust in the Trust has eroded,” and that she is looking at other options for the town.

Finance committee chair Meagan Sylvia brought up pay shortfalls created by voters’ rejection of the override budget: \$18,000 for the town coordinator; \$3,300 for both the treasurer and the tax collector; and \$2,500 for the clerk, authorized at town meeting because she does all the legal meeting posting on the town website.

“We thought website posting would be easier,” Sylvia said. Before the official posting place was changed to the website, committee clerks stuck one paper copy of their agendas to the bulletin board outside the office building and left a second copy with the clerk.

The state has not yet certified the town’s free cash, and Manley made a motion to pay the clerk and coordinator the salaries on the higher “override” budget, in the hope that the funding can be supplemented at a later date. If the money is not found, their pay will drop to the amounts included in the lower, approved budget. The motion passed.

Sylvia suggested contacting the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for a grant-writing tutorial for department heads. Manley said she would contact FRCOG regional services director Bob Dean.

Roads and Responsibility

Delorey reported that four out of five bids for repair of the Farley Road bridge came in \$100,000 or more over the earlier bid, but that the low bid, for \$348,000, can be met. Wendell has set aside \$100,000 for the project and can allocate another \$25,000. Erving, at the other end of the bridge, can take its share of the cost from free cash, and Wendell, as the project’s lead town also has a grant of \$156,000.

Assuming the bid is accepted by the engineer, Delorey said work on the bridge can start in the fall.

Delorey brought up the unresolved issue of a 0.6-mile stretch of Wendell Road that residents and officials have always believed is in New Salem, but which appears on the FRCOG’s official maps as being in Wendell. Homeowners there have paid taxes to New Salem and have voted at New Salem town meetings, and New Salem recently repaved the road on either side of the stretch.

Delorey said moving the town line to where people had assumed it was would involve surveying, which would be expensive, and that the neatest choice would be to give the road to New Salem. DiDonato said the simplest action would be for Wendell to accept money for repaving that stretch and then give it to New Salem. No action was taken.

After the money managers’ meeting, Delorey stayed on for the regular selectboard meeting, and repeated his report about the bridge. He said Warner Brothers, not the paving division, is tentatively awarded the contract.

Old Farley Road is also a source of trouble. Delorey said it was either discontinued as a town road sometime in the 1970s or ’80s, or maintenance was just discontinued. At some point an owner of property on both sides of the road replaced the road with a new one that takes a different route. At its end its slope is 14% or 15% – twice what is allowable – and clearing it of snow requires a contractor with special equipment, namely a skid steer.

The selectboard had instructed the road crew to plow the road, but its current layout is no longer on town property. Delorey said he thinks its maintenance should be the property owners’ responsibility, but that the town should find out what new owners on the road were told when they bought their house.

Former selectboard chair Christine Heard said she had heard the realtor made it clear it was a private way, and that maintenance would be the buyers’ responsibility, shared with other property owners on the road.

Other Business

Heard had come to the meeting, with relatives and friends, to accept her plaque as 2025 Citizen of the Year, as she had temporarily left Old Home Day when the award was announced. Her arrival drew cheers and applause from attendees, and she left behind a bag full of green beans, cucumbers, and squash, which were divided among those who stayed to the meeting’s end.

The board interviewed Frank McGinn of Shutesbury and voted to hire him as facilities manager, pending a check of his references, a part-time job with a salary of \$1,440 a year. McGinn said the work seems to be what he is doing already on the Shutesbury building committee.

Among other things he mentioned, McGinn said he had overseen the installation of a new roof on the Shutesbury elementary school and secured a grant for a portable *raku* kiln, which he uses to teach pottery to students at Swift River School. He works as a potter at the Orange Innovation Center, so he drives through Wendell daily, and saw the need as something small he can do in Wendell.

He added that he appreciated the change the Wendell road crew made last winter in pre-treating roads, especially Wendell Depot Road, be-

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

YOU'RE INVITED!!

SHERIFF STREETER'S FIRST ANNUAL PICNIC

an evening of food, fun & community

Friday, September 12, 2025
4:00pm - 7:00pm
Schuetzen Verein
55 Barton Cove Rd., Gill

- Cash Bar
- Advanced ticket purchase strongly encouraged
- Limited tickets at the door

\$25.00 suggested donation

Mail checks to:

Streeter Committee
PO Box 33
Greenfield, MA 01302

Please make checks payable to Streeter Committee. We are unable to accept cash donations.

Tip of the week ...

Riding a motorcycle can be especially risky. Review your liability limits with your insurance agent to ensure that they are adequate. This will help protect you from any financial losses in case of an accident.



We have more than insurance.
We have experience...

25 Millers Falls Road
(413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

auto | home | business | annuities

The Gill Montague Regional School District Offers Meals at No Cost for Students

The Gill Montague Regional School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

fore snow started falling.

So far, the library had received only one bid for exterior painting and some trim repair, for \$26,000, more than is available from the building rehab account. Manley said most contractors are booked and that more bids might come in September or October. If not, funds may have to be found elsewhere.

An application is in front of the planning board for a solar field and accompanying battery at 69 Locke Village Road (*see article, Page*

A1), but that board was down to two members, short of a quorum, and was forced to cancel a meeting. DiDonato said she would put out a request for new members.

On Monday afternoon, the selectboard held an emergency meeting via Zoom to appoint Richard Asmann and Richard Drohen to the planning board.

The selectboard plans to hold a special town meeting in early October, the date depending on availability of the clerk and the moderator.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Lic #36550-EL1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSUREDFREE CONSULTATION

STONEDWORK

BUILD. REBUILD. MEND.

R. SKELTON, WALLER
(413) 367-2435 • skelton.rob@gmail.com

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

Eric Hoffer, ‘The Temper of Our Time’

CROPS from page A1

bees. Earlier this month, he grew his first cantaloupe.

“Everyone loves watermelon and cantaloupe, and I wanted to learn how to grow them,” he said. “They’re notoriously hard to know when to pick in the field.” Turning again to local farmers for advice, he’s learning to pick them at the right time, when they “come off the vine easily.”

Making maple syrup became one of Zaykowski’s favorite pastimes after he renovated an old sugar house on the property – he turned out 125 gallons last year.

After getting his truck stuck in deep mud on the short road to the sugar house a few years ago, Zaykowski hauled dozens of boulders and built a more reliable road to the site. Instead of using harsh

acidic chemicals and donning protective gear to clean the equipment after sugaring season, he learned another practical lesson from the old-timers: Leave the pan full of sap, let it ferment for a few months, and use the alcohol-tinged mixture to clean up.

Zaykowski values his relationships with these older farmers more than such modern-day conveniences as the internet – Fallen Oak Farm is one of only a handful in the region that doesn’t have a website. The word “Tomatoes” is painted in red on a piece of wood nailed to a pole on nearby Mormon Hollow Road, just above a large wooden fork directing motorists towards Farley Road, where Zaykowski’s farmstand sits at the intersection with Stone Cutoff Road. He also sells to other farmstands, as well as

local restaurants.

Although he wasn’t raised on a farm himself, Zaykowski developed an interest in agriculture as a landscaper working on other farms in the area. “It’s become a passion to provide quality food for the community around me,” he said. “It’s my purpose to help feed people.” Now he’s passing that passion on by raising two sons who help out on the farm while attending Franklin County Technical School.

Zaykowski prefers tending to his farm in bare feet, and is training on the side to become a yoga teacher at Shiva Shakti Power Yoga in Northampton.

“I like to bring an awareness to my feet that keeps me connected to the earth,” he said. “And I find that growing fresh organic produce and the yoga lifestyle go together. I’m bending over all the time, and lifting things all the time – I needed a way to keep my body strong, instead of getting torn apart by this kind of work. Because it gets to you.”

Having learned so many useful things about farming from old-timers in the area, Zaykowski said he is looking forward to giving something back. He expects to be certified as a yoga teacher by January, and believes it could help other farmers with the wear and tear of planting, weeding, and harvesting.

“I have insight on both sides of it now,” he said. “I’m really looking forward to teaching farmers about yoga.”

Like most farmers, Zaykowski sees agriculture as an ongoing experiment, with every year bringing more trials and errors. He got out of the pig business when feed prices started rising too high, and ultimately quit the business of laying hens for similar reasons, but also because it became a nuisance to keep 600 of them.

“The birds were very loud, and the animals were always getting into them,” he said. “I love living out here, but the wildlife are here too, and eventually I realized I wasn’t living harmoniously – the hens just didn’t fit up here.” That’s when he learned how to grow tomatoes and other vegetables.



Above: Fallen Oak’s produce sells at this Mormon Hollow Road farmstand.
Top right: Zaykowski fills a bucket with – you guessed it – tomatoes.
Bottom right: A wooden sign lures hungry drivers to the stand.

LIBRARY from page A1

town meeting has approved Montague’s share of the design and planning costs, another appropriation would still be needed for the construction phase.

At a July 29 public meeting at the Gill-Montague senior center, Angela Ward Hyatt, president of Schwartz/Silver Architects, the firm hired for the project design, reviewed the “goals” the town has identified for library expansion. These include “universal accessibility,” “welcoming and inviting,” “flexibility,” “connected to nature,” “spaces for programs,” and connecting with neighbors.”

Ward Hyatt then presented diagrams of spaces envisioned to achieve these goals, most of which do not exist in the current Carnegie Library. She shared illustrations of ways to add a large new wing to the Carnegie, which produced a “very strange shape,” and of the first floor of a new library, which would be a large rectangle.

This was followed by a public input session, with prompts such as “What needs are not being met by the current library?” and “What opportunities do you see for an expanded or new library?” Respondents included Betty Tegel, a local advocate for residents with disabilities; Deb Radway, a former town administrator, former selectboard member Sam Lovejoy, and Ariel Elan, who serves on the energy and capital improvements committees.

Nearly all indicated they would be com-

fortable with either adding on to the Carnegie or building a new library, though the long list of new needs for the project seemed to favor the latter.

Lovejoy, however, said that when the final project goes to town meeting for the next phases of funding, members might question the stated need for more community meeting space, particularly in light of the meeting rooms at the town hall annex and public safety complex and the auditorium at the high school. “Are you really building another community room?” he asked. “I think you’re going to have to be able to confront that head on.”

Public libraries director Caitlin Kelley said the consultants would be making a recommendation as to which option would best meet the town’s goals, and the library trustees and building committee would then take a vote.

That meeting took place last Wednesday, August 13, and at a second public input meeting the next day Will Quale, who serves on the both the building committee and the trustees, announced that the two groups had unanimously “decided to go with the 38 Avenue A site” rather than attempt to add on to the Carnegie after hearing the consultants’ presentations on both options.

Kelly said that based on input from the July 29 meeting, this new library would offer a “balance between event and program spaces and cozy spaces.” “We’re going to have private study rooms, comfy chairs for reading the

Recorder or Reporter, a local history room, a space where kids can be kids and be loud and can grow... and a large community room,” she said, listing a wide variety of programs her staff had suggested could take place in that room.

Kelsey Laser of Schwartz/Silver added that the new building could serve as a “cooling and warming center for the community” in times when residents lose power.

Ward Hyatt then went into great detail about how the firm calculated the area needed to accommodate the programs the trustees had listed in their criteria for the expansion project. These criteria, she said, could be met by a main floor of 10,000 square feet and a second floor of around 7,000 square feet. Her firm had “sliced and diced” the Carnegie in many different ways, she said, but could not come up with a viable way of achieving these dimensions. On the other hand, a new building at 38 Avenue A was “pretty easy to lay out.”

There followed approximately 35 minutes of comments and questions from the audience.

Turners Falls resident Anne Jemas asked about the timeline for completing the new building project. Kelly estimated that after necessary approvals from the state, a town meeting vote, and a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion ballot vote, the project would go into a full design phase, with a bidding process to choose a builder in mid-2027 and a new library potentially completed “around 2029.”

If that seems far in the future, Quale and

the library trustees often point out that the first attempt to secure money to renovate the library, which opened in 1906, was rejected by the Carnegie Endowment in 1915.

Asked whether consideration had been given to the future use of the Carnegie building, Kelley said a preservation restriction on the building resulting from a state grant in the 1980s limits alteration of the façade of the structure, or doing “anything crazy with it.”

Kelley added that the trustees and members of the building committee “would love to see that building be like a cultural institution, like a museum,” but “don’t know if that’s possible,” and that they planned to reach out to non-profit organizations “to see if anyone comes out of the woodwork.”

A third public meeting will be held Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. at the community room at Great Falls Discovery Center to view design options for the new library right next door on Avenue A.

To a question about the project’s total projected cost, Kelly said she had been meeting with town administrator Walter Ramsey and town accountant Angelica Desroches, and that the September 11 event would “also be a finance conversation,” as “at that point we will have a better estimate that we will feel comfortable presenting.”

Mike Jackson provided additional reporting.



SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730

THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

WITH JOHN PAGANETTI
NORTHFIELD, MA
413.248.3537

VERY
SERIOUS
MASSAGE.com

greenfield records

M-Th. 11-5
Fri-Sat. 11-6
Sun. 12-5

Vinyl records,
cassettes, CDs
DVDs, books

discogs: johndoejunior
buy/sell/trade

greenfield-records.com

275 main st. greenfield ma

MONTAGUE from page A1

plant in Montague City. Of the roughly \$81 million cost, 52% would ultimately be paid by customers, or “ratepayers,” and the remainder by a fee imposed on new solar arrays, which have been driving the need for more distribution capacity.

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller said the impact on ratepayers would be an average of 13 cents per month during the first year, basing his estimate on the data in the DPU announcement and a memo from Greg Garrison, chair of Montague’s capital improvements committee and president of Northeast Solar Design, LLC. The burden on new solar projects would be \$599 per kilowatt (KW), meaning that the “average commercial solar project” of 5 megawatts (MW) would end up paying an “upfront fee” of about \$3 million.

Nolan-Zeller was asked about the relationship of this project to the need for upgraded electrical connections at the airport industrial park, as well as to grid modernization plans approved by the state over a year ago, which focused on a new substation in Whately. He said he would need to review the 2024 modernization proposal to answer that question.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey said that what is needed at the industrial park is a separate effort known as a “reliability project... just kind of redoing the wires.”

Eversource spokesperson William Hinkle told the *Reporter* that without the proposed cost-sharing with ratepayers, developers of new solar arrays would need to cover the entire cost of the upgrade. Hinkle said the focus of the DPU’s September 10 hearing was not limited to the funding of the project, and that a representative of the company would be in attendance to respond to any questions about the work.

Hinkle portrayed the approved 2024 plans as “conceptual,” saying implementation had shifted “to address local capacity complaints.”

Alanna Kelly, a spokesperson for the DPU, confirmed that the hearing will not be limited to public input on funding. “This CIP will enable projects in the towns of Bernardston, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Montague, and Northfield,” she said.

The selectboard did not discuss the proposal in any depth on Monday, but it did hold four “pole hearings” at which Eversource representatives explained their desire to install new utility poles in Montague, and their hopes to remove old ones. The board approved multiple poles to serve a new auto repair and sales business at 221 Millers Falls Road, one on Norman Circle to hold up wires currently attached to a tree, and a “mid-span” pole on Federal Street to eliminate the need for wires to cross the road.

There was some confusion during the fourth hearing, which concerned a “reconductor project” in the woods on Dry Hill Road. A company spokesperson named Gilberto Silva, speaking over a phone connection that was badly breaking up, explained that he was covering for a colleague named Mitchell Hubbard, who had proposed the project but had to leave the office.

Selectboard chair Matt Lord asked if this work would require a power outage. Silva said there could be an interruption lasting from a half hour to an hour, but that he could not yet predict when it would occur.

After some discussion about co-

ordinating with other utility companies – namely Verizon and Comcast – to transfer their equipment in a timely manner and avoid the problem of “double poles,” which has vexed town officials over the years, the board approved the project.

Public Properties

The library building steering committee and library trustees have both unanimously voted to recommend that the town build a new library at 38 Avenue A in Turners Falls, the site of the former Grand Trunk Hotel and more recently a Cumberland Farms store, rather than expand the current Carnegie Library.

Nolan Zeller said the committee will present “three different concepts” for a new building at a public meeting on Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center (*see article, Page A1*).

Nolan-Zeller announced that the town had been awarded \$52,401 under the state’s Green Communities grant program for “weatherization improvements” at the Unity Park fieldhouse, which he called an “old, drafty building.” He said the unspecified improvements would be “the first step” toward retiring the wood stove that heats the building.

Town planner Maureen Pollock announced that the long-awaited proposal to rezone the former Farren Hospital property in Montague City, now owned by the town and possibly slated for some mix of commercial, recreational, and housing development, will be revealed by the end of this week. The planning board will hold a public hearing next Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30 p.m., at the public safety complex on Turnpike Road and via Zoom.

Pollock said the rezoning proposal will be posted on the town website this Friday, on both the general calendar and the planning board’s page for the Farren project. If that board approves the proposal next Tuesday, she said, it will go to the selectboard for its approval on September 8, return for another planning board hearing September 23, and ultimately reach a special town meeting, which must endorse any bylaw changes, in October.

“I appreciate this has been a tight timeline,” said Lord. “I’m looking forward to this board supporting you in making these things happen.”

Maps and Territories

The selectboard endorsed a different proposal from the planning board which will also need to go to the fall town meeting – the reconfiguration of Burek Drive, a road on the edge of Taylor Hill. Pollock explained that a town meeting adopted the street as a public way in 1969, but “whoever built the actual paved road built it in the wrong location.” This was realized “at some point,” she said, and has created contradictions in existing easements between properties on the road.

More recently, the board of health has found that a pipe from the septic system at 4 Burek Drive which travels under the road is failing and needs to be relocated, which will require an additional easement.

The selectboard was asked why it was reviewing this proposal, having already approved a revised layout and easements on the road in June. “It’s a long and tortured process that involves more bouncing back and forth from multiple boards,” Lord responded.

Nadia Madden, a flood expert at

the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, gave an update on efforts to create a new map of Montague showing areas vulnerable to flooding. She pointed out that floodplain maps are not only used to evaluate the vulnerability of roads and town property to flooding, but also influence homeowners’ insurance, building codes, and conservation policies.

The mapping process began regionally in 2018, she said, and Montague will soon be getting new maps “for the first time in over 40 years.”

Ramsey said he had reviewed the preliminary maps, and noted that “a good chunk of the Montague Plains is now going to be in a floodplain, which just doesn’t quite make sense,” since the Plains are “very high and dry.” Madden said the point could be discussed at an upcoming meeting between state and town staff.

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard approved the request of police chief Chris Williams to hire Zachary Caloon, who currently works for the county sheriff’s office, as a part-time officer at a rate of \$30 per hour. Caloon is the second sheriff’s officer to be hired by the Montague department this summer. A request to “bump up” Todd Michon, already employed by the department, to an hourly rate of \$30 was also approved.

Nolan-Zeller said the contractor All Star Abatement will be onsite next week removing asbestos from the sewer lines that cross over the power canal on a condemned pedestrian bridge. The lines will then be capped by the public works department, he said, followed in late September by “the demolition of the bridge itself” by its owner, FirstLight Power.

Canal Street and the canalside bicycle path may be closed during the bridge demolition, he added.

Council on Aging director Roberta Potter requested that the board renew an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), which oversees a state Mass in Motion grant that funds a program in which Franklin County Technical School students help seniors solve problems with their computers and phones.

After making several positive comments about this intergenerational collaboration, the board approved the renewal.

The agenda included discussion of a “short term rental study” by FRCOG and the possibility of establishing a local excise tax on these rentals, which include units listed via Airbnb and Vrbo. Montague is one of 10 towns in the county that have not adopted such a tax, which under state law may be up to 6%.

At Ramsey’s suggestion, this topic was postponed to a future date.

The board approved the use of Peskeompskut Park for a concert on Saturday, September 13, as well as a one-day liquor license for a wedding rehearsal dinner on September 26 at the Montague Retreat Center on Ripley Road, provided that the event is insured and servers are certified in liquor safety.

After the public section of the meeting, the selectboard held two executive sessions to discuss the town’s collective bargaining strategy with its police unions. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on August 20, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

**‘Power Team’ to Lead
New Era at Shea**

Strollers on Avenue A may begin to notice changes to the Shea Theater façade in coming months, reflecting an inner change in management and vision that occurred on August 10 when the Montague selectboard approved the Shea Theater Arts Center’s (STAC) proposal to assume management.

The town began seeking new management for the theater after the last group – the Shea Community Theater, Inc. – did not indicate they planned to renew their lease. Allen Fowler, chair of Montague’s civic commission, “enthusiastically endorsed the STAC’s proposal,” citing three main strengths: preserving the Shea’s community aspect; bringing in larger, revenue-produc-

ing acts, and a five-person board addressing a variety of needs. The group envisions the theater as a venue for artists, an educational facility hosting after-school and youth development programs, and a resource to enrich the lives of everybody in the region.

Erving Senior Center Director

On August 10 the Erving selectboard approved the senior center director job description, including a requirement that the director must become Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA)-certified within five years.

Selectboard chair William Bem-bury said recently-hired senior center director, Paula Betters, had requested the board eliminate the MCOA requirement. Although it has been in effect for years, the previous director was not MCOA-certified. MCOA’s website lists only 52 certified directors in the state.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 25, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

**Fiske Pond: Conservation
Land, Not a Public Beach**

The question of Wendell’s recently acquired Fiske Pond property, specifically who should conduct water quality tests, landed on the selectboard’s table again at their August 10 meeting.

Planning board chair Deirdre Cabral sid the state Department of Public Health would not mandate the pond be designated a swimming beach, and it was up to the local board of health to determine what

was and was not a bathing beach. Bathers enter at their own risk.

**Old Mill Program Will Keep
Some Students In-District**

For some Gill-Montague students, the new school year will mean less of a commute. Rather than being sent to programs out of district, they will be educated in their own communities as part of the Old Mill Program. Laurie Farkas, director of special education, has organized the program for students with “emotional and behavior disabilities.” Five students who were previously sent out of district for services will be served here.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on August 18, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Why doesn’t it rain or do something?

The Live Oaks base ball club have new uniforms.

J.F. Field is going to be first to cross the new bridge – at the ferry.

Last week a son of A.H. Baker fell into the river and was saved from drowning by Henry Hood, aged 14.

The camp-meeting at the Lake had the effect of thinning down the several congregations in the village nearly one-half, Sunday.

S.R. Pierce will at once build a brick barn, 20 feet by 23, on the corner of 7th and K streets. Messrs. Dibble and Potter have leased it for a term of years.

The crops have never looked better. The extra rowen crop will fully make up for the deficiency in the first crop of hay, and tobac-

co will have the best growth it has had for years.


The superintendent of the school committee has appointed Saturday next at 2 o’clock p.m. for the examination of candidates for the high school, which is to open August 30th. That the City and Turners Falls may derive their share of the benefits of the high school, arrangements have been made whereby any wishing to attend will be furnished free tickets to the Centre and return on the 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Fitchburg Railroad trains. All scholars wishing to avail themselves of this privilege should attend the examination of candidates at the Centre school house, at the above time.

The morning mail from New York failed to arrive in time on three occasions last week owing to the negligence of somebody on the Connecticut River train. The bags were taken north instead of being thrown off at Greenfield.

A rainbow by moonlight was observed on Friday night.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

**FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354

FREE ESTIMATES **FREE LOANER CARS**

REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

KEN'S TAX PREP

Old fashion service at old fashion prices
145 Federal Street
Greenfield MA. 01301

Frank Dudek

frankd_74@kenstaxprep.com
413.773.5600 Office
413.772.5782 Fax



GILL from page A1

Snedeker also pointed out that although Erving’s proposed hourly wage is higher, it is offering Sumrall fewer work hours, making her total pay nearly the same. He also said that the work of property assessment in Erving is likely more difficult, as the major property owner is FirstLight, a powerful energy corporation, which owns the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage project.

Snedeker noted as well that the town of Gill paid for Sumrall’s assessor certification, which is now being used to ask for more pay. “It was the town that was paying to have that education done,” he said, “and then when she got the education, she wanted more compensation. And I get that, but it was something that we invested in her, not [in order to pay her] more in the future.”

Selectboard chair Charles Garbiel expressed appreciation for Sumrall’s work, but said “the private-sector business part” of him took issue with the request. He noted that last year the board had increased Sumrall’s pay by 16%, along with a 3% cost of living increase.

“I thought that was the end of it, to be honest,” he said. “I’m at the point where I’m done playing the game. It’s in her court now – she can decide where she’d like to go. If she leaves, she’ll be missed.”

Claire Chang, who serves on the finance committee and energy commission, expressed frustration with the frequent pay raise requests. “If [Sumrall] wanted to stay in Gill, she knows what the process is,” Chang said. “It’s arduous. I don’t get paid – I get absolutely zero compensation for the work that I’ve done over the last 15 years for the town. Zero. And I’ve brought in more money single-handedly through grants than a number of other people.”

Debate circled around the bigger question of whether to follow established procedures or cut through the red tape to move faster. Traditionally, decisions about salaries and roles

go through the personnel committee. However, that committee has not been meeting regularly due to a number of difficulties, including the death of one member and serious illness of another.

Selectboard member John Ward expressed a commitment to “inject new life” into the personnel committee and move forward on a process that is fair to the needs of all town staff, many of whom he said might feel they are currently underpaid.

Other Business

At the board’s regularly-scheduled meeting last Monday, August 11, members voiced support for commuter rail in the region. The board signed a letter supporting Northern Tier Passenger Rail, which will be used as part of the state’s application to the federal government’s “corridor identification and development program.”

“It’s a long time coming,” said Garbiel. “We need some commuter rail this way.”


Ward expressed concern that the project would not align with the transportation priorities of the current federal administration.

The board appointed Everett Connelley and Zachary Ozdarski as junior firefighters and renewed an agreement with the Franklin County sheriff’s office for regional dog shelter and animal control services.

Town administrator Ray Purington warned that mosquito-borne diseases were on the rise. “The West Nile virus risk level has changed from low to moderate for seven towns in Franklin County,” he warned. “It doesn’t include Gill, but Gill is right next door.”

Purington recommended that residents repair window screens, empty stagnant pools of water, wear long sleeves and pants, use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens, wear mosquito repellent when outside, and dump standing water twice a week.

MONTAGUE REPORTER



Left: Mark Koyama and Cary Hardwick of Montague City share a copy of our June 26 edition on the Isle of Vallay in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland.

ON



Right: Recently retired Gill fire chief Gene Beaubien and his wife Dorri read the same edition at the Capilano Suspension Bridge in North Vancouver, British Columbia, after a cross-country drive to visit their son Chris and his husband Kyle in Vancouver.

THE



Left: “I forgot to send you this photo, taken May 24, from my trip to Dublin,” Greenfield reader Andrew Ritchey writes. “The picture is taken outside the General Post Office, where the Proclamation of the Irish Republic was first issued during the Easter Rising of 1916. You can still see the massive bullet holes from the British army’s shelling of the building while the Easter rebels barricaded themselves inside.” Andrew is brandishing the MoRe section from our May 15 edition, which he says “fittingly depicts the LLV’s lined up at our own – somewhat less rebellious – post office, where I work.”

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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

ROAD

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

small victories

INTERIOR DESIGN



“Not just for fancy people!”

smallvictoriesdesign.com

WOODCAT

CONSTRUCTION LLC

RENOVATIONS & NEW CONSTRUCTIONS

“We don’t mind old buildings.”

info@woodcat.co / ig: woodcat_builds / 413 200 8766

Fitzpatrick Pools, Spas & Services



29 5TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS MA 01376
413-800-5693 • FITZPOOLSERVICE01376@GMAIL.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE & ORDER PRODUCTS
FITZPATRICKPOOLS.COM
CERTIFIED POOL OPERATORS ON STAFF
UPS AUTHORIZED DROP SITE

Harriet Paine

REALTOR®



C (413) 475-4203
O (413) 223-1367

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301



Serving Home Grown

Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY

CO-OP

GREEN FIELDS MARKET – MCCUSKER’S MARKET

Stomach rumbling?
Feeling a mite *peckish*?
Getting downright **HANGRY**?
Stop by Green Fields Market for oodles of scrumptious hot & cold options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!



franklincommunity.coop
Green Fields Market • 144 Main St. • Greenfield

Curbside Compost Collection

Starting at \$17 per month



Serving Greenfield, Montague, Shelburne Falls, and Sunderland
Scan the code to sign up today!

WE ALSO MAKE AND SELL WORM CASTINGS! GREAT FOR HOUSEPLANTS, HOME GARDENS, SEED STARTS, SOIL MIXES
www.thecompostcooperative.com



SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION

SUPPLY Co. INC.

“Rock solid service with level advice”

Complete Masonry Supply
Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block & more.



298 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 413-863-4322
www.shanahansupply.com

warm up at THE VOO

many entertainments



all scratch kitchen

cozy cocktails

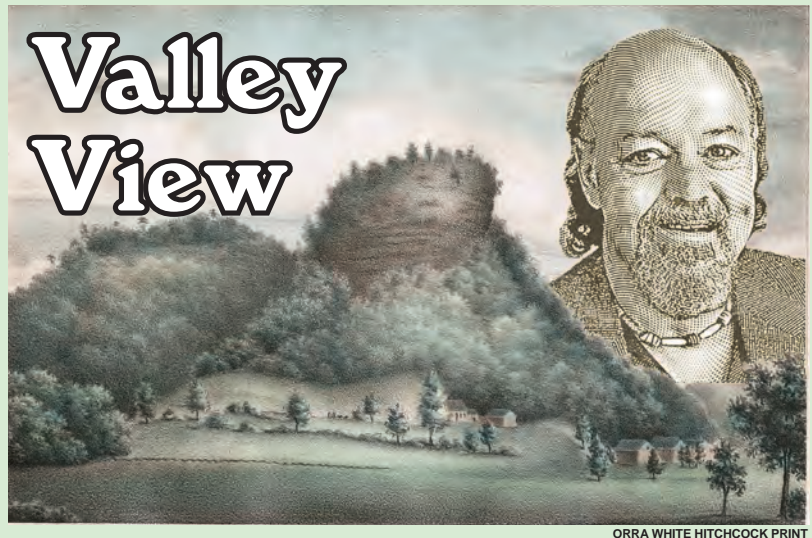
HOURS/SPECIALS

ORDER ONLINE: thevoo.net

78 3rd St TFMA



features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER AUGUST 21, 2025



To His Own Drum Beat

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Late July. Eight-thirty. Bright morning sun. Neighbors’ tall sycamore across the road casting a long, broad, cool, front-yard shadow. Two-mile walk a couple hours in the rearview.

The phone on the table to the left of my chair rings. Caller ID reveals an unnamed “wireless caller,” with a 978 area code number I don’t immediately recognize.

Taking a gamble, I answer it.

It’s archaeologist friend Mike Gramly – a man closing in on 80, yet still a remarkable bundle of boundless energy and intellectual enthusiasm. He checks in at least once a week to chat about his latest focus and discoveries. This time, he’s calling from the New England Auctions parking lot outside of New Haven, Connecticut, some 155 miles from his North Andover home. He was the high bidder on a few strategic “left bids” for lots he was interested in – most notably a couple of miniature, 19th-century, ivory Inuit sled carvings – and he’s waiting for the doors to open at 9.

Nothing unusual. Just another day in the busy existence of scholarly Richard Michael Gramly – an endangered, some might say old-fashioned, breed of archaeologist, who still digs, sifts, analyzes, and documents his findings, hypotheses, and conclusions between two covers.

Having spent the weekend selling books and shooting the breeze with fellow travelers at a Pennsylvania Indian artifact show for collectors and dealers, he’d driven six or more hours home and had no time to relax; doubling half-way back to retrieve the auction house merchandise.

Despite a few health concerns that have cropped up in recent years, Gramly doesn’t seem to have slowed down a bit. In fact, for the past 10 years he’s been revved up exploring North American human-proboscidean interactions that occurred 13,000 and more years

before present. While your average Joe can find such deep time disorienting, Gramly spends much of his time there, studying artifacts and pondering their meaning.

The early-morning auction journey is insignificant compared to his agenda in the coming weeks and months. This weekend, it’s off to New York’s Letchworth State Park for the Genesee Valley Flint Knappers Association’s 35th anniversary Stone Tool Craftsman and Artisan Show.

Then he’ll motor west to Kentucky for two or three weeks of archaeological investigation at the so-called Lower Blue Licks Battlefield, where he’s been making groundbreaking discoveries at an ancient mastodon boneyard purchased by an old friend – a proud member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, no less.

The Lower Blue Licks site has become Gramly’s latest treasure trove of cutting-edge discoveries relating to human predation and ritualistic treatment of mastodons they killed. He was drawn to the site by his buddy’s museum discovery of a previously unidentified ivory-tusk sled runner. His friend recognized a familiar form among a collection of skeletal mastodon remains unearthed long ago and squirreled away for posterity in a Kentucky museum.

The ivory artifact resembled 13,000-year-old sled runners Gramly had identified in recent years among other mastodon remains stored for years at the Buffalo Museum of Science. The Buffalo collection Gramly studied was gathered at the Hiscock Site, a well-known proboscidean boneyard in upstate New York’s Lake Ontario region.

There Gramly had also brought to light a 13,000-plus-year-old sled burial of a female shaman. That sled is the oldest yet discovered on the planet – though others may come to light as Siberian and other Arctic permafrost continues to melt and reveal archaeological treasures.

Assisted by a loyal group of

LIVING HISTORY

‘War Over 7 PM Today’

By PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL – The other day, while waiting in a long line, I found myself standing next to fellow Wendellite Todd Muller. We chatted about this and that and somehow worked our way around to a story about the dug well next to his house. He told me that one day, shortly after purchasing his property off of New Salem Road, he decided to remove the cement slab covering the well to have a look inside.

When he pushed the slab to the ground, he saw words – written with someone’s finger – in the concrete support for the well cover. In large clear letters, they spelled out: “WAR OVER 7 PM TODAY, AUG. 14, 1945,” flanked by the names “Judy” and “Skip,” along with imprints of two small feet.

On that evening 80 years ago, as the owner of the house was finishing construction of the cover for his well, President Truman informed the American public – at exactly 7 p.m. Washington, DC time– of Emperor Hirohito’s announcement that Japan would surrender. The official end to the deadliest war in history didn’t occur until the fol-



Todd Muller’s New Salem Road well bears a happy message from the past.

lowing month, but on August 14 jubilant celebrations erupted everywhere around the world, including a quiet backyard in Wendell, Massachusetts.

Moved by Todd’s story, I went to my computer, determined to find out more. Old deeds and ge-

nealogical sites revealed that the 50-acre property sold on May 29, 1945 to Willard Dix Hoyt and his wife, Dorothy Flora Clark Hoyt, who were living in Turners Falls, where Willard was working as an independent taxi driver.

see **HISTORY** page B3

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

Interview by J. BURKETT and TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – Karen Zanes is a contemporary musician and songwriter from outside of Boston. We have been cooking up this interview for a while, and it’s so cool to finally be able to talk to her this week!

It’s hard to describe Karen’s music. It has a quiet,

shimmering quality, a bit like Vashti Bunyan – but more rock n’ roll at its heart – and kind of sounds like it is beamed in from outer space... a bit like the “Space Lady”! You should check her out ASAP, online or live at places like the Rendezvous and Mystery Train. She is playing this year’s Ooze Fest on September 13 at Peske Park.



82: Karen Zanes

MMM: Would you like to discuss how you started writing and playing music?

KZ: Well, starting from the beginning...I was born in the mid-1960s, during the height of Beatlemania, so it’s always been in my DNA. All I ever wanted to be, all I was ever coded to be, was some type of artist. Music was my first love and will probably be my last.

I started listening to and collecting Beatles records around age 10. From there I moved onto the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Jefferson Airplane, Donovan, The Doors, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, and all the other great musical artists of that era. It was a strong foundation!

From age 12 to 13 I took guitar lessons, but I did not have a very good guitar or teacher. Though discouraged, I did retain what I had learned. I started looking around for other ways to express myself, through writing and the visual arts, focusing on photography, and eventually studying film at Emerson College. And although I would not return to making music for a very long time, it was always a part of my life....

My eventual return to making music happened at

see **MUSIK** page B4

Pet of the Week



SUBMITTED IMAGE

‘VINNY’

Meet Vinny, a one-year-old beagle-whippet mix, who loves toys, training, other dogs, and running in the yard. She would do best with a fenced yard, daily exercise, and an experienced dog owner committed to continuing behavioral work.

Due to changes in living circumstances and mobility issues, Vinny’s current owner can no longer provide her with the environment she needs. Vinny would blossom with access to other dogs and an athletic life. She is affectionate, food-motivated, playful,

shy, and curious. She is current with shots, spayed, housetrained, microchipped, and on medication for anxiety issues.

Adoption fee will be given as credit to behavioral consultant or veterinarian of adopter’s choice.

Vinny is currently living in South Hadley. To apply to adopt Vinny, find “Available Community Animals” under the “Adopt” menu at www.dakinhumane.org. A potential adopter must submit an application, interview and meet the pets, and sign an adoption contract.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – Bisexual Awareness Week is coming up, September 16 through 23, culminating with Bi Visibility Day on September 23. You have ample time to get some beautiful purple-and-pink bi pride flags or buttons to celebrate, and learn a little about the history of bi visibility and where we are today with bisexual representation.

Bisexuality refers to people who recognize sexual attraction to more than one gender. Many bisexual folks understand there are more than two genders, and include these possibilities in their personal definition. Alternatively, they may call themselves *polysexual* (attracted to multiple genders), *pansexual* (having a “gender-blind” attraction to others), or *omnisexual* (attracted to all possible genders, though with some possible preferences).

Bisexuality – admittedly a binary term – has frequently been misunderstood, or derogatorily labeled as a “transition” or “fence-sitting” phase. Many bisexual-identified folks proudly proclaim the label as a lifelong identity. Bisexual activists continue to fight against biphobia, and often point out that they prioritize getting to know a person, not what is “between their legs.”

Robyn Ochs, a Boston-based bisexual activist who publishes and speaks widely, writes: “If you are LGBTQ+, existing proudly and unapologetically in public is a form of activism. Surviving and thriving is a form of activism.”

Ochs and others have also pointed out over the years that a bi (or pan, or omni) identity does not mean one is

attracted to everyone, just like a heterosexual woman gets to be picky about her “type” and is not attracted to *every* man. Nor does it always guarantee a Saturday night date.

Alfred Kinsey was the earliest US sex researcher to develop a sexual orientation scale, which he called “the Kinsey Scale.” It ranged from “0” for completely heterosexual attraction or behavior to “6” for completely homosexual attraction or behavior.

Kinsey’s research in the 1940s and ’50s with thousands of anonymous Americans, based on questions about attractions, fantasies, and actual experiences, revealed that noticeable percentages reported gay or lesbian experiences – up to 37% of males – technically placing a surprisingly large group in the “bisexual” category at that time. However, he and many other researchers soon discovered that how people choose to identify is often very different from their behavior.

Other systems have expanded on the Kinsey scale to understand bisexuality and human nuance more accurately. The “Klein Sexual Orientation Grid,” developed in 1978, asks about degrees of attraction, behaviors, fantasies, and emotional and social preferences towards the same and other genders, along with respondents’ own self-identification. Respondents use a 1 to 7 scale, from “another sex only” to “same sex only,” to report on their past, present, and ideal internal and external experiences.

Michael Storms’s 1980 “Storms Sexuality Axis” plots eroticism on X and Y axes and accounts, unlike the prior scales, for asexuality and demisexuality. The “erotic attraction” dimension measures the degree of sexual attraction an individual experiences towards people of the same or similar sex and those of different sexes or genders, acknowledging that it can vary at different times in our lives. The “social preference” dimension assesses their preferences for social interactions and emotional relationships with these different sorts of people.

In a 2021 Gallup poll, one in six Gen Z adults – born between 1997 and 2012 – identified as LGBTQ+, with the majority of those non-heterosexuals identifying as bisexual.

Until recently, bisexual experience has been largely absent from mainstream media representation. I can count on one hand memorable bisexual characters in TV or film prior to 2020, my favorite being Rosa Diaz’s character in *Brooklyn 99*. However, the tide has finally turned. Nearly everywhere I look we are represented in nuanced ways, and as “normal” people.

Let me provide some summaries of this recent positive representation in television. (Spoiler alert!)

Perhaps the sweetest, most adorable representation of late is in Netflix’s *Heartstopper*, one of my all-time favorite coming-of-age series. In this series Nick, often compared to a golden retriever with his golden hair and puppy energy, surprises himself and everyone by initially coming out as gay, as he begins to

date Charlie. However, in a scene when he is watching a *Pirates of the Caribbean* film with his mom, he recognizes he also has an attraction to Keira Knightley. (Duh! We’re on the same page, bro.)

A few other similar moments help Nick realize “I’m bi, actually.” Those around him receive this info pretty matter-of-factly, easily accepting that someone may have fluid sexual attraction.

Another favorite coming-of-age series is *Atypical*. Casey, the main character’s sister, dates a boy for a while, then finds herself attracted to a friend on her track team and begins dating her. The series does a good job showing Casey grappling with the nuances of her newly-realized attractions, and also of navigating between two people.

We also see bisexuality in three characters in the Australian series *Heartbreak High*. Malakai is initially very attracted to the main character, Amerie, who seems to bring a bit of chaos wherever she goes, as well as to a guy character named Rowan who is also interested in Amerie.

For a more adult-oriented show we have *Hacks*, a brilliant HBO sitcom that has raked in quite a few awards for its nuanced, funny depiction of the creative relationship between baby-boomer household-name comic Deborah Vance, in her gaudy Vegas-inspired leopard prints, and up-and-coming awkward Gen-Z comedy writer Ava Daniels.

Vance is an “insult comedian” whose comedy writing gets an extreme makeover from progressive and woke Ava, and this clash of cultures is handled with verve and – mostly – respect. My favorite line is when Ava, now part of a thruple with a woman and a man, tells her ex “I’m being supah bi.” (Fun fact: one of the creators and writers of this show is from Hadley, and dreamed it up on a drive to Maine.)

And the poignant Hulu series *Dying for Sex*, featuring a stellar performance by Michelle Williams, depicts her character’s sexual awakening and exploration against the backdrop of a cancer diagnosis and a history of childhood sexual trauma. Her best friend, played by Jenny Slate, simply exists as bisexual, helping to normalize that millions of people are quietly living bi or pansexual lives. (The show’s depiction of dissociation during sexual activity is also pretty accurate, and many of my clients find resonance with it.)

Finally, if you need a list of real-life, out bisexuals for inspiration, a quick search gave me these names: Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho, Evan Rachel Wood, Kristen Stewart, Lady Gaga, Angelina Jolie, Frank Ocean, and Drew Barrymore. Among *many* others.

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.

Senior Center Activities AUGUST 25 TO SEPTEMBER 5

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. The next clinic is September 16. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us. Check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv for info.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is September 3. 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 8/25
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
1 p.m. Yoga
Tuesday 8/26
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
Wednesday 8/27
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
Thursday 8/28
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
Friday 8/29
9 a.m. Quilting Open Sew
Note: September calendar unavailable as of press time.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 863-9357.
Monday 8/25
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
6 p.m. Library Trustees
Tuesday 8/26
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 8/27
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 8/28
10 a.m. Hip Hop with the Grandkids
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription)
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 8/29
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance
Monday 9/1
Closed for holiday.
Tuesday 9/2
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 9/3
9 a.m. Veterans’ Agent
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 9/4
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription)
1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Montague Villages Board Meeting
Friday 9/5
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Pipione's

SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246





Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413) 775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564



Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

Fred Holmgren

Piano Tuning & Repair



Stay tuned!

(978) 544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

HISTORY from page B1

Willard was born in Orange in 1913, grew up in Athol, and married Dorothy in 1938. Their first child, Judith, was born about a year later. Willard was 6 feet, 2 inches tall, with blue eyes and blond hair, and weighed 175 pounds when he registered for the draft on October 16, 1940. Three years later, he went off to serve his country in the war as a Merchant Marine for 15 months.

Upon his safe return, their second child Carlton (“Skip”) was born in March of 1945. So, when Willard pressed his son’s small foot into the wet concrete well cover support, the boy was only five months old.

Willard and Dorothy had a second son in 1947, and in 1950 the family of five were living in Athol, where Willard worked as a salesman in a fabric store. In 1951 they divided their 50 acres in Wendell into three smaller pieces – one of which is now owned by Todd Muller. Eventually, the couple divorced and built new lives; they both died in 2005, she in Florida and he on Cape Cod.

And that would have been the end of this story, if I hadn’t done an internet search for Judy. To my delight, I found her – and her cell phone number! – in Providence, Rhode Island, and we had a wonderful conversation. She also put me in touch with her brother Skip, and together they clarified some important details:

Willard and Dorothy’s property backed up to an old Cape (still there) which was owned by Willard’s father, David F. Hoyt. Willard and his brother built the small house now lived in by Todd. Though Willard, Dorothy, Judy, Skip, and Doug lived in Athol, they spent every summer in Wendell – in the small house until 1951, and then in the kids’ grandfather’s Cape until 1957.

Judy and Skip also fleshed out the Hoyt family’s years in Wendell with many happy memories of making maple syrup with their grandfather, churning ice cream with their uncle for frequent family gatherings, hay-

ing, learning to drive a tractor and, every summer, hosting “Fresh Air kids” from New York. Here, Judy remembered that one summer the family car wouldn’t go into reverse so they had to be extra careful when they drove to nearby Laurel Lake to go swimming.

Judy is a genealogist, and has traced her family’s origins in the United States back to Mayflower passenger Thomas Rogers, who was a fabric merchant, so it is of particular note that her dad owned fabric stores – first in Turners Falls, then in Athol, and later in Medford – and that her uncle owned one in Northampton. Judy herself is also a skilled seamstress, and made 17 bridesmaids’ dresses for her son’s wedding.

Skip, now 80 years old, spent 41 years working at MIT’s Lincoln Lab. He is an accomplished photographer, and travels all over the world taking pictures. He recalled the summer his dad bought goats for the children and how, in the fall, he and his dad put the goats in a boat on Bowen’s Pond and ferried them out to the island at its center.

“That was the last I saw of the goats, until they appeared on my plate one winter evening,” Skip says with a laugh.

Another memory was of visiting their Athol neighbor, also summering in Wendell, whose three polio-stricken boys were confined to iron lungs.

Throughout my phone call with Judy, she kept saying that our talk was giving her goosebumps – which is, of course, exactly what I’d gotten as I listened to Todd’s story.

So, to mark this 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, I salute Willard Dix Hoyt, who had the sensitivity and the foresight to memorialize the deeply felt humanity of that moment.

Pam Richardson enjoys unearthing stories of ordinary people and places in her hometown of Wendell.



Montague Community Television News

Catch Up On TV

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – What’s on Channel 9?

“Christmas in July,” “No Strings Marionette Company,” “Extension Cords 2,” and “Mr. Free Piles Very Normal Puppet Show” are just a few of the new videos airing on MCTV this week.

You can find these as well as “The Future of the Carnegie Library Info Session” and “The Montague Community Band” online via our website, *Montaguetv.org*, by clicking the Videos tab. There you will

also find folders directing you to the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings, in which you will find the most recent meetings as well as all of our previous recordings.

If you would like to make a video, or if you know of an event that should be filmed, let us know. You can come by the station at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can email us at *infomontaguetv@gmail.com* or even call us up at (413) 863-9200. And if you see us out there filming, say hi!

103 free episodes now available!



Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Overcast, Castbox, Spotify, & elsewhere...

The Montague Reporter Podcast

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Old Man Sits In Car; Kids Ride Bikes; Bear Swims In Canal; Squirrel Cuts Power To Patch; Cats Get Drowsy; Cars Collide

Monday, 8/4

6:52 a.m. DPW superintendent looking for police assistance to move vehicles from Third and Fourth Street parking lots so they can be milled today. Contact made with a few owners, who are moving vehicles. One vehicle towed. DPW will receive bill for tow, as nothing was posted about cars needing to not park there. 9:01 a.m. Caller reporting that she was dropping her child off at summer camp at Unity Park and there was a car parked in the lot with an older man in the driver’s seat. Feels this is suspicious. He left after a couple of minutes. Report taken.

4:14 p.m. 911 caller reporting two-vehicle accident at Routes 47 and 63. Unknown injuries. All units clear; vehicles towed.

4:53 p.m. 911 caller from Franklin Street states the downstairs tenant is causing a scene; would like officers to respond. Officer states situation under control; informed caller it’s a civil matter and to take it to court.

6:06 p.m. Caller from Turner Street states that she has called a few times about young kids riding electric bikes up and down the road, sometimes apparently without adult supervision. Report taken.

10:31 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states there is a bonfire in the alleyway. Shelburne Control contacted to send fire department.

Tuesday, 8/5

10:05 a.m. Walk-in looking to speak to an officer regarding a theft within her home on Clark Avenue.

11:19 a.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding the traffic and speeding in the Montague Street area. Advised of options.

2:54 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports a male party just knocked on his door stating he sells solar and wanting to give him information about it. Caller states he told the male party this isn’t how it works and to get off his property. Caller feels male is suspicious and wants him arrested before he hurts someone. Last seen walking on Fifth Street towards Avenue A. Officer advised.

3:16 p.m. Caller states he was threatened at Peskeompskut Park. Caller states he has left the area, but the involved male, described as older with long grey hair, is also hitting his girlfriend. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 8/6

5:40 a.m. Report of black bear walking around on Paradise Parkway. Officer checked area; no sign of bear. Another call for bear walking down bike path. Bear now swimming

across canal. Call back; bear went into woods.

10:18 a.m. Caller reporting a male who is outside of the apartment building on Fourth Street all the time banging on doors and looking for drugs. Officer checked area; no sign of subject.

12:31 p.m. Caller reporting that vehicles have been speeding down Turner Street a lot lately; concerned for safety of children who play in the area. Report taken.

Thursday, 8/7

3:51 p.m. Walk-in from King Avenue reports that yesterday a male party stopped at her shed and opened it up. Unsure if anything was taken. She was able to pull up camera footage, but only has the back of the male on film. Would like on record. Report taken.

6:12 p.m. Gill PD radioed that a subject was 35 feet in the air on top of a monument on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Subject was told to come down and moved along. Last seen walking down Avenue A.

8:22 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road reporting injured bear in her driveway; believes it has a broken back leg. Bear is approximately 400 pounds and unable to move. Environmental police contacted; they are requesting lights and sirens to attempt to scare the bear into the woods. Caller called back in stating that the bear was walking on her porch, so she opened the door and screamed, and it left heading towards the roadway. Officers spoke to caller. Bear off property at this time; advised of options if bear returns.

Friday, 8/8

9:11 a.m. Report of male cooking with a hibachi close to the woods at Cabot Station. Caller concerned about danger of fire spreading. Referred to other agency.

10:09 p.m. Caller reports that three or four juveniles in the middle of East Main Street in front of the Millers Pub caused a motorcycle to skid approximately 20 feet. Officer advises parties gone on arrival.

Saturday, 8/9

9:12 a.m. Party from Lake Pleasant looking to speak to an officer regarding a stolen mountain bike.

7:43 p.m. 911 caller from Third Street states her credit cards were stolen off a night stand in her bedroom. Caller called back and advised that a money order for \$209 was also stolen. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 8/10

7:57 a.m. 911 caller from H Street reports hearing a loud explosion; sounds like it came from the empty lot by Power Street. Officer

spoke to another resident who states they heard it as well but it sounded like a car crash towards Avenue A. 911 caller reporting a squirrel chewed through wire and a transformer blew. Sparks active. Squirrel dispatched. Officer advised; Control contacted. Power lost. Officer advises Eversource already on scene. Power restored.

11:58 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports a neighbor is accusing him of stealing her credit cards; when he was leaving his house today, she was screaming at him out the window. Ongoing issue. Would like to speak to an officer. Advised of options. 12:32 p.m. 911 caller reporting a lot of smoke, possible fire in the area of the transfer station on Sandy Lane. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer advises heavy smoke in solar area with flames showing. Officer advises multiple brush fires under solar panels and along fence line. Unable to get gate unlocked.

Monday, 8/11

9:50 a.m. Walk-in reports that his son-in-law’s truck was broken into overnight on Avenue C. Party will provide security footage when he gets it.

1:23 p.m. Caller from St. Kazimierz Society reports someone intercepted checks and cashed them after they were mailed. Advised of options.

8:30 p.m. 911 caller from Third Street states she and her cat got CO₂ poisoning last week from the neighbor running his four-wheeler and motorcycle for 14 hours. Caller reports he is currently running them now. Officer checked area; did not see or hear any four-wheelers or motorcycles.

11:25 p.m. Caller requesting officer to her location on Prospect Street; states her hands are bleeding, her purse is lost over an embankment, and her dog is loose. Officer requesting ambulance to respond. TFFD transporting female to BFMC. Officer advises purse located; bringing it to female. Dog located; however, it won’t let officers get close. Involved party contacted; states he will go out and get the dog.

Tuesday, 8/12

12:42 p.m. Officer reports vehicle into guardrail at Turners Falls Road and Ferry Road. Operator given verbal warning for failure to use care while turning.

3:51 p.m. 911 caller from Third Street states that there is a motorcycle out back and a four-wheeler out front and they have both been running for two hours; she is nauseated, and the cats are drowsy.

Officers checked area; didn’t see or hear any vehicles running.

5:58 p.m. 911 caller from Third Street again reporting noise and CO₂ coming from running vehicles. Officer states no vehicles or noise.

7:49 p.m. 911 caller from Fosters Road was walking her dog and had an interaction with a neighbor’s unleashed dogs; dogs were aggressive towards caller’s dogs, and the male party was screaming at her. Would like to speak to an officer.

Wednesday, 8/13

6:46 a.m. DPW requesting officer to Fourth Street lot; three vehicles parked there need to be moved as the lot is being repaved. Officer headed to location to assist.

3:25 p.m. Large tree down on Broadway, blocking the road. DPW advised. Officer advises DPW on scene clearing tree. No wires involved.

Thursday, 8/14

11:13 a.m. Minor two-car accident at Avenue A and Seventh Street. No injuries or fluids.

1:23 p.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive reports there was a dog in her yard that looked like it went swimming. Tag said “Buster.” Dog is no longer there.

5:23 p.m. Checking on male under band shelter at Peskeompskut Park. Male states he is from out of town and is moving along. Out-of-state warrant; no extradition.

5:57 p.m. Officer stopped by party at Food City; advised party of options regarding assault that happened overnight.

7:10 p.m. 911 caller reporting car vs. bicycle at Millers Falls and Turnpike roads. Transferred to Control. Second caller reports Northfield EMS was driving by and stopped. TFFD on scene with PD. Officer requesting TFFD transporting party to hospital with AMR.

7:55 p.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road reporting dog bite; male party states he was at a residence and the dog bit him. Denies need for medical attention. States other male party will probably call and say that he punched him and that’s why the dog bit him, but that is untrue. Landlord of property calling in stating she is getting a lot of texts and calls warning she is going to be sued; states her maintenance worker was on scene today when an involved party came and punched him in the face while he was sitting in his work truck, then ran off stating he was bitten by a dog. Maintenance worker is going to the courthouse tomorrow to press charges, see MPD next page

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

relieving
chronic pain

Gretchen Wetherby, LMT
413-824-7063

bringing
peace
to tired
muscles

gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

French King
Restaurant & Motel

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
FRIDAY – 8 A.M TO 2 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY – 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
DINNER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY – 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.
CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328

MPD from previous page

as this is not the first time he's been assaulted by the other male party. Involved male called back stating officers should not have been at the residence; he does not want a call back. Very agitated, yelling and swearing, states officers need to respond down to the property and speak to him to get the real story. Original caller called back in stating the involved male wants an officer to his Greenfield residence to photograph the bite and file an incident report. Officer advised female of next steps for male party, who states he just wants the incident on record. Report is being filed. Male can take a picture himself and email it if he would like, or call with further questions. 8:54 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting water pouring out of the sidewalk in front of

her house. TF water department contacted; they will contact DPW. Water department is on the scene and will be back tomorrow to fix. OK to leave overnight.

Friday, 8/15

12:41 p.m. Caller requesting officers to skate park; states an older male is talking to campers and possibly touched them. Described as bald, no shirt, and skateboarding at this time. Officer advised. Not as reported. Male party has been trespassed from the park for the day.

Saturday, 8/16

5:58 a.m. Caller reporting that a transformer blew out in front of the post office on the corner of Avenue A and Sixth Street; advises no power in building. Eversource advised. 4:15 p.m. Caller states a male was harassing her at Food City, then went to buy beer; states he is always in the area. Report taken.

9:58 p.m. Caller from Davis Street states he is trying to go to bed, but the neighbor at Hillcrest Homes has been playing loud music in the parking lot since 7 p.m. Officer checked area; no loud music heard.

Sunday, 8/17

10:51 a.m. Employee from Shady Glen reports that a customer stole money off the counter this morning that was left to pay another customer's bill. Referred to an officer. 3:09 p.m. Caller reporting two-car accident near Keith Apartments. Fluids leaking; no airbag deployment; no reported injuries. Control contacted for FD. 7:53 p.m. 911 caller from Davis Street states she was just assaulted by a neighbor. Denies need for medical attention. Officer states involved neighbor is refusing to answer door. Caller will fill out statement forms.



MUSIK from page B1

age 40. Strangely enough, I started around 2005 as a front person in a Paisley Revival kind of surf-y psychedelic band called The Freeways. I was dating a Berklee-educated, multi-instrumentalist recording engineer, Frank Butkus. We were always artistic collaborators – in photography, video, and music – from the beginning of what turned out to be a very long relationship.

There was a freshness to the approach, a disregard for following rules. I felt it was a good place to start singing, discovering that I had a voice. In our early songs we culled from a lot of what I had previously written, and from there I also threw myself into guitar, exploring and developing a "sound."

Eventually, as the relationship and the band ran its course, I started to apply myself as a solo artist, learning how to record myself, whilst simultaneously starting another project with a friend – this one more experimental and synth-based. That was Violet Nox (2015 to 2022).

MMM: Did you have favorite groups during high school?

KZ: If there was ever a favorite group,

it was and always has been the Beatles. But late in high school I was getting into punk (The Ramones, The Clash, X) and post-punk (Joy Division, New Order). I was and still am a big fan of The Cure.

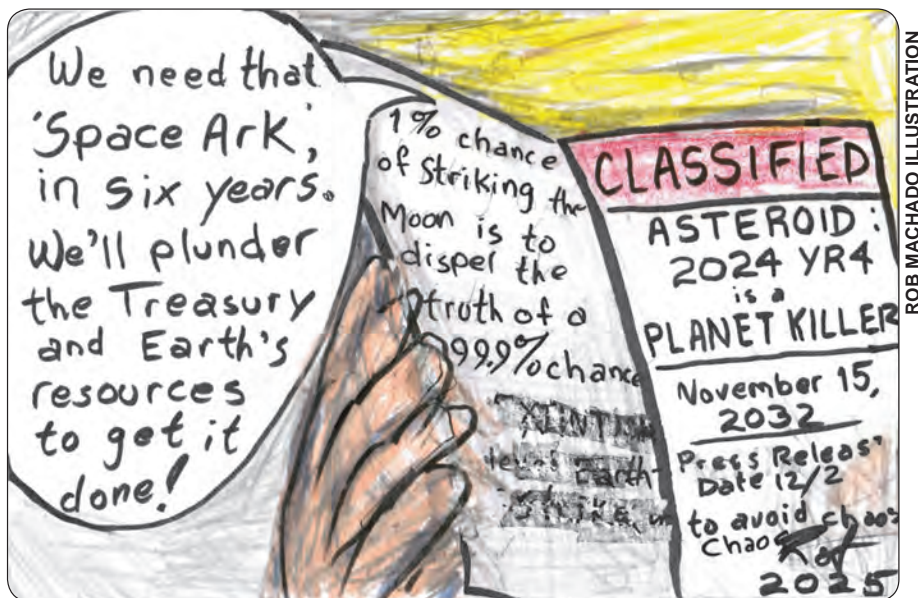
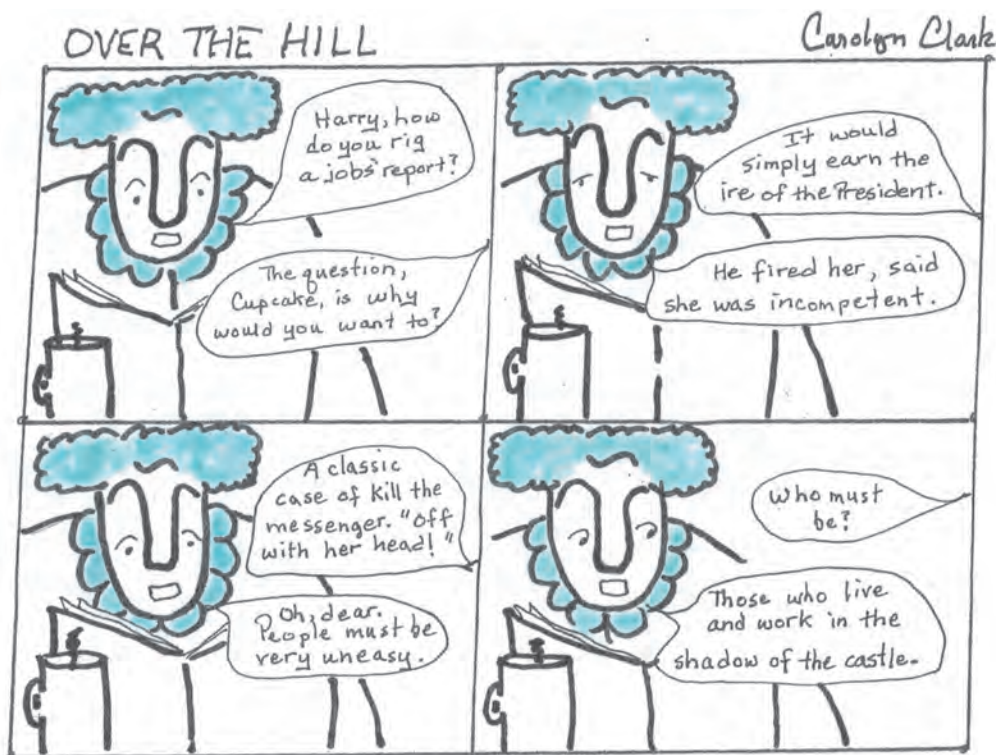
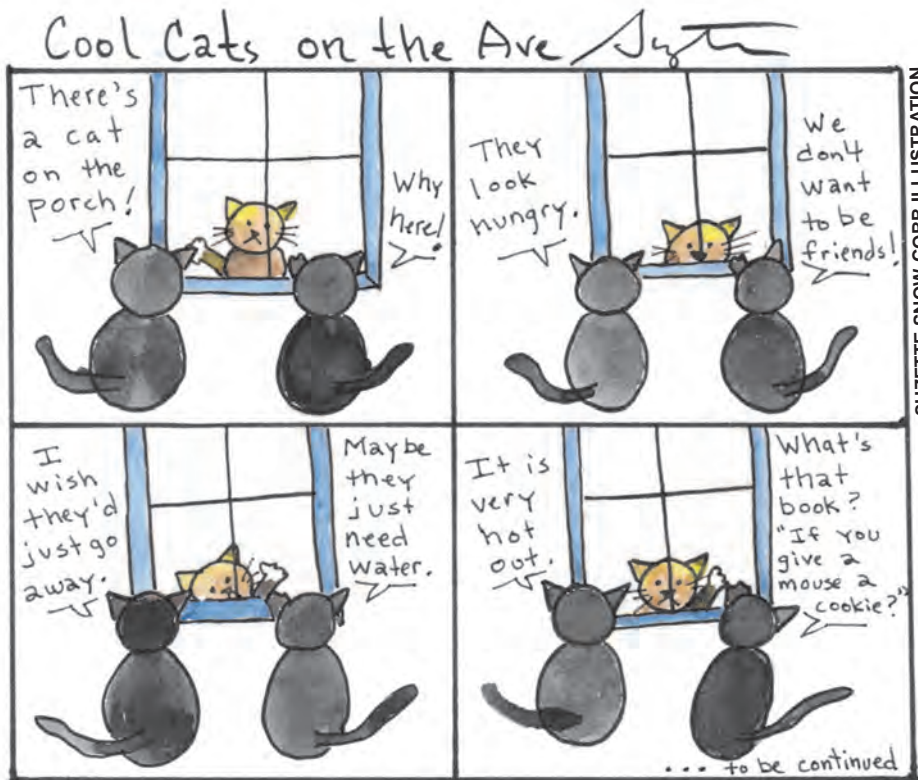
MMM: Any legendary shows you would like to discuss?

KZ: In high school I really wasn't getting out to many concerts, though I did get to see the Police and the Go-Gos at the Boston Garden. That was pretty epic, my first big concert.

I went with two far cooler friends, who were both very tall and named Kathy. When one of them lit up a joint, I partook, even though I didn't have much experience with weed yet. I got so high and paranoid, and coupled with the extremely loud music, I was convinced I was having a heart attack. I was literally mortified that I was going to indeed die at this concert. But eventually, that awful feeling went away and I did really enjoy the concert. To this day, I am not much of a THC kind of person.

The Go-Gos and the Police rocked so hard. I remember Sting played a stand-up bass.

see MUSIK next page



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM 1 !!!

JOKZBCKBNT
BN KIR YONK ZRLAUR
CL O NMCAEPZRY.
- NOTARY SCIENCE

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM 2 !!!

MYST BEE URN
DNIGNOS... Y LNQ SW
IRLAYS YS YI STN HYDIS.
- BALDWIN LYNDON

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG


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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

 **Fabric & Fiber Craft Supplies**
Sewing Studio Classes & Workshops
SHOPPING & DONATIONS
Wed - Sun | 11 am - 5 pm
320 Avenue A.
Turners Falls Ma, 01376
(413) 800-2891

Come on over
to the **Co-op.**

 **GREENFIELD**
Cooperative Bank
NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank
BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

 **BOOK MILL**
440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351
413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

MUSIK from previous page

During my last semester at college I started waitressing at a pretty legendary club called the Channel. I saw so many good shows there!

It was my entry into the Boston club scene, which included venues such as the Rat, Green Street Station, the Middle East, T.T. the Bear's, and Bunratty's. The few years after college and before San Francisco were a dizzying era of Boston clubs and loft parties.

MMM: *Would you like to talk about your time in San Francisco, and the culture of that city?*

KZ: San Francisco was a beautiful era for me (1989 to 1993). So much growth happened, and it's where the seeds were sown for me to become an artist. From the moment I landed in the Haight it was a continual cast of characters and experiences thrown my way. I am still friends with most of the kindred souls I met during that time.

Coming from New England it was interesting to adjust to its temperate climate. Every day was just get up and go. Pretty much guaranteed 70 degrees and sunny, fog rolling in at 3 p.m., chilly evenings. It was a vibe. Pre-big tech, the rent there was very affordable.

What a lot of people don't know is that I have roots in punk – not playing, but listening and attending shows, the people I associated with. During my second year in San Francisco I had a relationship with Matthew MacLeod, a.k.a. Matty Luv, of the F-Boyz and Hickey. That was my first taste of observing up close someone pursuing their artistic dreams in a very assertive, DIY mode. I was still a very shy young woman yearning to express herself, but all that was privately channeled into journal entries. Still, I learned a lot from Matt.

Toward the end of my stay in San Francisco I gave birth to my son – from a different relationship – and I moved back to Massachusetts soon after.

MMM: *You have a unique sound... How did that develop?*

KZ: Playing shows in Boston and Cambridge with the Freeways, releasing our first self-titled album in 2010. Around that time there was a notable resurgence in psychedelic music. The Deep Heaven festivals were coming back, organized by Jinsen Liu.

Through the process of practice and recording, I was getting to know and understand my personal preferences... I like having some reverb or echo on my voice, and using delay and low-level distortion on my guitar. For a long time I played a semi-hollow Epiphone Dot, and my amp is a Fender Blues Junior – with that, coupled with delay, I get a shimmering kind of sound.

Later, as a solo artist and in Violet Nox, I began experimenting with a looper. I found that looping a few harmonizing notes at the start of a song also adds to that multidimensional, shimmering sound. Open G-minor tuning with a slide is also a favorite for recording. Drones and reversed tracks are also elements that I use regularly.

I'm sort of a minimalist when it comes to effects pedals, but some of the ones I have used include a Boss Chorus, an Electro-Harmonix Memory Boy, an Echoplex delay, a Boss distortion, and a TC Electronic Ditto Looper.

MMM: *Can you talk about your use of a drum machine? Have you thought about having a drummer?*

KZ: Great question! I would love to work with a real drummer, someone who really gets my music. I would love to put together a band to play these songs, and the ones from the previous album, *Rockets of Desire*. The reality is that I live and record at home under very frugal circumstances, so it's been easier to just look for existing beats that work for my music. On only one track, a single called "Moonstone," did I use an actual drum machine, made by Electro Harmonix.

A cool beat I used a few times for the albums *Cloaked* and *Rockets of Desire* came from a 1980s Yamaha PortaSound synth. None of my solo work has ever been written around a drum beat. Beats enter the picture later....

MMM: *The opening track of the new album, "Yellow Circle in the Sky," is really magical. Do you want to talk about it?*

KZ: Aww, thank you! Because so much of the album (*Shoedazey*) is tinged with melancholy and longing, I placed "Yellow Circle in the Sky" as the first track to set a tone of optimism.

This is how we start out in life, as children, seeing the world around us as magical. Kind of like the message behind the Beach Boys' "Warmth of the Sun," through sorrow and loss we can look back and remember that innocence and hope, that warmth.

MMM: *Can you talk about the album title?*

KZ: A friend of mine who runs a small label in Germany wrote a quick review of one of my previous albums, *Cloaked*, describing my music as existing somewhere between shoegaze and daisy. I loved that! So it's a reference to my psych-folk leanings. I changed the spelling a bit from "daisy" to "dazey" to reference the idea of haze. It's also the title song of the album, and the lyrics are a manifesto for living based on the law of attraction.

MMM: *Any interesting books or films you would like to discuss?*

KZ: I do tend to read a lot. In recent years I have veered toward psychological thrillers, though my favorite book of all time is *Jane Eyre*.

Film has a special place in my heart as that is what I studied in college. Some of the films I always come back to include *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Lost in Translation*, *Gas Food Lodging*, *Spinal Tap*, *Coming Home*, the *Three Colours* trilogy, *Before Sunrise*, *Thelma and Louise*, and *Sense and Sensibility* – the Emma Thompson adaptation.

MMM: *How have your experiences in western Massachusetts been?*

KZ: Western Mass is such a gift and a vibe all on its own. My good friend and fellow singer-songwriter Allysen Callery, from Rhode Island, first brought me onto a show there – an in-store at Mystery Train Records in Amherst. Since then I have played many shows and festivals there and made many friends.

Some of my favorite Western Mass artists include Stella Kola, Wednesday Knudsen, Reticence, and Josh Burkett. I've been on a few Mystra Records comps as well.



A Journey Down Memory Lane

The 'Second Chance Garden'



By JOAN MOREL

SUNDERLAND – Most of the plants along the back wall of my apartment came from what I called my "second chance garden" behind my former condo – a place across the lawn and under trees providing partial shade for recovering plants.

Ever have one of those? A place to try to resurrect plants you just cannot bring yourself to toss. A place to put plants others have discarded which might have some life left in them: rose bushes, a coral bell, Stella d'Oro lilies, hosta, snow drops, tulips.

Perennials all, found thrown behind landscaping bushes in the condo complex as we trimmed and cleaned them out... except for the potted babies from my prolific indoor spider plants that I just cannot bring myself to abort, and one small spider plant tossed by someone else. There was enough rain for it to survive, lying there in the dirt behind the rhododendrons for two summer weeks last year. So of course I took it home.

Transplanting two large, unwanted, fully blooming rose bushes at the condo complex did not work out too well at first. Blossoms died right out and leaves fell off due to shock, so pruning was in order. Those bushes are back and beautiful again, one in my son's yard and the other left in the condo garden against the picket fence.

The coral bell is so beautiful, with striking foliage and delicate flowers on long stems. Gotta wonder why someone would toss it under the bushes to die.

It struggled to adapt in the apartment garden at first, but – replanted in new soil with its crown slightly elevated and dead foliage removed – it has recovered, and thrives now in a large urn.

I'm learning.

The Stella d'Oro lilies are stunning. Not overpowering, beautiful golden-yellow blooms. They and the Regal Splendor hosta nearby will fill in the area. Dividing both is easy, and will need to be done in a couple of years to avoid crowding out other plants.

Snowdrops and tulips were left in the condo picket fence garden along with some hosta and one red rose bush. Now, in the apartment garden, there are several bushes: a Kerria japonica with yellow blooms; an azalea that covered itself with bright pink blossoms; a small rose whose blossoms look orange until they open to pink. Soon a few shoots of oakleaf hydrangea from my son's garden will join them.

The apartment garden keeps expanding! I did not know if it would be allowed, but figured just to do it and ask forgiveness later. It's lined with large rocks, and solar lights will guide tenants past it safely when they come around the corner at night.

Soon I will be cleaning it up and mulching it for winter. All those spider plants will have to be repotted and come inside before the frost.

And... 20 tulip and hyacinth bulbs from the *Montague Reporter* fundraiser will be planted in October. If you haven't purchased any yet, it's not too late to call! But hurry – September 3 is the deadline for ordering. Delivery is in October, in time for planting!

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

volunteers from his own American Society for Amateur Archaeology, Gramly expects to be finished for the year at Lower Blue Licks in September. From there, he'll drive home to enjoy a brief October respite before going international.

In Vienna, Austria, he'll deliver a 30-minute lecture in November at the Symposium of the International Study Group on Music

Archaeology (ISGMA). His title is *The Description and Absolute Age of a Late Upper Paleolithic Zoomorphic Drum Beater from the Hiscock Site, Genesee County, New York State*.

Which brings us back to the presumed shaman burial at the Hiscock Site, which no one except Gramly seems willing to address. According to the report he will hand out for his November 20 presentation

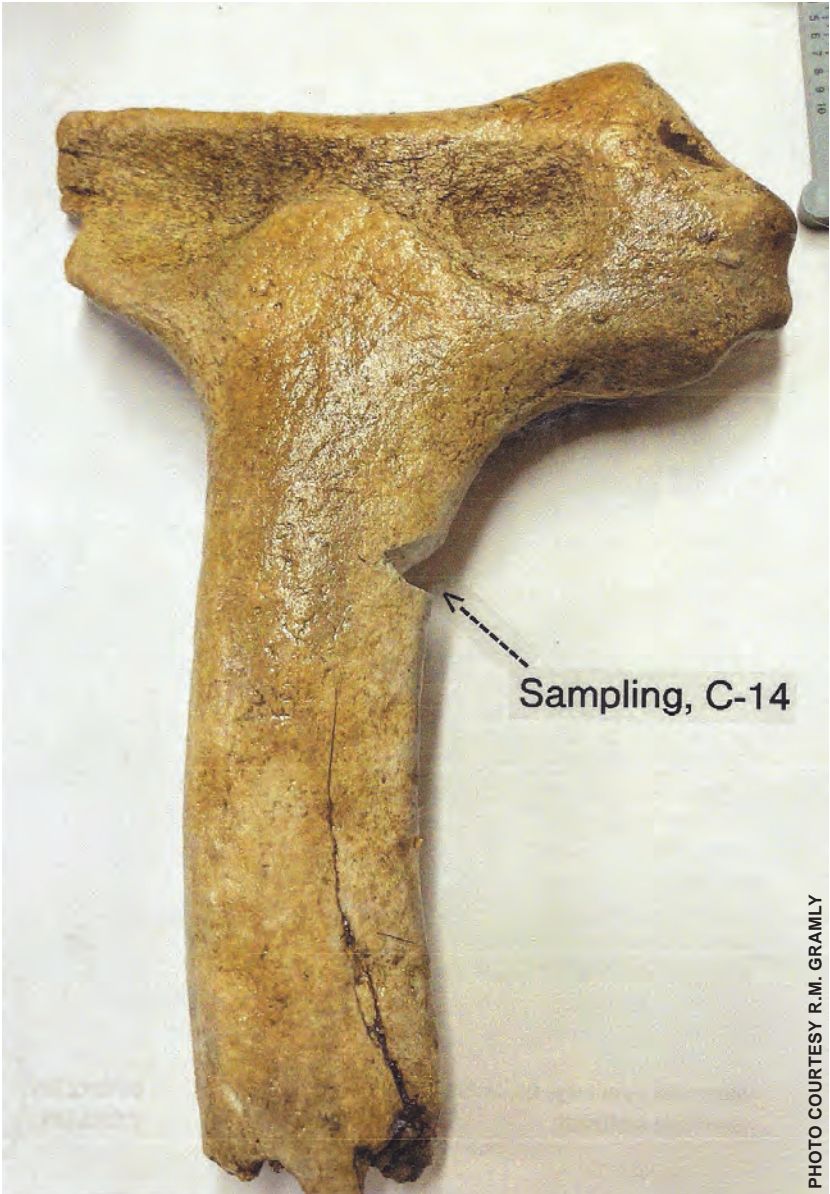


PHOTO COURTESY R.M. GRAMLY

Archaeologist Richard Michael Gramly believes this nearly six-inch-wide caribou antler artifact, found in upstate New York and radiocarbon-dated to between 11,400 and 11,500 years ago, was used as a drum-beater.

in Vienna, discovered along with the fragmentary skeletal remains of a female, aged 27 to 39, were the remains of a sled with tusk-ivory runners, "a dog associated with the sled, and many artifacts of ritual and practical nature."

Among those artifacts, collected near the human remains and presumed by Gramly to be personal property of the buried shaman, was an "heirloom drum-beater" made of what he believes to be either caribou or extinct moose-elk antler. This drum-beater, which wears the zoomorphic carving of a moose or elk head in profile, and traces of ancient red-ochre paint, is the focus of Gramly's ISGMA presentation.

Symposium officials are so eager to hear what Gramly has to say they have already taken it upon themselves to mail him a check to help cover his expenses. A generous outlay, indeed.

The salient questions in my mind are: Why must this venerable archaeologist, a Harvard PhD with mountains of Paleo-Indian knowledge under his hat, fly 4,000 miles to another continent to share his fascinating findings with experts in his field?

And, for that matter, why is it that his two comprehensive magazine articles chronicling recent mastodon findings have thus far been published abroad as well – in the prestigious French journal *L'Anthropologie*?

Is America not interested, or just giving the academic cold shoulder to an old-school archaeologist who's bucked modern trends at every turn and chosen instead to do it his way?

In rigid academic circles and hierarchies, independence doesn't always fly.

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments welcome at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

ED L.
Dealer in used
Home Furnishings
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES
374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
Featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Call (413) 834 - 3128 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
MASK REQUIRED • EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING!

ROOT YOGA STUDIO
51 11 TH ST., TURNERS FALLS
413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM
NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$40

UNNAMEABLE BOOKS

"We buy and sell used and new books"

Weds 10-6
Thurs 10-6
Fri 10-8
Sat 10-8
Sun 10-6

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

WHITE ON BLACK
MONTAGUE
REPORTER
T-SHIRTS!

SUPPORT OUR
NON-PROFIT PAPER!

\$20 TO \$40
SLIDING SCALE

August at
LOOKY HERE

28 Chapman, Greenfield MA

Collage Club
8/30 \$10
1-3pm

Belt Course
paintings and
prints by Amy
Borezo & John
Armstrong 8/29
5-8pm

Morning
Shift: open
write
Saturdays
10:30-12
FREE

Open Mic
for
writers
7pm
\$10
NOTA
FLOF
8/31

Figure
Drawing
6-8 \$15
8/28
9/11
9/25

Disordered
Sonnets
w/ L.
Scully
6-8 \$40
9/3

Interaction
of Color
with Hannah Brook
9/10-10/29
\$165 6-8
pm

The Art of
Restraint:
Exploring
Poetic Forms
9/9-10/28
\$200 6-8
pm

Design
Stationary
on the Riso
9/12 1-4pm
\$80

Making
Altered & Books
with Sarah
Wisby 9/18
5:30-8 \$60

Therapy
Writing
Workshop
with L. Scully
\$40 5-7pm

Submit to Journals
9/13 1-3pm
by donation

★ OPEN HOURS ★
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 12 - 5 PM
WEEKENDS 12 - 3 PM
@LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD
LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD.COM
LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD@GMAIL.COM

EVENTS

submissions:
events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy
Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield:
*Kathy Sylvester & Stephanie
Marshall, Psychedelic
Farm Girls*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton:
Ruby Lou. 6 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners
Falls: *Root Fiyah*. 7 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:
*Lavender Country Line
Dancing*. 18+, masks
required. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Curmudgeon Bingo. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst:
Romperayo, DJ Shaki. 8 pm. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Patch Burger
Pop-Up*. 4 to 8 p.m. \$.

Farm Table, Bernardston: *Kids’
Neon Dance Party*. Dance
under blacklights! 6:30 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
Film, *Black Moon* (1975),
with live score by
Neonach. \$. 7 p.m.

118 Elliot, Brattleboro: Aron’s
Hat, with special guests *Paul
Austerlitz, Bonnie Kane, John
Loggia*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
*Heartwood Trio presents
The Well Tree*. Three-person
musical illustrated by
a crankie. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *The Basement
Tapes: Songs of Bob
Dylan and the Band*, feat.
*Lisa Bastoni, Cloudbelly,
Tracy Gammer, Lonesome
Brothers, Sandy Bailey*,
more. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shaely
O’Dou*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
*Noise Nomads, Belltone
Suicide, Jeff Unfortunately*.
9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Franklin County Technical
School, Turners Falls:
Soccer Shoot. Children
and teens 7 to 15 welcome;
age verification required.
Sponsored by Montague
Elks. Registration at 9 a.m.,
shoot at 10 a.m. Free.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary,
Easthampton: *Josh Ritter
& The Royal City Band,
Amy Helm, Steve Poltz,
Cloudbelly, Red Baraat*,
more. 10:30 a.m. \$.

Riverview Picnic Area,
Northfield: Connecticut River
historical cruise, *Indigenous
Life Along the Connecticut:
Stories from Then and Now*,
presented by David Brule.
Register at [www.bookeo.com/
northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield). 11 a.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Original
Cowards, Brandee Simone*.
6 p.m. No cover.

Greenfield Town Common:
Harvest Supper, hosted
by Stone Soup Café.
4 to 7:30 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
*Mirah, Mimi Fang,
Footings*. 7 p.m. \$.

118 Elliot, Brattleboro:
The Turbulence Orchestra,
with 25 musicians under
the conduction of *David Peck*,
plays *The Storms of Jupiter*, a
“large ensemble improvisation
of unrivaled sonorous
intensity.” 7 p.m. By donation.

Marigold Theater,
Easthampton: *Outer Shapes,
Feminine Aggression, Owen
Manure, Grazer*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *TapRoots,
ReBelle, Bomba de
Aqui*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Hutghi’s, Westfield: *Electric
Bonnie, Eric & The Wildfire,
Vox Pop, Mesmir*. 7:30 p.m. \$.



Atlanta soul-blues classicist Eddie 9V stops in at the Shea Theater this Sunday.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Iris
Dement, Anna Egge*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Trinitarian Congregational
Church, Northfield: *The Power
of Place: Reflections of
a Teacher on the Holocaust*,
presented by Bement School
history department chair,
Meg O’Brien. 2 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Wes Brown
and Friends*. 3 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Couple of
Wanderers*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Feeding Tube, Florence:
*Belltone Suicide, Cycles
Inside*. 4 p.m. By donation.

Unnameable Books, Turners
Falls: *LOCULUS, Elle Longpre,
Zoe Tuck, Stella Silbert,
Catherine Corbett Bresner*.
5 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners
Falls: *Eddie 9V*. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Wendell Meetinghouse,
Wendell: *Honoring Elders:
Divya Shinn and Danny
Botkin*. Bring stories to
share. 6:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

United Arc, Turners Falls: Visit
from *Wellness on Wheels Bus*.
Screenings for blood pressure
and diabetes; COVID-19
tests; healthy living resources;
more. Sponsored by Baystate
Health. 1 to 4 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records,
Florence: *Merci/Super*.
4 p.m. No cover.

Tree House Brewing,
Deerfield: *Ani DiFranco,
Hurray For the Riff
Raff*. 7 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow,
Belchertown: *Number Of The
Beast, Cruelty, Blood Drops In
Both*, more. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners
Falls: *Jesse Carr Trio*.
8:30 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy
Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners
Falls: *Connect 4, Stefano
Grasso & Sam Wenc, Rebecca
Schrader*. 6 p.m. \$.

Energy Park, Greenfield:
*Katie Clarke & Larry
LeBlanc, Zydeco
Connection*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton:
Prewn. 6 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners
Falls: *Three Speed*. 7 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
Nbs Malay, Ezzy P.
7 p.m. By donation.

Tree House Brewing,
Deerfield: *Dawes, Fantastic
Cat, Jake Manzi*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke:
*Sandy Ewen, Bonnie Kane,
Crank Sturgeon, Ben James,
Bob Kannen*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners
Falls:** The Springfield Photographic
Society presents *The Towns of Franklin
County*, through September 30.

**Montague Center Library, Montague
Center:** Paintings by Millers Falls artist
Ashley Liu, through September.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague:
Alessandra Corbett, showing fine art
and prints inspired by life on a farm,
through August. Popup exhibit by
painter *Sophie Theroux* this Saturday,
August 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:
Paper and photo collages by
Susan Dorais, through August.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:

Fragments of Shelter, photos,
mixed media sculpture, and works
on paper by *Hannah Hartl* and
Benjamin Sears, through August.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Words on Art
on Words*, an evolving installation of art
and written work with an invitation to
contribute, through August.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Amy Borezo and
John Armstrong*, paintings and prints.
Through September 28, with a reception
next Friday, August 29 at 5 p.m.

**Deerfield Community Center,
Old Deerfield:** *Old Deerfield Painting
Group*, exhibit exploring the theme
“Through and Through.” Opens this
Sunday, August 24 with a reception

from 2 to 4:30 p.m.; through August.

**New Salem Library,
New Salem:** *Jeanette Stockton*,
new works, through August.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Tenth Annual
Juried Show*, works by 37 artists on
the theme of “United We Stand: Art for
Divisive Times,” through August.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:
Summer Dreaming, group show by
members, through August.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:
Hilltown Happenings, abstract
paintings by *Tuyet Linh LaFleur*, and
*Meet Your Neighbors: A Celebration
of New England Wildlife*, digital art
by *Jeanne Weintraub-Mason*,
both through August 29.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

A Game in Green
vintage

Worth the drive to Northampton (The Vintage Cellar)
and to Chester, VT (Stone House Antique Center)

& now online at agameingreenvintage.com

Together, we're making life better by building
a just and equitable electric future.

Get Started at
revisionenergy.com

Connect With Our Team:
hello@revisionenergy.com • 978.308.9041

Birch Tree Bodywork

Massage + workshops in Turners Falls & beyond

www.birchtreebodywork.com
413.239.4575

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls: *Beyond Trauma: A Healing Journey*. Confidential support and discussion group. Eight-week program in conjunction with the Salasin Project, in person and on Zoom. Register at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org. 10 a.m. Free.

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPMFest* feat. *Conan, Royal Thunder, Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Midnight, Duel*, more. Camping, vendors, sideshows. See www.rpmfest.org. 12 p.m. \$\$.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Heather Maloney*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Highland Avenue, Greenfield: *beetsblog, Harm, Helen Hummel*. House show. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm*, martial arts double feature: *Tony Jaa Is The Protector* (2005) and *The Seventh Curse* (1986). 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White & Rhythm Inc., Giles Stebbins & Friends, Daisy Skelton*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wide Open Night*, jam. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPMFest* feat. *Ghoul, Lich King, Heavy Temple, Goblet, Slob Drop*, more. Camping, vendors, sideshows. See www.rpmfest.org. 9 a.m. \$\$.

Seeds of Solidarity Farm, Orange: Creative writing workshop, *Fables for a New World*, with Terry Jenoure. Register at deb@seedsofsolidarity.org. 10 a.m. Free.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: *Kids' Pirate Cruise*. Children must be accompanied by adults. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 11 a.m. \$.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Kinan Azmeh & CityBand*. 6 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Hands To, Joe Colley, Shredded Nerve, Scant, Matriarch, Kjastad, Magnetic Coroner*. 7 p.m. \$.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Heather Maloney*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Lynyrd Skynyrd*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Haunting Titans, Wishbone Zoe, Fleuke*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sleep Destroyer, August Galactica, Owen Manure, Illicify*. 9:30 p.m. By donation.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPMFest* feat. *Horrendous, Warm, Starkill, Troll Milk*, more. Vendors, sideshows. See www.rpmfest.org. 9 a.m. \$\$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed History Station: Women Who Made Franklin County*. All ages. 3 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Chris Corsano/ Paul Flaherty* duo, *Marcia Bassett*. 4 p.m. By donation.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Bonnie Raitt*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ed Wilcox, Ron Schneiderman, Shane Kerr*. J. Burkett art opening. 9 p.m. By donation.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Renowned drummer, rapper, producer, and bandleader Kassa Overall, shown above in NPR mode, plays Saturday, September 6 in Holyoke. Tickets are still available!

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: Documentary, *Far Out: Life on and after the Commune* (2024). Discussion afterward with filmmaker Charles Light, poet and commune resident Verandah Porche, and musician and composer Patty Carpenter. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Temple Israel, Greenfield: Clarinetist *Sam Sadigursky* and accordionist *Nathan Koci* present *The Solomon Diaries*. 7 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Feminine Aggression, Lung, PMS*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 3 p.m. \$.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Rotating Art Book Project*. Culmination of a 12-month collaboration with local writers. Discussion and refreshments. 5 p.m. Free.

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

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Stoney Roberts' Demo Derby*. 6 p.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Belmont/Kurtz Quartet*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Kassa Overall*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *New Jazz Underground*. 7 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Seth Glier*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lulu Van Trapp, Sexwave*, DJs \$¢¥ and *blush*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 8 a.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Record Swap*. 11 a.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Dreaming in Diaspora*, feat. *Jordan Wax, Rachel Leader, Ariel Shapiro, Weaver, Richie Barsha*, and special guests. Yiddish song workshop, jam session, community dinner, and sunset concert. Rain location at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. 12:30 p.m. \$.

Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Ted Leo, Nova One*. 1 p.m. \$.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Afro-Semitic Experience*. 2 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Chris Devine & Michael Nix* duo; *Mark Fraser & Matthew Duncan* duo; *Becky Eldredge, Ann Cenzano & Mary Ellen Miller* trio. "Chamber music madness." 4 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Henry Birdsey, Nora Knight*. 4 p.m. By donation.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Animal Piss It's Everywhere, Gay Mayor, Demented FX, Hurry Scurry*. 5 p.m. \$.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Stoney Roberts' Demo Derby*. 6 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shannon Lay, elie mcafee-hahn*. 7 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Greenfield Public Library: Short documentary premiere, *Rising River's Edge: The Climate Crisis in Franklin County*, exploring area farmers' adaptations to severe weather. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Tree House, Deerfield: *Kaleo, Quarters of Change, Júníus Meyvant*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bar Jay Bar*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Beverly Ketch, Hieronymus Harry, Anthony Loffredia, Federico Balducci, Hurry Scurry*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Montague Elks Lodge, Turners Falls: *Charity Chase*, 5K run and 1.4-mile "fun run/walk." Register at www.tinyurl.com/ElksRun. 10 a.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Ada Lea, Norma Dream*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Tree House, Deerfield: *Godspeed You! Black Emperor*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Tropical Fuck Storm, Perennial*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Myrtle Street Klezmer*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Daily Op, Easthampton: *Dummy, Mahogany*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Palladium, Worcester: *Dark Angel, Sacred Reich, Hirax, Void*. 6 p.m. \$.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: *James K, Maria Somerville*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Forster Farm, Orange: *North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival*. Music, food, vendors, farm products, kids' activities and games, demonstrations, more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Tannahill Weavers*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Boys of the Landfill*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Nova Arts, Keene: *Joan Shelley, Will Lawrence*. 7 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *EIEIEIO, Snood, Stoner Will & The Narks*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

the Y

JOIN TODAY!
www.your-y.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY'S Y
451 Main Street
Greenfield, MA

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG
AT ANY AGE.
FIND YOUR Y.

Improve Air Quality
& Heating/Cooling
Efficiency

DUCT CLEANING

Free Video Inspections - Log On To See It
Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning
WHAT'S IN YOUR VENTS?!?!
Call 413.422.1192 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Ed Terautt, Owner

166 AVE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA

TUE-SAT 4-9

MOVIE REVIEWS

Weapons (2025): A Double-Edged Horror Hit

By BRIAN ZAYATZ

TURNERS FALLS – In early 2023, film Twitter was abuzz with rumors that Jordan Peele, the comedian-turned-director-turned-producer behind such recent horror hits as *Get Out*, had fired the long-time managers of his production company for losing a bidding war for a script by, of all people, Zach Cregger, cofounder of the comedy troupe Whitest Kids U Know.

It was the kind of rumor a cynic might think was part of an elaborate promotional campaign for the film, of which only the title was then known publicly: *Weapons*.

After a bona fide promo campaign that stayed almost as mysterious throughout, *Weapons* has hit theaters around the world, and the Peele rumor is easier to believe. In an increasingly anemic Hollywood where even horror – a last bastion of originality at the major studios in a sea of superhero flicks and Disney remakes – is becoming a parade of overwrought coattail-riders, *Weapons* bucks trends in favor of a premise at once original and harkening back to genre-defining classics:

The suburbs are damn creepy, huh?

With an idyllic setup already implied by its setting, *Weapons* wastes no time setting events in motion: one night in Maybrook, Pennsylvania, at exactly 2:17 a.m., every child but one from Mrs. Gandy’s third grade class got up and ran away. To where, no one knows.

From there, the story unfolds in a series of overlapping vignettes following the teacher, Justine Gandy; a cop, her former flame; a drug user who this cop abuses; Archer, a bereaved parent; the school principal; and Alex, the lone student left in Justine’s class.

Despite its fast start, the film lags in its first act. Either the script or the performances are a little unconvincing – maybe both – and the characters seem prone to making inexplicable bad choices. But for the patient viewer with a tolerance for these flaws, the tangential storylines begin to reveal cracks in Maybrook that might be familiar to many suburbanites, such as drug and alcohol abuse and a general distrust of anyone outside the fortress walls of one’s doorbell-cam-

era-adorned single-family home.

More inexplicable events soon pile up, and an unlikely partnership forms between Justine and Archer, a hostile parent who shares her skepticism of the police’s diligence in investigating her students’ disappearance. (I’ll warn readers here that the rest of this review is going to be **heavy on spoilers**.)



Cregger claims that many of the choices he made in the writing process were more intuitive than intentional, an approach I wish was more common in American cinema, though it has its drawbacks. The strength of this approach is that it provides something of a Rorschach test, leaving audiences to pick out which imagery we find most foreboding, and to consider why: was it the classroom suddenly emptied without explanation? The animated, incensed parents with bloodlust for a schoolteacher they believe wronged them? The child we suspect is being abused behind closed doors?

The American suburbs, only a generation old when the slasher genre first started poking at their dark underbelly, have fully metastasized by *Weapons*; they are the only world the millennial parents of these children to whom such bright futures belong have ever known. Faced with a tragedy their home security systems – prominently featured in the film – couldn’t protect them from, they have no idea where to direct their frustration. They aim first for the school, and after a short while settle back into their homes, powerless.

Just when the viewer might be tempted to view this as a straightforward allegory of school shootings, the introduction of Gladys, Alex’s string-pulling, witchy aunt,

starts to trouble that interpretation. Gladys begins to use the community’s weaknesses against it, first and foremost the suburban home itself. After possessing Alex’s parents, she needs only apply sheets of newspapers to the first-floor windows of their brick colonial to turn it into a prison where her abuses are completely out of view.

Gladys also needn’t worry that the town’s parents will work together to solve their common problem – in fact, one parent shuts the door on Archer when he asks for her camera footage. The parents in Maybrook share a poor threat assessment common to the suburbs: they are preoccupied with the idea of intruders, and when something does happen, they direct their anger toward the school, one of few public goods left in the town. As such, they’re completely vulnerable to a remote puppetmaster who turns their children into zombie-like shells of their former selves, called from under their noses to serve as weapons. (This might be a familiar feeling to any good liberal parent who finds their child suddenly, uncharacteristically, parroting right-wing talking points from the short-form content that autoplays after their Minecraft videos.)

Cregger’s ending seems to suggest that the way out of this bind, aside from resisting suburban atomization, is to take the agency of children seriously. It’s a possibility the town’s parents never even consider, and though they were right to suspect foul play after the initial disappearance, it is Alex’s decisive action that frees the possessed townspeople, and the children themselves who destroy their tormentor. In a culture that treats children as property, Cregger’s kids possess both the collective desire and the capacity for their own liberation.

In his appropriation of some of the more disturbing images of our current historical moment – particularly in their increasing mundanity – Cregger’s experiment may stand the test of time in ways more heavy-handed recent horror may not.

It is a shame, then, that the one historical image he deploys seems to be used entirely uncritically. As my sweetie said upon exiting the theater, “If you’re going to have a witch be the bad guy, you’d better have a damn good reason.”

Wherever you venture...
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC.

Competitive rates and discounts
for all of your insurance needs!

159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

Fantastic Four: First Steps (2025)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have now seen two out of the three movies that have been made out of the story of the Fantastic Four. The latest, *Fantastic Four: First Steps*, is a very original take on this story. I saw it at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas after it premiered on July 25.

This is not an origin story at all. It takes place on an Earth called Earth 828, and the setting has the look of sci-fi from the 1960s. It’s very different. Pedro Pascal plays Reed Richards, a.k.a. Mr. Fantastic, and Sue Storm is played by Vanessa Kirby.



We are treated to a recap of what has happened with the group since becoming the Fantastic Four – they have done a lot – and we find out Sue is going to have a child. People wonder if the kid is going to have superpowers.

Galactus, the planet-eating being, is still connected to the Fantastic Four’s story, and the Silver Surfer is still beside that being, though this Surfer is a female version of the character. They haven’t really

changed the character’s origin story: she has given herself as a herald to save her world.

Reed looks into whether his son, Franklin, will have superpowers, and finds no evidence that he will. But upon meeting Galactus – shown on screen to be a very gigantic being – this is proven wrong. The family is asked to make an impossible choice to spare the Earth, which no one could make. Though the Four are normally beloved on Earth 828, people are upset with them for not making the impossible choice.

Sue assures people they will have their backs when it comes to Galactus. The Four come up with a plan to literally move the Earth to save it, but that doesn’t work, so they have to come up with an even crazier plan to defeat the being. They manage to pull it off through sheer luck.

People view the Fantastic Four as beloved celebrities. They are on talk shows a lot, and Reed has his own show. We do not learn what Franklin’s powers are just yet, but we are treated to a bit of a show of what they look like on screen.

This is a standalone movie about the Fantastic Four, with an offbeat tone, featuring things you might love about them, including the phrase “Clobberin’ time” and the group’s own headquarters. Reed gives a hint of how the Fantastic Four might end up in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. A character known to be connected to them will also be a huge part of the upcoming Avengers movie, *Avengers: Doomsday*.

I enjoyed this movie, and I also liked the last Marvel movie I saw, *The Thunderbolts*. Marvel has kept up their track record with me of making good movies.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Montague Villages
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
BECOME A MEMBER!

To learn more, volunteer, or make a donation, go to
www.montaguevillages.org

**MYSTERY
TRAIN
AMHERST**

BUY / SELL / TRADE
MUSIC / MOVIES / BOOKS
WE BUY RECORDS

178A N Pleasant
413-253-4776

**Peter Waters Painting
Services**

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

GREENFIELD SOLAR

Local Solar PV Installers
for over 16 years
in western Massachusetts

“When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”
Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

SolarGreenfield.com
2 Fiske Ave., Greenfield
(413) 772.3122
Call for free site assessment!

Turners Falls Pizza House

Family Owned & Operated
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

**PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**

www.turnersfallspizza.com
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska’s Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

**Tile
Lino
Carpet**

Erik Doolittle
landscape maintenance

owner

Cell (413) 834-1531
462 Fox Hill Rd.
Bernardston, MA 01337

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2025 * Our 125th Year

ICOUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

* Commercial
* Residential
* Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326