

The Montague Reporter

Vote on School District Confirmed Postponed

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – On Tuesday night the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB), formed in 2019 by the towns of Montague, Gill, Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick to investigate the feasibility of forming a new school district and drafting a district agreement if it is deemed advisable, voted to postpone from November until next spring a public

vote in the six towns on whether to create such a district.

The vote was 8 to 0, with one abstention – Reina Dastous, who also serves on the Pioneer Valley regional school committee.

The delay was publicly recommended last week by STRPB chair Alan Genovese, who said it had been recommended by staff at the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in light see **SCHOOL** page A2

ALL SAFE AT CUTLERY



Last Friday afternoon a fire broke out in an upstairs apartment at the Cutlery Block on Third Street. The block was evacuated, traffic was detoured, and the Turners Falls, Greenfield, Northfield, and Erving fire departments quickly contained the blaze. No one was hurt. “It had the potential to be a very bad call,” Turners Falls fire chief Todd Brunelle told the Reporter. Brunelle credited his department’s “automatic aid” arrangement with Greenfield for a rapid response from that town, and the vertical brick walls that kept the fire spreading between units. “They work,” he said. Organizers are helping collect resources for the Parker family, who were displaced from their home by the event. The fire was credited to a pot left unattended on a stove.

Special Town Meeting OKs Solar PILOT Agreement

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Close to 50 Wendell citizens came to a special town meeting on the cold evening of Wednesday, October 15, and within 35 minutes had acted on every article on the warrant.

By a voice vote, they approved giving the selectboard the authority to negotiate a “payment in lieu of taxes” (PILOT) agreement with Wendell Solar, LLC for an approximately 2.8-megawatt (MW) solar array and a 2.0-MW battery system at 69 Lockes Village Road.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said a PILOT agreement can work to the advantage of both parties.

Ben Schwartz, an abutter of the proposed array, said such arrangements are standard, but cautioned that it should include contingency plans for mishaps, and fire department input. Citizen Nina Keller said it should cover depreciation in the value of neighbors’ homes.

Board of health chair Amy Simmons and planning board chair Stephen Gross encouraged residents to come to hearings with concerns and see **WENDELL** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD ‘Level’ FY’27 Budget Plans Requested of Departments

By KATIE NOLAN

At the start of their meeting Tuesday evening, Erving selectboard members witnessed assistant town clerk Elizabeth Sicard swearing in new patrol officer Derek Worden.

The selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee reviewed a schedule for preparing the town’s FY’27 budget. Town administrator Bryan Smith will send guidance for budget requests to all departments next week.

The board and fin com members agreed that the guidance should begin with the statement, “Total operating expenses will be level-funded.” Wages and salaries will be allowed a cost-of-living adjustment set by the board and fin com at their November 10 meeting.

The capital planning committee will review the departments’ capital requests in late November. Their operating budgets are due at the end of December and will be reviewed in January, February, and March, with the hopes of finalizing the proposed FY’27 budget and see **ERVING** page A4

New Report Reiterates: Not Enough Homes Here

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – To address the recent spike in housing costs and new demand in western Massachusetts, the region needs 16,766 new housing units by 2035, according to a recent report.

Building Homes, Building Futures, published in August by the UMass Amherst Donahue Institute and the Springfield-based nonprofit housing agency Way Finders, found that in the state’s four westernmost counties, over half of all renters and nearly a third of homeowners struggle to afford housing because there is not enough to go around.

“This shortage helps explain why housing prices have gone up so much – and why many families are having a hard time finding a place they can afford,” a summary of the report by Way Finders states. “Communities across western Massachusetts are building new housing – but not fast enough to meet needs.... [W]ithout more public and private investment and planning, we won’t build at the scale or speed needed to close the gap.”

The median cost to buy a home see **HOMES** page A5

Farmers Planting Seeds At School Up the Brook



Sorrel Hatch at work in the market garden at Upinngil Farm.

By BEN GAGNON

GILL – Sorrel Hatch has sporadically visited Gill Elementary for the past 10 years to cook fresh food and talk about growing vegetables and raising livestock at the nearby Upinngil Farm, but this is the first school year that she is working regularly with an official Farm to School Committee to fully integrate food and farming into the cafeteria and curriculum.

It doesn’t hurt that it’s only a short nature walk along Ashuela Brook from the school to Upinngil Farm, where students picked raspberries and visited newborn

calves and baby chicks in September. The visits were broken up into three different age groups, starting with kindergarten to second grade, then the third and fourth grades, and finally fifth and sixth graders, who are in charge of maintaining a modest school garden. Sorrel attended Gill Elementary herself as a child.

This school year there will be a different theme each month, including making minestrone soup using dried green beans, harvesting carrots and learning how to peel them, and making popcorn with Dakota black popcorn. The carrots and see **SEEDS** page A8

TRENDS Development Permanently Restricted From More and More Montague Land

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER – As we reported last week, the Montague conservation commission and selectboard have endorsed new “conservation restrictions” on two parcels of land, totaling approximately 31 acres, on either side of Old Sunderland Road at its intersection with Fosters Road. The restriction significantly limits the amount and type of development that may occur on the properties, and grants oversight powers to the Franklin Land Trust of Shelburne Falls.

The properties’ owner, Elinor Wright, is now eligi-

ble for a Commonwealth Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) of \$7,500. This would reduce the owner’s state income tax once by \$7,500; if it is greater than the tax she owes, the balance will be paid to her directly.

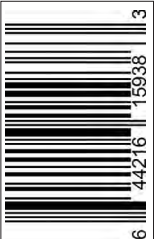
The number of CLTCs issued statewide each year is limited, and Wright’s credit was not expected to be available until 2026, but was moved ahead to this November after another applicant abruptly dropped off the list.

At the selectboard’s October 6 meeting, town planner Maureen Pollock told the board the con com had voted to support Wright’s conservation restrictions (CRs) in see **RESTRICTED** page A7



Thirty-one more acres of Montague Center land have been accepted into the state’s Conservation Restriction tax credit program.

Into Which People Stumble By Accident			
A Pot Left Unattended.....	A1	Trundle the Split Oak and Ash.....	B1
Requests for Disassembling.....	A2	Closing for Turkey Train.....	B2
Someone Living On This Earth.....	A3	Slumped Over Wheel.....	B3
Some Boards Are Rotting.....	A4	Will the Wrecking Ball Hit.....	B4
The True Number of Forced Moves.....	A5	Museum of Nuts and Bolts.....	B5
What It Means to Give Back.....	A6	Soup Dreams, Sound Pools, Seed Saving.....	B6
Swept Inexorably Downstream.....	A7	Mending Circle, Wall Ball, Domino Toppling.....	B7
Bulk Tank Chills and Agitates.....	A8	Found a Seam and Scampered.....	B8



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SCHOOL from page A1

of the slow process of finalizing the text of the proposed regional agreement text to send to the six towns, as well as the board’s own halting public relations effort.

“There had been some confusion in the public now, because of some of the communication that has been put out there,” Genovese told the board before the vote, “raising issues that I think were misunderstandings. And be that as it may, it resulted in comments about whether ‘is this accurate, or is that accurate? And that alone has me paused, and motivates me a little more than I had [been] before... It’s important to have a delay so that we can make sure that we address any information that is not accurate, that we do our due diligence on those issues.”

“I’m definitely in favor of waiting and making sure people have as much information as possible, and giving people a chance to talk amongst themselves,” said Northfield member Deb Potee. “ITime could be on our side. So I’m definitely now in support [of a delay], despite wanting it to be over.”

After the vote to postpone, talk turned to its implications of a delay. The STRPB’s work is funded by a grant from DESE that has been extended multiple times and expires on December 31. Members also discussed the personal impact of extending their volunteer commitment to the regionalization project.

“Psychologically, this whole experience has been very hard for me, Potee said. “What I resent most about this process is people accusing us being a rogue group with our own personal agenda.”

Tuesday’s meeting included a long presentation from Parker Elmore, a consultant with Odyssey Advisors, on the “Other Post-Employment Benefits” liability the new district would shoulder.

Jay Barry of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) was on hand to discuss the regional agreement, which is still under revision with DESE.

“People have talked about delaying this process and the need to do so, and the advantages and also the challenges of doing it,” he told the board. “But the other thing it does give you.... is more time to work on the acquisition of transition period funding. That’s a big task, and so if you have a little more time to do it, that’s a good thing.”

The question of funding for the transition – the dissolution of the Pioneer Valley, Gill-Montague, and Warwick districts alongside

the construction of a new one – has been a topic of debate in recent weeks, following public criticism of the STRPB’s efforts by Pioneer Valley superintendent Patricia Kinsella. The current estimate of the additional cost is \$1.9 million, and advocates of super-regionalization say they hope the state legislature will earmark those funds.

Kinsella has criticized the STRPB’s assessment of the combined district’s projected salary grid, which she says is unrealistically low, and what she argues is a thinly articulated transition plan.

Last week, STRPB secretary Greg Snedeker told the *Reporter* that Kinsella was making “hasty accusations” after years of ignoring invitations to offer input to the process. The town’s state legislators, he said, are waiting for voters to express an intention to form a new district before earmarking funding for the transition, and the proposed regional agreement would make the district’s formation contingent on receiving that funding. He also disagreed with Kinsella’s salary projections, saying that teachers from one district would not necessarily receive raises based on comparable tiers in the other district.

This week Kinsella replied. “I can understand frustration with feedback that comes late in the process,” she said. “However, had the work been done better and earlier, the Six Town group would not be in the situation they find themselves.... Planning is key, effective scheduling is key, establishing benchmarks is key, and sharing all of that publicly not only builds buy-in from workers and the public, but also generates confidence in our collective ability to get the job done. What one sees when looking at the board’s documents is an absence of that type of planning.”

Starting out the merged staff with equivalently qualified teachers paid different amounts, she said, created a large “liability” for the district in union contract negotiations.

“This would be one of the most consequential decisions voters make in our six towns in the next however many years,” she said. “They waited until the last minute to bring this stuff to the towns. What What was the expectation when they sought feedback?”

STRPB representatives will host an informational forum at Turners Falls High School next Tuesday, October 21, and are scheduled to attend the October 28 meeting of the Gill-Montague school committee.



Letters to

the Editors

Stand Up This Saturday

Now is the time to stand up for our democracy and freedom of speech! Join us this Saturday, October 18 for the second peaceful No Kings protest.

It is up to “We the People” to save our country from a dictatorship and the loss of our basic freedoms as Americans. The President is taking from the poor and working class to give to the rich. He is creating chaos

at home with use of the military on citizens, tariffs, and laying off necessary federal employees that keep our country functioning and safe.

We can’t be silent and complicit to the destruction of our economy and country. We the People need to stand up and say *No*.

Rallies are being held locally in Orange (11 a.m.), Amherst (1:30 p.m.), and Greenfield (2 p.m.).

Janice Stone
Montague

The FirstLight River?

Gosh, it almost starts to feel like coal country around here. Except a company is mining the river.

What’s at issue is Erving, Gill, and Montague all having giant Canadian owner, PSP Investments/FirstLight, claw back long-accepted and traditional tax levies. These were staple benefits required of corporations that helped fund services and infrastructure in the region’s towns where a private company consuming major resources and placing impactful pressure on infrastructure and the environment, was expected to pay its share of community levies as the price of doing business.

PSP came to town in 2016, and within two years upended longstanding levies that had helped make standard assessment, taxation, and support a mutual, societal norm. Just as the federal government went into shutdown in December of 2018, PSP/FirstLight quietly broke up their requested comprehensive deal for a single federal FERC license for its recently-acquired Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage and Turners Falls/Cabot hydro facilities, dividing them into separate limited liability corporations and registering them into Delaware tax shelters.

They told none of the towns, or state and federal agencies that had been negotiating under the expectation of that single license and its terms, levies, and requirements over the previous five years. A very unneighborly move by a \$250 billion, transglobal Canadian outfit.

As a longterm stakeholder in the proceedings, when I happened to find FirstLight’s gambit and its FERC

requests for disassembling in a far corner of the Federal Register a few days later, I made sure to blow the whistle. But the law and fairness are not synonymous when it comes to corporate desire for profit. They understood the workings of a country and its courts which have ruled that corporations are people, and money is speech. FERC let the breakup sail through with just a minimal pushback from cash-strapped and divided local towns, while the company held its heavy mitt out for taxes its team of lawyers claimed had been over-levied and overpaid to the towns for years.

Today it seems almost comical to think that we’ve all been reduced to a point where Franklin County towns are entering into PILOT agreements with PSP/FirstLight – as if that giant outfit were some manner of not-for-profit entity, come to town with the great benefit of all as its mission. It sure don’t feel or look that way. More like we all now live in a big company town.

Perhaps, to feel a little better, we should just thank them, and start referencing them as a new kind of non-profit operation. They could be *FirstLight.org*.

And why not consider naming the three-state, 20-mile reach of a strangled, reversing, starved and ravaged New England river – which they propose to share with us over the next 50 years – as simply The FirstLight River. Has a nice corporate ring to it, don’t you think?

Karl Meyer
Greenfield

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PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:
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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Of the mosquitoes collected and scrutinized in the week ending October 4 by the **Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District**, the most abundant were *Ochlerotatus japonicus*, though in warmer Hampden County the normy *Culex restuans* still clung to the lead.

The District has not detected disease in any of the *japonicus* specimens it has come across this year, and this invasive Asian rock pool bug’s relative rise to prevalence late in the season reflects its cold-hardiness as *restuans* and other *pipiens* bunkered down to dormancy.

If fear of contracting eastern equine encephalitis from these pests has kept you housebound and dormant yourself through the warmer months, in other words, it is safer to venture out; the chances your meninges will undergo agonizing or deadly inflammation are way down.

Plus, the leaves look cool, and all the Halloween decorations are fun.

On the other hand, Montague cemetery commissioner Mary Kay Mattiace reminds any of our readers who may have someone in one of **the town’s public cemeteries** that according to the Rules and Regs, “summer decorations must be removed by October 15.”

That was earlier this week. I don’t imagine they kick anyone out, but they do hope the surviving public cooperates.

“[W]e also appreciate the removal of any trees, tree-like shrubs, weeds, flowers, and plants that have become unsightly, detrimental or diseased, or when they do not conform to the standard maintained,” Mattiace adds.

To check what this means, visit www.montague.net, search for the Cemetery Commission, click on the “Rules and Regulations of the Montague Cemetery Commission”

document highlighted in blue, and navigate to the section on “Grave plantings and decorations.”

On a more upbeat note, Mattiace invites volunteers to help with a **fall cleanup at the Highland Cemetery** next Saturday, October 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. “Please consider joining us in this service to the residents of Montague,” she suggests.

Wendell resident Court Dorsey’s new play *Swamped* begins its eight-date run tonight at the Meetinghouse. Country Store owner Patti Scutari announces she is selling tickets at \$5 lower than door price at the Store.

“Please come out and experience this **original play with a fabulous local cast** in our newly renovated Wendell Meetinghouse,” Scutari inveighs, “with new lights, sound, and stage systems in place.”

Swamped will be staged this Thursday through Sunday and next Thursday through Sunday. Resourceful readers interested in gathering up more details should be able to do so without needing me to put them all into this column.

Continuing on about theaters, out in Shelburne Falls they’re reopening the Memorial Hall Theater, which has been under renovation, and have given it a new name, the **Shelburne Falls Theater at Memorial Hall**.

They’ll be livestreaming opera there this Saturday at 1 p.m. (Bellini’s *La Sonnambula*), then on Sunday cutting a ribbon at 3:30 p.m. and throwing a free community party with live bands at 4.

Next weekend, October 24 and 25, Pothole Pictures is back, opening their season with screenings of the Mr. Rogers documentary *Won’t You Be My Neighbor* as a fundraiser for New England Public Media.

Memorial Hall Association president Jim Kessler says it was the theater’s first major renovation since the late 1920s.

Our reporter Sarah Robertson kept me abreast this week of the ongoing **network outages at Athol Hospital** and the affiliated Heywood Hospital in Gardner.

Two Octobers ago, Sarah wrote an article for us titled *Owner of Two North Quabbin Hospitals Files For Bankruptcy*.

On Sunday, the phone and internet outage forced the 134-bed Heywood to declare a “Code Black diversion,” meaning it stopped accepting new patients, though the much smaller Athol hospital (25 beds) remained operational.

On Monday the company clarified that “both hospitals remain open for walk-ins while ambulances are temporarily diverted.”

A receptionist reached on Wednesday told our reporter that the problems were continuing and that she and her colleagues could answer, but not transfer, calls.

The federal shutdown is now in its 16th day, the Supreme Court is expected to weaken or gut the Voting Rights Act, the National Guard is patrolling American cities, the CIA is acknowledged to be carrying out covert ops in Venezuela, our vice president is brashly dismissing evidence the admin’s “border czar” may have accepted \$50,000 cash in a fast food chain bag from an FBI plant but the new Justice Department killed the investigation, said VP is also downplaying leaked Young Republican groupchats suggesting extensive neo-Nazi entryism, the debate over whether the entire economy is floating atop an AI investment bubble has broken through to the mainstream, flooding from a typhoon is devastating western Alaska, etc., etc., etc.

Is everyone out there doing okay? Feel free to, um, you know, write **letters to the editors**.

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

OP ED Town Meeting Members Consider an ‘Apartheid-Free’ Montague

By HEATHER HUTCHINSON

MONTAGUE – On October 22, town meeting members will have the opportunity to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine by affirming town-wide commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all people, starting right in their hometown.

By voting in support of the resolution declaring the town of Montague to be an Apartheid-Free Community, they will “affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinians and all people,” “oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression,” and “to that end... pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.”

What does this pledge have to do with Montague? I took a moment to ask town meeting members to share their thoughts about what the resolution means to them, and why it is important to Montague right now and in the future.

On October 8 I asked Jan Atamian of Precinct 2, “Why is it important for Montague to take the pledge? What’s the point?”

“As someone living on this earth, at this time, I do not want my tax dollars used to erase an entire population of human beings,” Jan said. “It sickens and saddens me to see my taxes support the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza. I would prefer this money to be spent on bettering the human civilization. It should be used at home to build affordable housing, health care, and schools.

“When I view an entire population being denied access to food on my television, it becomes local, for I am viewing this atrocity from the comforts of my home.

“The apartheid-free pledge creates an optimistic path to follow that is closer to the values I cherish: empathy, kindness, and giving back to others in need. The pledge can only foster meaningful growth at the local level, which is a benefit to all.”

On October 9, Maddox Sprengel of Precinct 4 tackled another common question: “Could a municipal resolution bring negative scrutiny, or actual funding cuts from the government against our town, for voting ‘Yes?’”

“This is a crucial moment for building visual, verbal, actionable, and structural solidarity across our towns, states, and nation, to affirm a commitment to human rights and freedom from oppression,” he said.

“While fear is a normal response to abuses of power, responding from concerns of ‘possible risk’ as a reason for inaction is a dangerous relinquishing of our power, and further serves the strategy of authoritarian and fascist regimes.

“These regimes clearly demonstrate their intent to defund programs in opposition to their abuses of power, gut social supports, and work to pit people against one another to distract from the structural oppression they create. When we stand in solidarity against their oppressive tactics, we build safety in our numbers, and disrupt their strategy of targeting individuals and groups that are already most vulnerable.”

Matt Lord, a Precinct 1 town meeting member and chair of the Montague selectboard, provided a response at the October 6 selectboard meeting to the town administrator’s comment that the non-binding resolution would not change the operation, policies, or practices of the town with its passing.

“I think that’s a shame that you would say that, Walter, because the goal of this is certainly to change some policies and practices,” he said. “Just because it is non-binding doesn’t mean that things wouldn’t change based on [it].

“Should town meeting decide to enact this, if there were opportunities to enact the will of the petition here, I would hope that the town would be looking to do so – and I would certainly be looking to make sure it does happen.”

This resolution, if passed, targets the foundation of oppression, racism and apartheid. It challenges a community to come together around fundamental principles of morality and values so that it can create a roadmap for its future pursuits and priorities. As a North Star, it serves as a guide toward freedom, justice, and equality for all, without dictating the specific steps to get there.

We hope you will join your neighbors in voting “Yes” for this important initiative.

Heather Hutchinson is a resident of Leverett and organizes with *Apartheid-Free Western MA*. Contact her at infoapartheidfreewesternma@gmail.com to learn more.

AFWM develops community programming and municipal action targeting the roots of interlocking systems of oppression and racism locally and globally, with education, discussion, one to one conversations, and public events.

FACES & PLACES



“For the first time in 179 years, the Wendell Meetinghouse is now adorned with lettering identifying it,” writes reader Pam Richardson, who took these photos on Tuesday. “A shout out goes to Wendell residents David Scott, creator of the letters; Clarence Richardson, who put the letters in place; Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse board member Chris Queen, at right in the photo above, who had the vision; and Alys Queen, whose good eye helped with the letters’ spacing.”

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WENDELL from page A1

input about the solar project. Gross said it is miniscule when compared with the 100-MW battery system previously proposed for 59 Wendell Depot Road, which was at least temporarily withdrawn last year.

Increases in demand fees for motor vehicle excise tax and municipal lien certificates were approved.

An article to raise and appropriate \$13,924 for the reserve fund was also approved. That curious amount was made available in August when voters approved debt exclusions for a new fire department tanker truck and a loan payment for door and window repairs at Swift River School.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley said banks are likely to give lower interest rates to towns with larger reserve funds, and finance committee chair Meagan Sylvia said a larger fund might pay for unexpected expenses, even health insurance.

Voters unanimously approved Article 4, transferring \$10,000 from the town’s housing rehab loan account for maintenance and painting of the library. The estimate for repainting the entire library exterior is \$22,000. Some boards are rotting, and replacing them and priming the new boards can hold off further damage until Wendell has enough money to repaint the whole building.

Article 5 would have authorized transferring \$1,200 from the rehab

loan account to help pay the planning board clerk. DiDonato moved to pass over this article, and the finance committee agreed. Voters voted 23 to 12 to pass over it.

The planning board reportedly has enough money in its budget to pay a clerk through December, and after that Gross said the town can’t do without a clerk.

“No one would be happy with me as a clerk,” he said.

Tightening Belts

At its October 8 meeting, Wendell’s selectboard made a list with Sylvia and her fellow finance committee member Al McIntyre of items the town might want to discuss with state senator Jo Comerford, who is scheduled to meet with the board next Wednesday, October 22.

Money was behind almost every topic they mentioned.

The consumer price index rose 3.1% this year, and the town is faced with the failure of its Proposition 2½ override vote in August. PILOT payments for state land within Wendell’s borders have dropped.

State help in school funding is felt to favor larger or richer towns in eastern Massachusetts, especially regarding special education, and the prevailing wage towns are required to pay any contractor with employees is set to prices in the metropolitan Boston area and not to Franklin County, where money is scarcer.

McIntyre said he had the sound system ready.

Conscious of Wendell’s shrinking stabilization fund and the town’s limited budget after the rejected override, the fin com members balked at the two articles for the special town meeting that would have spent money from the housing rehab account: Article 4, the \$10,000 to start painting the library, and Article 5, the pay for the planning board clerk.

The selectboard agreed to change the wording of Article 4 to support building repair more generally.

A citizen has asked for disability accommodation for chemical sensitivity. The selectboard has agreed to ask people to refrain from wearing scents at town meetings, but they have no way to enforce that request, and suggested directing air flow away from a chosen corner where chemically sensitive people can sit.

Moderator Kathleen Nolan and clerk Anna Wetherby have suggested forming a committee to discuss meeting accessibility, but that committee has not met, and the concerned citizen has not tried to join it.

State law prohibits holding hybrid town meetings, as it may be impossible to ensure that a person attending remotely is who they claim to be on the voter list. On the other hand, the state Office on Disability (MOD) states that accommodating a person with a remote connection

does not make the meeting hybrid.

Nolan noted that the town of Wayland is trying to get a home rule petition through the legislature to allow remote participation using new software. She said the MOD may have grants to help pay for accommodations.

Other Business

With DiDonato recusing herself, her colleagues Paul Doud and Adam Feltman voted to appoint Ray DiDonato to the municipal light plant (MLP) board through June 2026.

They approved a banner on the common for Ghost Town, a “pop-up trick or treat village on the common,” in the weeks before the November 1 event. That banner might conflict with a banner for the play *Swamped*, running October 16 to 26 at the Wendell Meetinghouse, and board members hoped Friends of the Meetinghouse would be content putting the latter banner on the gazebo.

Citizen Donna Horn asked for use of the town hall on Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13, for the holiday craft fair. She was told to contact town kitchen and town hall coordinator Sarah Wilson.

Horn also volunteered to oversee a changing display of Wendell art in the north hallway of the town office building. She said she already had some secret artists willing to display their work.

ERVING from page A1

annual town meeting warrant by March 30.

Plowing Policy

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory presented the first draft of a snowplowing safety policy. The draft proposes that no driver will plow for more than 12 consecutive hours, and mandates regular breaks during plowing.

“I’ve plowed since I was 18 years old,” McCrory said, adding that in the past drivers might plow for 30 or 40 hours straight. “Just because that’s the way it’s been done historically doesn’t mean that’s the way it should be,” he said.

The selectboard asked McCrory to make some revisions to the draft, including establishing a cap of 18 total working hours in a 24-hour day. Board member William Bembury suggested that each plow truck could have a log book in which start and finish times and breaks would be recorded.

Backflow Devices

Wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders reported that backflow devices on the pipes connecting POTW#1 with the town’s public water supply and with a rarely-used secondary well failed during recent testing. Backflow devices prevent polluted water, such as sewage, from flowing “backwards” into potable water.

Sanders presented an estimate of \$9,800 for replacing the device connected with the public water supply and \$7,200 for the one for the secondary well, though he recommended closing that well instead of replacing the equipment.

Bembury asked if there might be a use for the well in the future, and Sanders replied that there was “no viable use” for it.

The board approved replacing the device

protecting the public water supply. They also asked Sanders to provide more information at a future meeting about the procedure for closing the secondary well, as well as the cost.

Public Transit

As the selectboard members reviewed the current job description for senior center van driver, Bryan Smith told them the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) had proposed a new regional system for managing senior ride requests. If this system is used, the driver would work a set number of hours per week rather than on an as-needed basis. He described this as “similar to a ride-share.”

Selectboard member James Loynd speculated that using the van on a countywide basis “might increase the level of service.”

Bembury said he favored a regional plan.

The board asked Bryan Smith to get more information from FRTA about the proposed regional system.

Calming and Easing

Using \$54,614 from Chapter 90 funds, the selectboard approved hiring Green International Affiliates, Inc. to conduct studies and planning for traffic calming on North and Church Streets.

According to the scope of work, Green will collect data on traffic volumes, speed, and classification, develop three alternative designs, prepare preliminary cost estimates, and present their findings at a public meeting.

The board approved the order of taking for two easements needed for the Church Street bridge replacement project. Owners abutting the project will receive \$300 for a temporary easement at one property and \$700 for a permanent easement at another.

Other Business

The selectboard reviewed a draft job description for a 16-hour per week assistant town accountant, and appointed Matthew Goulet to the cultural council.

William Solomon was approved as special counsel for negotiating a new cable franchise license with Comcast. The current license expires in September 2028.

Tuesday’s meeting was the selectboard’s first regular meeting since September 15, though the board also interviewed candidates for the community services police cadet on September 22 and the senior center activities coordinator on September 23. Katherine Gaudet was hired as the activities coordinator, to start October 20.

The board also voted to hire Jennifer Watroba for the police cadet position, according to Bryan Smith, but then met in executive session on September 29 to discuss concerns raised with the position, and not with Watroba, by the New England Police Benevolent Association union.

An emergency executive session was also held October 8 to fill a seat on the zoning board of appeals (ZBA).

Rural Housing Development, Inc. has applied for a comprehensive permit from the ZBA for the senior housing it plans to build at Care Drive.

The property is within the town’s drinking water overlay district, which falls under the oversight of the selectboard members in their role as water commissioners. The water commission has been asked to provide questions and concerns about the project before the ZBA’s October 29 meeting.

At Tuesday’s meeting, the commissioners agreed to discuss the matter during their next selectboard meeting on Monday, October 27.

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HOMES from page A1

in western Massachusetts has increased by about 37% since 2014, even adjusting for inflation, the institute found, using real estate data from the Warren Group. At the same time, the owner vacancy rate decreased significantly in Franklin, Hampshire, and Berkshire counties, to well below what is considered healthy for the market – most notably in Franklin County, where it fell from 1.1% to 0.3%.

Rental vacancies mirrored this trend, again most notably in Franklin County, where they fell from 4.4% to 1.3% between 2018 and 2023.

Rents have risen quickly – an average increase of 35% across the four counties from 2021 to 2024, according to the report, and about half the renters in western Massachusetts are now considered “cost-burdened,” meaning that they spend more than one-third of their income on housing.

Evictions are also on the increase. In Franklin County, 15 evictions were executed in 2021, and 74 were carried out in 2023. Region-wide, the eviction rate per 1,000 households increased from 3.77 in 2021 to 11.45 in 2023.

The authors attribute this to rising rents, as well as the end of the pandemic eviction filing moratorium in October 2020 and the subsequent weakening of other state rental protection programs. They note that data on court-ordered evictions likely underrepresent actual loss of housing by tenants who can’t afford rent.

“The eviction process can be time-consuming and costly for both tenants and landlords,” the report states, “and often landlords, especially smaller landlords, may use other tactics to avoid eviction... Thus, filings and formal evictions often understate the true number of forced moves.”

Shrinking Households

Research for the *Building Homes, Building Futures* report was conducted with the help of dozens of banks, municipalities, hospital systems, and housing agencies throughout western Massachusetts. The report is a follow-up to a collaborative study that began in 2020.

A major goal of the project is to calculate the region’s *housing supply gap*, which the report defines as the difference between the number of households and the number of housing units available. The total estimated gap in western Massachusetts today is 23,420 units. At the current rate of construction, the report projects this will shrink to about 17,000 units over the next decade as the population decreases and ages.

Two previous Donahue Institute reports issued in 2021 and 2022, which looked only at Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties, had projected a 2025 housing gap in Franklin County of 2,296. The new report corrects this figure to 3,370, but projects it will shrink over the next decade to 2,229.

Franklin County’s population could decrease by as much as 6% by 2035, the researchers believe, by which time one in three residents is expected to be over the age of 65. Seniors’ increasing tendency to “age in place” also affects the housing market by keeping homes for growing families off the market, according to the study.

“Many older households are *over-housed*, occupying housing units with more bedrooms than needed,” they write, citing data that indicates that statewide, “only 38 percent of homes with three or more bedrooms are occupied by families with children...”

“Population decline also affects local economies,” the Way Finders summary adds. “A shrinking tax base can limit funding for schools and public services. Meanwhile, slower growth in the working-age population can create labor shortages that strain local employers and hinder economic development.”

Pipelines and Cornerstones

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) director Gina Govoni said that new housing development is especially challenging in rural areas that lack the resources and infrastructure to support it.

“Western Mass has a weaker economy than eastern Mass, which correlates to lower incomes, lower rents, and lower property values,” Govoni told the *Reporter* in an email. “The cost of building materials has increased everywhere. With stringent local zoning regulations, it is typically not as profitable to build here in western Mass. Projects just do not pencil out.”

The number of building permits issued per 1,000 western Massachusetts residents in recent years is less than half the statewide average, according to the UMass-Way Finders report.

And while Franklin County has some of the highest residential tax rates in the state, Govoni explained, few municipalities have sufficient planning staff needed to coordinate large-scale housing projects. The region’s low population density and limited water, sewer, and transportation services make it less attractive to developers who rely on grant programs and tax credits, she said.

“Other states that have a mix of

urban and rural communities tailor development criteria so that both types will find resources,” she added. “Massachusetts is not there yet.”

Govoni said she believes housing development of all types – affordable, market-rate, and built with accessibility in mind – will be needed to close the housing gap. The FCRHRA and other agencies have been pushing the state to recognize market-constrained communities in western Massachusetts as “Cornerstone Communities” and create a new pool of funding to address their unique needs.

However, she said, chaos and cuts to housing programs at the federal level, including to Section 8, housing vouchers, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) could hinder future developments.

“The LIHTC program depends on investors, who have already expressed their reticence about Trump’s exuberance by lowering what they are willing to pay for the credits,” she wrote. “That means the dollars won’t stretch as far, particularly in weak markets... The wild swings with tariffs have also caused panic pricing in the construction materials.”

Despite the financial headwinds, a number of housing projects are in the pipeline in western Massachusetts. Citing the Western Mass Housing Coalition, Way Finders estimates that 1,150 affordable housing units are in development across the four counties.

Rural Development, Inc., the nonprofit developer affiliated with the FCRHRA, is applying for state funding to help build 26 units of mostly senior housing on Care Drive in Erving, and 32 units of mixed-income housing in downtown Greenfield. The FCRHRA is requesting the state consider the Greenfield project for “Transit-Oriented Development” funding and incentives.

“This raised questions from eastern Mass. staff who are primarily looking for MBTA access, but we have argued that downtown Greenfield is as transit-oriented as you get in Franklin County,” Govoni said.

If all goes according to plan, Govoni said the Erving and Greenfield developments could open to new residents as early as 2028.

“Our greatest hope is for the data and tools to inspire local action,” Way Finders CEO Keith Fairey wrote in a preface to the organization’s summary. “Because while the state can make funding available and drive policy changes, housing action also happens at the local level – at town meetings, planning board meetings, public hearings for zoning changes, and more.”



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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD

The Montague Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 in the Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom to review a Special Permit request filed by **Veaceslav Falceanu** to allow the construction of two 4-unit multi-family buildings, on an approximate 0.918-acre lot, to be split into two separate lots, under Sections 5.2.9(b)ii, 5.3, and 9.2 of the Zoning Bylaw, located at **11 Tenth Street (Assessor's Map/Parcel 03-0-048)** Historic Industrial (HI) Zoning District. Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

INVITATION TO BID
Unity Park Fieldhouse Buildings - Weatherization

The Town of Montague is accepting sealed bids for weatherization of the Fieldhouse Buildings at Unity Park in Turners Falls, MA.

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

Sealed Bids must be received by Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., at which time all bid packages will be opened and read at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at the same address listed above. No exceptions or allowances will be made for late submittals.

A bidders’ conference will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Unity Park, 56 First St., Turners Falls, MA 01376. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. The IFB is available at www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS. Registration is required. Once registered, any addenda or notifications will automatically be sent to the email address of registrants on record. Written questions can be submitted to the Project Manager, Jon Dobosz, at recdir@montague-ma.gov until Thursday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

By: Walter Ramsey, Chief Procurement Officer
October 14, 2025

The Town of Montague does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or gender with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Regional Training: Addressing Hate in Schools

GREENFIELD – The Grand Rising Workgroup of the Communities That Care Coalition – with staffing from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments – is hosting a regional training in collaboration with the Northwestern District Attorney’s office, Greenfield Community College, and the Northeastern University Center for the Study of Sport in Society on “Addressing Hate in Schools and Communities” on Wednesday, October 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Greenfield Community College.

This regional training is most relevant for school administrators, school staff, school committee members, law enforcement members, and interested community members. It will empower participants to identify, disrupt, and confront incidents of discrimination,

interpersonal violence, and toxic speech, with a focus on the school context.

This session is designed to be highly interactive and will include personal and group reflection, facilitated discussion, and customized activities that provide the safe space to challenge thinking and inspire collaborative thought-leadership. Attendees will use practice scenarios to enhance skills and build the basic knowledge and tool kits requisite to develop sustainable action plans.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration at www.tinyurl.com/HateReg is required.

For more information, contact Shaundell Diaz at sdiaz@communityaction.us, Matt Allen at mattallen@massfirehfcareers.org, or Rachel Stoler at rstoler@frcog.org.

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The parcels off Old Sunderland Road will be overseen by a Shelburne-based land trust.

RESTRICTED from page A1
May 2024. In its decision, the commission noted that the land includes “a five-acre field that contributes to the local food system and local economy,” “a portion of the Cranberry Brook and forested wetlands, which contributes to the water quality of the Connecticut River,” areas designated as “Critical Natural Landscape” by the state’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and “22 acres of forestland, which mitigates the effects of climate change.”

Under the agreement, animal husbandry and horticulture will be allowed, but must be accompanied by a “farm conservation plan” approved by the trust.

Prohibited would be “any building, tennis court, landing strip, mobile home, swimming pool, asphalt or concrete pavement, graveled area, roads, sign, fence, gate, billboard or other advertising, antenna, utilities or other structures, utility pole, tower, solar panel, solar array, conduit, line, septic or wastewater disposal system, storage tank, or dam,” though the trust may also approve signs, as well as “energy-producing structures” meant to support agricultural use rather than generate income.

Franklin Land Trust deputy director Alain Peteroy, emphasized to the *Reporter* this week that Wright’s CR are “not considered complete until [they are] recorded at the Registry of Deeds, after the Secretary of Environmental Affairs signs it... We anticipate the final recording in the next two weeks.”

Another regional land trust that holds CRs for property owners in Montague is the Athol-based Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. That private non-profit, which is widely known for its collaborative efforts and publicly accessible projects, holds a CR on land south of Hatchery Road formerly owned by the Bitzer family, as well as parcels on East Chestnut Hill and Mormon Hollow roads.

There is often confusion about the relationship between CRs and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs), as both are state programs designed to preserve land from development. An APR is typically an agreement between a farmer owning five acres or more and the state Department of Agricultural

Resources (MDAR) “ensuring that the land is permanently protected for agricultural purposes,” as the MDAR website explains.

In return for an APR, the landowner receives a one-time payment from the state amounting to the difference between the land’s value if it were open to development and its value when restricted for agricultural use. Mount Grace helped Red Fire Farm put 124 acres on Meadow Road into an APR in 2011, and then transfer its ownership to a new entity, Mount Grace Farm LLC, managed jointly by the land trust and farm owners.

Though owners still owe local property tax on land under CR and APR, placing it under development restrictions likely reduces tax revenue to the town in the long run. Liam Cregan, land conservation specialist at the Franklin Land Trust, told us that towns differ in the ways they assess restricted properties.

While CRs and APRs may technically be removed, this requires a two-thirds vote by the state legislature, which must ensure an equal amount of acreage is conserved in exchange.

We asked Montague director of assessing Adam Tocci about the impact of the Old Sunderland Road restrictions on the properties’ future tax assessments, which was not mentioned at the selectboard meeting. Tocci said he hesitated to comment on properties he had not seen, but suggested that they might be revalued, or that their owner could apply for abatements. (Wright told the *Reporter* she did not plan to file for an abatement.)

While CRs and APRs are considered permanent, they may technically be removed, though under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution this requires a two-thirds vote by the state legislature, which must ensure an equal amount of acreage is conserved in exchange.

The two programs are not the only methods for preserving land. In January, Mount Grace directly acquired three pieces of land on the corner of

Old Sunderland and East Taylor Hill roads, known as the “Four Corners.” The *Reporter* covered this project in our September 25 edition (“Trust Trumpets Turn Toward Greater Public Involvement,” Page A1).

Montague Center resident Walker Korby, one of a group of neighbors that helped facilitate the purchase from the parcels’ previous owners, the Watroba family, said this week that Mount Grace is in “a long-term process of sorting out” the future of the properties.

Korby, in addition to teaching at Greenfield Community College and serving on the Turners Falls Fire Department, owns and operates Terramor LLC, a local company whose mission is “integrated land stewardship.”

Mount Grace, according to its website, “has a policy of paying property taxes on all the land we own even though non-profits are exempt from these taxes.”

Significant amounts of land in Montague are protected as watersheds by the town’s two water districts and the state. The town’s 2017 Open Space Plan, which is currently being updated by the planning department, estimated that the Turners Falls Fire District and its Water Department control 1,512 acres and the Montague Center Water District 24 acres of “permanently protected” land.

Another 3,785 acres are under the control of the state Department of Fish and Game – most of it on the Montague Plains and in the forested area east of Route 63 – and 685 acres are owned by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The 2017 list also included 992 acres under APRs and 686 under CRs, as well as about 62 acres of cemetery and six acres owned directly by the town’s conservation commission. The total amount of “permanently protected land” in town therefore added up to 7,752 acres, or an impressive 39% of the total land in Montague.

This list does not include land conserved in the last eight years, which will soon include Wright’s property across from Falls Farm on Old Sunderland Road.

Mike Jackson provided additional reporting.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on October 15, 2015: *News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

A New Library for Erving

The town of Erving has hired a project manager and an architectural firm to oversee the planning and design phase for an expansion or new construction project of the town library. Three sites are being considered.

Birthdays With a Side of History, Please

Rau’s Sunoco is celebrating 50 years of their continuously run

family business. Ralph Rau, Sr. started the business in 1965. It has been successful over the years, except for some difficulty during the gas embargo in the 1970s and when the bridge to Montague Center was closed in the 1980s.

Not far away, the Deja Brew Café & Pub in Wendell is celebrating its 10h anniversary. Owners Patti Scutari and husband Vic, radical Long Islanders with four children, were impressed with the progressive and tolerant attitudes of this area, and first came to Franklin County in protest when the IRS took over Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner’s house for refusing to pay taxes for war.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 13, 2005: *News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

Miracle No One Drowned

On Saturday, when nearly 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period, Montague police detective Lee Laster was on top of the dam, screaming into his cell phone to Northeast Utilities to close the gates.

Gill fire chief Gene Beaubien was hauling himself out of the drink by clutching the buoy cable as Gill’s brand new rescue boat filled with water and sank. His deputy, Ken Sears, was swimming strongly through the swollen waters, making for shore, while a young firefighter named Steven

Peters, just 22 years old, was being swept inexorably downstream.

Exhausted and seconds from disaster, he was saved 30 yards from the edge of the dam thanks to a rope thrown by David Chandler, a Massachusetts Electric Company lineman who happened to be visiting relatives nearby.

Hanging onto his battered craft was Jim Stuckey of Gill – caught without a life jacket – who started this chain reaction by trying to bring his motorboat to safe harbor while 75,000 cubic feet of water per second was hurtling past him.

Wreckage of the rescue craft, purchased just two years ago with \$14,000 in donations from the Firemen’s Relief Association, could be seen near the mouth of the Fall River on Tuesday.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 13, 1875: *News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.*

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Big crowd at the base ball match to-day.

Braddock & Webster are laying in an unusually heavy stock of hardware, &c., this fall.

Road Commissioner Adams has men at work fixing up the streets.

Miss Kate Gillman has joined the number who attend the high school at the centre town from this place.

R.S. Locke lost a valuable horse by the epizootic, recently, while peddling in Vermont.

This is what they call having a late fall. Frost heavy enough this morning to skim over the atlantic – almost.

There was a rough and tumble fight in the Gambrinus club rooms the other night, resulting in a number of smashed heads.

And now they talk of Landlord G.C.T. Holden for representative. How does that name strike you, Mr. Voter!

K.T. Slate leaves his present situation in the Keith mill, next week, to go into the grocery business in Southington, Conn. He will be missed in this village.

A domestic disturbance in a house on Fourth street, Sunday, attracted the attention of passing pedestrians. Plates and other dishes were shied at the head of the wife by the husband in a very reckless manner.

That old boy who was canvassing for Johnson’s encyclopedia here some time ago, is in Orange now. What a pity none of the good people there don’t take him out and shoot him.

The Montague Paper Co. have had water through the aqueduct from Fall River. The pipe is capable of carrying 2,000 gallons per minute into their reservoir, a sufficient quantity to supply the entire mill, pulp department included, the year through. It is doubtful if another paper mill in the world has such a generous supply of pure water, so essential in making paper.

A marriage notice by mistake appeared under the heading of deaths in our paper last week, to the annoyance of those interested.



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SEEDS from page A1

black-colored corn will come from the school garden.

“I’ve been working with the teachers there for years, but this is the first year when we have a full committee and are planning everything out,” said Sorrel, whose three sons attend the school. “It’s the ‘three Cs’ – *cafeteria*, *curriculum*, and *community* – and I guess I’m the community part.”

The program operates under the umbrella of Massachusetts Farm to School, a non-profit that seeks to increase the volume and variety of local foods served to students while implementing food and agriculture education. The program is part of a nationwide program, with more information available at www.farmtoschool.org.

Sorrel recently traveled to Utah to attend a retreat on how to run the program. Part of her motivation is to share her lifestyle with students.

“It’s important for our mental and emotional health to do physical work with our hands – it’s so rewarding, and it provides a sense of purpose,” she said. “There’s a lot of imbalance in the workplace, where you might have a job that’s entirely sitting at a computer, or doing manual labor all day without really thinking. But with farming, you get to do it all.”

Over the years, Sorrel has become a jack of all trades. “You can go from harvesting in the morning to being a graphic designer for an hour, to being a biologist – I’ve learned plumbing, electrical, and mechanics too,” she said.

Upinngil Farm is a family operation that includes Sorrel’s brother Malcolm Crosby and their parents, Clifford Hatch and Patricia Crosby, along with Sorrel’s husband Isaac Bingham. Just this year Clifford stepped down from his role as sole proprietor and a new LLC was formed, so the farm is now co-owned by the entire extended family, including Sorrel’s

brother Rhys Hatch and his wife Ayesha, who live in Washington, D.C.

At the heart of the operation are anywhere from 10 to 15 cows that produce raw milk for sale, overseen by herdswoman and cheesemaker Sarah Porrovecchio. Clifford manages the cheesemaking process, specializing in a mozzarella-like “Upinngillar” cheese and a Swiss-like “Upinnzellar” brand. Isaac is in charge of infrastructure and oversees the pigs and chickens along with Sorrel, who also manages the quarter-acre market garden on Main Road.

A detailed accounting and photos of the 15 or so people who work at the farm can be found at upinngil.com.

Together with market gardener Emma Lindale, Sorrel has been applying regenerative agriculture concepts to reduce the amount of carbon released into the air, and maximize the carbon kept in vegetation in the market garden. Rather than till and harrow twice a year, they create thin strips of plantings and keep weeds down with reusable black fabric and mulch.

Upinngil sells its own vegetables along with produce from Bascom Hollow Farm in Gill and Picadilly Farm in nearby Winchester, New Hampshire, and fruit from Clarkdale Fruit Farms in Deerfield and Pine Hill Orchard in Colrain.

“You can’t grow everything all the time,” said Sorrel. “You need a whole community of growers.”

Because Upinngil stopped growing grain in 2020, the bakery uses flour made by Ground Up in Holyoke and Farmer Ground in upstate New York to bake everything from croissants to sourdough bread. Ninety percent of the hay for the cows comes from their own fields.

Along with selling between two and four dozen eggs a day depending on the season, Upinngil has numerous loyal customers for their raw milk, which is tested randomly each month by a state health agent.

“We keep it clean from beginning to end,” said Sorrel. “It’s one hour of milking and two hours of sanitizing. Once people try it they never want to drink anything else. Raw milk is healthier for a lot of reasons because it has natural enzymes that make it way easier to digest.” Milking is done with pails, “the old-fashioned way,” and is poured into a shiny bulk tank where it’s agitated and chilled.

Before Clifford bought what’s now Upinngil Farm in 2000, Sorrel grew up working side by side with her father on his farm on Center Road.

“I remember working with my father all the time, helping him dig potatoes, picking up melons, harvesting leeks – back then we raised sheep and bees and had one cow, but we’ve evolved since then,” she said. “The dairy created the retail business, and now instead of selling vegetables wholesale we sell everything we produce right here at the farm.”

Open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., the store and bakery at Upinngil are busy with people coming and going, including a rope swing for kids, who may also enjoy visiting the hens or taking a look at a newborn calf in the barn.

“It’s a nice community space,” said Sorrel, as the smell of baked goods wafted in the air. “I enjoy focusing on feeding my neighborhood and the community.” Now, thanks to the Farm to School program, Gill Elementary is officially part of the Upinngil family.

“Farming builds physical stamina and endurance, and we use a lot of different skills every day,” she said. “It’s something I want children to learn, whether they choose to be farmers or not.”



Top: A calf looks for milk from its mother at Upinngil Farm. Above: The farm’s bulk tank chills and agitates raw milk.



Upinngil won first place in the “Family Display” category at this year’s Franklin County Fair. Volunteer florist Sadie Miller created the flower arrangement, Emma Lindale grew and arranged the vegetables, and Kayla Riddell, Phoebe Matthews, and Sana Wells-Tolley made the pies and baked goods.

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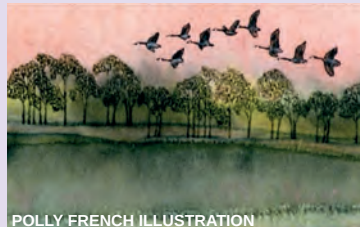


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NINA ROSSI PHOTO

features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER OCTOBER 16, 2025



WEST ALONG THE RIVER
COME THE RITES
OF OCTOBER

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – I find myself spending these October days carrying firewood and watching birds. I look wistfully at the woodpile I so carefully and artfully constructed at the far end of the house lot. It is one of those monuments that are built up in order to be torn down. This happens every year, one of the rites of October, along with the leaves that come raining down. Moving the woodpile is one of the ritual benchmarks of the year’s journey through the seasons. I take apart, not without a twinge of regret, the chipmunk’s *château*, which is also the summer home of garter snakes and wooly bears. I trundle the split oak and ash to the back porch. I rebuild once more the sculptured walls of wood rows in the shed, so as to have all that wood handy near the back kitchen door when the cold weather comes. An old Yankee joke recounts that some old-timers used to take so much pride in their woodpile that they would occasionally bevel the ends of the split wood to make a neater row. I don’t quite go that far, but I do enjoy building my woodpile over yonder, forming a circle in what I believe is an old Scandinavian or German pattern. The circle is free-standing and self-supporting, with no posts or wires. The drying circle is a thing of beauty to behold, and after two years in place drying by itself it turns a fine amber color of cracked weathered wood. It is, as I said, hard to tear it down, but that’s ironically what was meant to happen when I first built it. With the restacking of the wood rows inside the shed on the back porch I set the stage for my yearly migrations. Right now, that migration is at midpoint. In late autumn and winter I start out from my east-facing writing workshop in the woodshed, my

back to the woodpile that warms in the faint sun of January, February, and March. In April, I migrate from the shed about 10 feet across the deck to face south, setting my chair up just right to catch the clear blue sky of spring. Then the summer season brings me and my Adirondack chair to a favorite spot in the shade under the cherry tree, while hummingbirds buzz and divebomb each other, fighting over who is to claim the nectar of the flowering honeysuckle next to me. Over the span of the yearly cycle, I’ve moved 20 feet from my starting point in the cold-weather woodshed. I’ve gone from one end of the deck to the other, and today I’m back at my April-and-October midpoint once more. In a month I’ll be hunkered down in the woodshed like last November, my back against the warming wood, my notebook opened to a new page. And the year’s cycle will begin over. Now, in mid-October, the golden days are done and gone. Rain brings down more leaves, and the catbird has guzzled the last of the chokeberries before one last flick of the tail, one last bath beneath the dogwood. She has left us, flying away one October night. Down in the lower eight acres of great-grandfather’s fields, which have gone to woodlands over the past 90 years, the shimmering yellow leaves of the maples are threatening to drop down in the chill wind. Those woods glow golden most late afternoons. But on a day like today, the gray sky is empty, ragged storm clouds drift down from the nor’easter off the coast. This is October: gold and red blaze one day, sere, bare, and gray the next. The night before the first frost, all of the indoor plants were brought in from their summer see **WEST ALONG** page B4



KEVIN BRULE PHOTO

Garter snakes in the author’s woodpile last month.

Above: The season’s offerings at Kolakoski Farm Stand on Routes 5 and 10 in Deerfield.

High School Sports: Doubling Down

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week the Franklin Tech Football Eagles defeated Greenfield while the Turners Falls volleyballers and Tech’s girls’ soccer team registered wins. And on Wednesday, Turners

hosted a soccer/field hockey double-header, winning both games. **Field Hockey** *TFHS 2 – Mahar 1* Soccer began first during Wednesday’s double-header, and because they play for 80 minutes

while field hockey has 15-minute quarters, some of the blue-shirted field hockey players were able to enjoy the last five minutes of the soccer game. Although it was technically 57 degrees at game time, an icy breeze cut through blankets and winter jackets. But the concession stand was open, and Paul Wonsey and his crew kept the coffee and hot chocolate flowing, and even offered steaming hot ramen noodles. The field hockey field was pretty slippery; the play was physical, and multiple corner shots were called. But both defenses did their jobs, keeping the score to 1-1 until the fourth quarter. Those two goals came early. Turners drew first blood after just four and a half minutes, as Khalifa Seck fed the ball to Anna McCarthy who slapped it into the net. Mahar tied it up a minute later. For the rest of the half, neither team could put the ball into the net, and the score was still knotted at 1-all when the horn sounded. I have to admit that I mostly missed the third quarter because I was at see **SPORTS** page B8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Left to right: Ava Laffey, Neraeb Woods, and Eva Lareau vie for the ball as the Turners Falls Thunder hosted the Mahar Senators for a late-season game Wednesday.

THE SECOND VERSE:
What’s Next for the Local Music Scene

By LUKE DEROY

TURNERS FALLS – Music can turn a room full of strangers into a community. It’s much more than entertainment. Music is the soundtrack of our lives, and of the times. Movements begin when local artists find each other and decide their voices matter together. Western Massachusetts sits at a perfect crossroads between New York, Boston, Burlington, Hartford, Portsmouth, and Albany. Songwriters and bands have historically blossomed in the Valley. Influential acts like Dinosaur Jr., And The Kids, and The Suitcase Junket started here. Now other rising names like Prewn and Kimaya Diggs are gaining notoriety beyond the local scene. Yet there is also a level of isolation. The Valley is not lacking talent, but it can lack cohesion and connection between artists, scenes, and the audiences that have yet to discover their favorite local act. This new column is a step toward weaving these threads together. One local artist who I see constantly creating space for this energy to thrive is **Tobey Sol LaRoche**. If you don’t know him personally, there is a good chance you’ve seen his posters around. He hosts open mic nights up and down the Connecticut River Valley, and plays his own shows at venues all over the area. At Tobey’s open mics, people are welcomed warmly and encouraged out of their shells. The spaces feel like home due to the glow he exudes. Tobey has become a steady hand weaving together the fabric of the Western Mass scene. Vibrant energies and sounds are given space due to his dedication.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tobey Sol LaRoche hosts an open mic last year at Easthampton’s Marigold Theater.

However, his own songwriting is just as worthy of the space and praise he gives to others. Filled with vivid lyrical snapshots and poetic but plainspoken language that stays with you, his songs are as vulnerable as secrets, adding to the draw that brings other musicians out of their shells in his presence. In our interview, Tobey tells me he is inspired by the local scene, and spends most of his personal time listening to other local artists. “It feels amazing that I know the people that I’m hearing,” he says. He is particularly see **SECOND VERSE** page B2

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘WEDNESDAY’

Are you looking to truly change the life of a homeless animal?

Wednesday, a two-year-old domestic shorthair, came from a home where there were too many animals for her to receive the care and attention she deserved. Despite her rough start, in just a short time at the shelter she’s proving to be resilient and full of heart.

Wednesday is used to living with many cats, and will be an excellent companion for other cats. She is a great choice for patient, kind people

with a quiet household who want to make a difference for a cat few people have the patience to help. She may not be great for a busy household, or one with young children.

If you’re ready to adopt now: come to the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield during our open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., call us at (413) 781-4000, or visit www.dakinhumane.org. Adoption fees for Wednesday, and many other animals, are 50% off in October!

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 20 THROUGH 24

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 10/20

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Game
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 10/21

Closing for Turkey Train –
Bus Departs 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday 10/22

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/23

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

Friday 10/24

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting
Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 10/20

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

Tuesday 10/21

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

3 p.m. Tai Chi

4:15 p.m. Spanish Lessons

Wednesday 10/22

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 10/23

1 p.m. Pitch
4:30 p.m. Tech Forum

Friday 10/24

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

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is October 21. 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 November 5. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

SECOND VERSE from pg B1

inspired by young people coming onto the scene and participating in the work of creating spaces that foster free thinking.

Tobey credits his spirit of positive change to his upbringing in the Baha’i faith. “When I’m up on stage, I’m always spreading the word of unity,” he says. He often speaks and sings of love and loss, and the importance of staying connected with one another.

He tells me he is saddened, but not discouraged, with the difficult times we are currently facing, and sees the current period as a time of transition. Optimistic and visionary, he imagines a future where artists and all people are connected and work together to create a safe and happy place for all to live.

“Things are amorphous,” Tobey says, “always about to be something. We just have to allow them to be.”

Another person I see embodying this warmth is **Kara Kharma**, who has been organizing events at The National Spiritual Alliance (TNSA). Since 1913 the community in Lake Pleasant has gathered for song and story at the center of the village, the large Thompson Temple building standing as a sacred space for spirit, healing, and togetherness.

Kara is TNSA’s treasurer, and has been touching base with a variety of local artists and encouraging

them to use the building for workshops, concerts, and other activities.

This historic structure, with its peaked wooden ceiling and resonant acoustics, is evolving into a listening space unlike any bar. Music is tied to spiritual practice here, much more than background noise, and alcohol is absent by design – the focus is on healing, openness, and presence.

(Disclosure: I’m among the performers Kara has convinced to organize events at TNSA – come by this Saturday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. for The Listening Room. We’ll have cider and donuts and I’ll play a set!)

Through music, story, and shared stillness, this lakeside space invites reflection. The National Spiritual Alliance celebrates togetherness and nurtures curiosity and connection. Here the spirit can breathe.

Also emphasizing the desire for culture, art, and music in the Valley in recent weeks have been the town-sanctioned **Porchfests**. Tobey himself was a highlight at the Easthampton Porchfest, which took place October 4. The first Williamsburg Porchfest on September 13 was a wonderful experience as well.

Handmade crafts, ingredients, and bespoke combinations straight from many local farms make great gifts for oneself or others. As a musician and performer, I played a set at the Williamsburg Porchfest

after someone dropped out on the day of the event.

A Porchfest-style event happens in Montague Center, though not every year – it’s called Good Music Makes Good Neighbors – and there have been whispers of starting one up on the Patch in Turners next year. A Patchfest, if you will.

A little about me: I am a songwriter. I went to Amherst High, studied jazz with Ellen Cogen, Bob Ferrier, and John Mason at Holyoke Community College, and then spent two years training at Berklee College of Music as a songwriter and performer. Since then I’ve performed at local venues like the Iron Horse, the Drake, and the Stone Church, as well as around the country.

Since settling back in the area with my partner and son, I’ve witnessed firsthand the desire and ability in this community to create welcoming spaces and energy that remind us of what is valuable beyond our basic material needs.

In this periodic column I plan to highlight different parts of our at-times disparate scene, and show that we are not as separate as we may seem. When people get together and trade ideas, they learn to support one another. The Connecticut River Valley already has the talent. What matters now is that we build the mutual support to let it thrive.



MORE SCENES

Happy, Nice, Spooky, Evolving

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

TURNERS FALLS – If you are a resident or business owner in the “Happy Valley,” a.k.a. Western Massachusetts, you know that we are a breed unto ourselves.

My six-year-old granddaughter Delaney, now living in Westchester County, repeatedly asks me: “Grandma... why is where you work and where you live” – 500 Avenue A in Turners Falls, and Hope Street in Greenfield – “so special? Can the Happy Valley be other places, too?”

It was hard to explain to Delaney at first. I mean... if you live in the “Happy Valley,” you innately know why it’s called that and why you reside here.

Eventually, I found the words: “People’s hearts are lighter here because they believe in the healing power of Art, and being as kind as possible.”

And with that she smiled, brightly, and filed the explanation away for future Q&A sessions.

Still, “the times they are a-changin’,”; and because people aren’t as “happy” these days, we are called to up our game.

“For months a group of folks in Turners Falls has been in the process of creating a dynamic ‘third space,’ neighboring the skate park and the ballfield,” Peter Chilton explains.

“The Nice District is a place that invites people to come together using what has traditionally, always, drawn community into a healthy balance: food, art, recreation, grassroots participation, and most importantly, neighborhood-driven experiences that are rooted in local culture and open to all,” he says. “And yes. We call this haven: the Nice District!”



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Above: The Nice District hosted a First Friday event on October 3 as the Bug Museum Parade, Skeleton Crew Theater trolls, and Montague Shakespeare Festival players converged on the Great Ghouls Night Market. The premiere of a short original musical, How The Moth Fell In Love With The Light, was well-received.

To initiate this movement of hope, the Nice District is hosting an inaugural community event: “Spooky Tails”! On the afternoon of Friday, October 24, dog lovers from throughout the area will gather at the newly-established Nice District, at 147 Second Street, to celebrate their pups and the Halloween season.

Dogs are invited to join in all things Halloween by dressing in costume. From 3 to 7 p.m., caricaturist Matt Bernson will be waiting at the Nice District encampment to meet, greet, and capture each pup at its peak of perfection. A contest will simultaneously run alongside Matt’s free caricature sessions, as well as live music from Glenn Love.

Good and fun will abound. I’m told dogs – and the occasional rogue “dog owner” – must be leashed. Peter has invited Adams Donuts to be a sponsor and a sup-

porting presence, and other vendors will join the celebration, including Mohawk Grill, which serves Palestinian and Middle Eastern cuisine: plates, sandwiches, and starters, featuring falafel, hummus, and shawarma meats.

Email thenicedistrict@gmail.com for details on how to get involved, whether you have a canine-related business – there is no fee for table space – or just want to volunteer. The point of this initiative is to change “the climate” out there by being supportive and helpful to others.

“Spooky Tails is evolving hour to hour, and so is the Nice District,” Peter says. “This is our way of highlighting this community space on Second Street by inviting other groups to get involved and host an event to bring the people of the Happy Valley back together. Let us remind each other of who we are.”

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ARTIST PROFILE

Anna Bayles Arthur



Anna Bayles Arthur's painting The Messenger.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The LAVA Center in Greenfield has become a decent place for me to find artists to write profiles on. The latest one to add to the list is Anna Bayles Arthur. In fact, she has a show there at the moment.

“I have been making artwork for most of my life,” she told me. She also mentioned that this is the first time she has shown her art at the LAVA Center. Other places it has been shown are Split Level Gallery/ A.P.E. in Northampton, and Anchor House of Artists/New England Visionary Artists Museum, Northampton, and Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College.

Arthur said, in her own words, that her work is “generally well-received,” but added: “They want to be able to identify something in the work, and they play out a kind of Rorschach test.... These images come from a mysterious place within; they are a melding of memory, dream, and invention.”

She added, “I have been fascinated with the idea of portals since I was a small child.”

Arthur said her friends and family are generally supportive of her art, but she feels they have similar feelings to other people’s opinion

of her art, though “I do feel that my dedication to the practice of art-making is something that my family and peers find remarkable.”

She told me she didn’t have any formal background in art until entering a fine arts program at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. She did a two-year graduate assistantship in printmaking at Bucknell University.

Arthur makes series of watercolor drawings, which can take months to finish. “I create dynamic grounds with washes of watercolor or acrylic, then layer with oil paint, wax medium and pencil,” she explained.

I found some of her art very interesting to look at. She has also made at least one painting that doesn’t just consist of shapes and things, but has a bird in it. That painting is called *Messenger*.

I have been told that for Arthur, art-making has always been more of a calling than a career. She has been living and working in the same studio in Northampton since 2006. Some of her paintings are on her website at www.annabaylesarthur.org, and she can be contacted there to ask about purchasing them.

Anna Bayles Arthur’s exhibit Selected Paintings is on view through October at the LAVA Center, 324 Main Street in Greenfield.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

October is Co-op Month

FRANKLIN COUNTY – This October, co-operatives and credit unions across the US are celebrating Co-op Month, observed nationally since 1964. The theme for this year, “Co-operatives Build a Better World,” was chosen by the National Cooperative Business Association to raise awareness of co-ops as a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

To help celebrate, Governor Maura Healey officially proclaimed October as Co-op Month in Massachusetts, noting that “co-operatives and credit unions are businesses locally owned by everyday people who join together to achieve shared goals, solve a challenge, or meet a community need.”

Healey’s proclamation also notes that the UN General Assembly declared 2025 the second International Year of Co-operatives, acknowledging the contribution of the move-

ment to sustainable economic development. One in three Americans are members of at least one co-op, and the International Cooperative Alliance estimates that globally around one billion people are co-op members, and 10% of the world’s population is employed by co-operatives.

Stop in at your local food co-op during Co-op Month to learn more about what makes co-operatives different. While you’re there, look for the “Go Co-op” signs on the shelves that identify co-op made products.

You may be surprised by what you can find, including dairy products from Cabot and Organic Valley, fresh produce from Deep Root, fairly traded coffee from Dean’s Beans and Equal Exchange, La Riojana wines, farm and garden supplies from FEDCO, naturally fermented vegetables from Real Pickles – and many others.

For more information, visit www.nfca.coop/Co-opMonth.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rampaging Rooster; Blown Leaves; Unwanted People; Fire At Cutlery; Lost Kayakers; Pizza House Napper

Monday, 10/6

10:35 a.m. Montague Housing Authority requesting MPD contact animal control for a loose rooster in the area of Keith Apartments. Animal control officer notified and responding. No rooster found in area, and caller did not answer door. ACO left a door tag and voicemail for party; will continue to check area. 3:51 p.m. 911 caller reporting motorcycle accident with possible injuries at Routes 47 and 63. Fluids leaking. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Party removed to hospital; tow requested. Officer requesting MassDOT be notified; oil spill in road caused accident. MCFD put down soak-up, but the spill will need to be addressed. MassDOT crew on scene. 4:12 p.m. Caller from DeWolf Road reports his neighbor blew her leaves into his yard and he would like an officer to confront her about it. States that he would, but he may not be very nice. Advised caller officers are tied up on another call but will be advised once available. Caller left prior to arrival; spoke to roommate, who states she was unaware of issue. States there are trees lining the property that the leaves seem to have fallen from.

4:57 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a car tried driving over a curb on Unity Street and the tire bent in on itself. Officers requesting tow. Broken L ball bearing; axle broken. 4:59 p.m. Caller from Wendell Road reports two motorcycles sped by his house at a high rate of speed. Referred to an officer.

5:09 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue reports a fox has been in his yard the past couple of days. Forwarded to ACO. 8:24 p.m. 911 caller from Prospect Street reports she and her boyfriend are having an argument; he’s attempting to kick her out; she states it’s her house but it’s in his name. Officers advised. Intoxicated female left out back, headed down Central. Officer clear of residence, attempting to locate female. All units clear. Dog also got out when female opened door to leave. Unable to locate female. Male party going to bed.

9:07 p.m. 911 caller from Prospect Street reports she has returned to the residence and her boyfriend won’t let her in. No answer on involved male’s phone. Second officer providing courtesy transport for female. Officer requesting other units back; dog is now chasing people. Officer bringing dog to shelter.

11:10 p.m. Repossession of vehicle, Farren Avenue. **Tuesday, 10/7** 2:46 a.m. While answering

call from Lake Pleasant Road, female could be heard yelling at the caller to leave her room and the house. Caller indicated female had a baseball bat in her hands and continued to tell him to leave. While attempting to gather further information, caller disconnected. Officers advised. Male left of his own accord; female was advised of options. Female advises all she wants at this time is for male to be gone for the evening.

10:47 a.m. Report of tree on wires on Court Square; part of tree is hanging into travel lane. Eversource on scene; hazard removed.

10:56 a.m. Caller states there is a sudden odor of gas in the area of Fourth and L streets. Transferred to FD. Unable to locate.

12:54 p.m. Walk-in would like on record that a male in a black Ford Mustang pulled up next to her at Dell and Montague streets and screamed at her. He got out of his vehicle and continued to yell and behave in an aggressive manner.

1:42 p.m. Wonsey Road caller states that a young male in a white Mercedes SUV with New Hampshire plates knocked on her door and asked if she wanted her driveway paved at a discount because his company was doing work in the area and had extra materials. Unable to locate.

2:19 p.m. 911 caller states an older male in an older pickup truck threatened him with a golf club outside Carroll’s Market, followed him into the store and shoved him, waited for him outside of the store and continued to threaten him, then got back into his truck and finally left. Caller would like this incident on record. Investigated.

2:44 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a man threatened to kidnap her. While caller was on the phone with dispatch, the male party came into her apartment, hit her and another person, and took her phone so she could not talk to the police. Male left on foot towards Second Street. Callers do not want to press charges at this time, will call back if they change their minds. Investigated. 5:58 p.m. Caller states there has been an increase in off-leash dogs at Unity Park. He and his fiancée walk their dog there and he would like to know what to do if he or his dog is attacked. Advised to call PD if incident occurs, and that ACO would be notified. Caller advises he would pepper spray the dogs.

11:29 p.m. Caller states he noticed the lights were off at the Third Street Laundry, which seemed out of place. Officer with two individuals; advises involved parties moved along.

Wednesday, 10/8

5:24 p.m. 911 caller from Canal Street states a smoke alarm has been going off on the second floor for 10 minutes. Called Control to dispatch FD.

Thursday, 10/9

12:33 a.m. 911 caller states a vehicle is heading towards Cumberland Farms with an operator who appears to be unresponsive. While on phone, caller stated operator appears to have woken up and is driving.

8:44 a.m. Caller reports she just dropped her child off at Ja’Duke and saw a white van with Illinois plates, which she feels is suspicious. Officer advised. Van gone on officer’s arrival. 6:41 p.m. Caller from Federal Street would like an officer to check the area for loud music as she is trying to put her child to bed.

Friday, 10/10

8:08 a.m. Caller from Turnpike Road requesting officer assistance. Tenant contacted him; there are unwanted people in her apartment refusing to leave. Unwanted parties moved along.

1:19 p.m. 911 caller reporting wires ripped down by truck on Fourth Street. Verizon contacted. Officer requesting DPW for blockades. DPW advises blockades should still be there due to road work yesterday. Officer advises no barricades still there. He put caution tape on the wires until Verizon is on scene.

2:15 p.m. 911 caller reporting smoke and flames coming from kitchen of neighboring apartment on Third Street. Transferred to Control. No one believed to be in apartment at this time. PD closing Third Street at Avenue A and at L Street. Officers attempting to gain entry and evacuate the third floor. Flames can be seen through windows. Greenfield FD engine responding. Second alarm; additional towns requested. Contact made with elderly male on third floor unable to leave without assistance. Stretcher needed. Northfield EMS responding. Requesting evacuation of second-floor apartment; resident listed no longer lives there. Requesting Franklin County Housing Authority for contact list. They will attempt to send list; everyone works remotely on Fridays. DPW responding to close L Street at Second Street. ACO requested for cat needing transport to emergency vet; ETA five minutes. Third Street reopened.

3:20 p.m. Minor accident on Third Street involving car and South Deerfield fire truck; damage to push bar.

Saturday, 10/11

12:09 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states he is working in his garage and a vehicle has driven by slowly multiple times. Checked area; no vehicles in area. 1:43 a.m. Caller from Federal Street expressed his concern about issues in the area; advises someone recently moved there who plays music loudly, and talked at length about other issues. Advises no need for a police response tonight. Advised caller of options for future noise issues. 10:34 a.m. 911 caller reporting a black Ford parked in dirt lot near high-tension lines off Lake Pleasant Road. Male slumped over wheel; female appears passed out. Caller states the windows are broken and the vehicle is damaged. Control contacted to dispatch FD, EMS. Officers advise medical can stand down. Parties awake, and not happy with officers being there. No need for assistance. 7:16 p.m. Report of two subjects who came to the caller’s door on East Mineral Road offering \$50 for a ride four miles away; unknown exactly where they were trying to go. Parties stated they lost their kayak and were dropped off by an Uber. Officer out with parties; courtesy transport to Barton Cove provided. 7:28 p.m. Suspicious vehicle attempted to evade officer on Fourth Street. Darker sedan; no headlights on. Units on foot on Fourth Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 10/12 1:25 a.m. 911 caller from Highland School Apartments states a car horn has been sounding for five minutes. Advises he can also hear people yelling and it sounds like someone may be in distress. Officer advises open trunk. Officer speaking with vehicle owner; advises no yelling upon arrival. Owner’s daughter went outside, confirmed the vehicle appeared fine.

11:15 a.m. Caller reporting cars parked illegally in the Third and Fourth Street alleyway; states emergency vehicles wouldn’t be able to pass. Referred to an officer. 5:42 p.m. Pizza House owner advises his employee told him that a male party has been sleeping on the floor for the last 40 minutes; he will not wake up and leave. States male party is breathing at this time. Officer requesting medical for evaluation. Officer advises they are walking with male party. Male back home with friend. Medical refusal signed.

6:20 p.m. Active disturbance heard. Attempting to get location. Two-car accident at Fifth and L streets. 10:14 p.m. 911 caller reporting fire alarm sounding behind her house on Fifth Street. Second caller reports house is vacant and alarms are sounding. No smoke or flames. Control advised.

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Montague Community TV News

Preparations

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Wednesday night’s “Pre-Town Meeting” info session is up online, as is a lecture by David James last month at Lake Pleasant, “Discovering Spiritualism.” You will see both immediately when you click on the “Videos” tab on our site, *Montaguetv.org*.

If you are specifically looking for meetings, you can find folders directing you to all of our archived Montague and Gill selectboard meetings, past and present.

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!

WEST ALONG from page B1
camp vacation spots out beneath the trees. They are now snug away in the glassed-in sunroom that has become their winter quarters.

There’s hardly enough room for us in the place now! Greenery is everywhere. The banana tree creates an atmosphere worthy of a rainforest, its broad green fronds reaching out to the adventurous passer-by who may come in from the other part of the house. Is a parrot hidden in here somewhere?

The 100-year-old Christmas cactus has taken over the island created by a low bookcase, usually the place for family photos and long-ago departed family dogs.

The plant is now a sprawling tangle with a three-foot circumference, hearty and healthy from a summer outdoors in the fresh air. This not-really-a-cactus Christmas cactus will be ready to bloom



KEVIN BRÜLE PHOTO

tracing its ringing somewhere in the sunroom’s wilds.

Yet I’m as happy as an eccentric clam in my corner hidden from the rest of the homestead busy-ness. I secrete myself away in this sanctuary when the weather is too inhospitable for sitting outdoors in the woodshed with coffee and notebook.

So come, October, and bring what you will. I feel ready for whatever adversity the season has in store!

Indoors or out, I’ve gotten ready for anything. If ignorance is bliss, that may explain why I’m so blissful!

*If I in my green room can dance...
waving my shirt round my head...
Who shall say I am not
the happy genius of my household?*

– Inspired by “Danse Russe,”
by William Carlos Williams



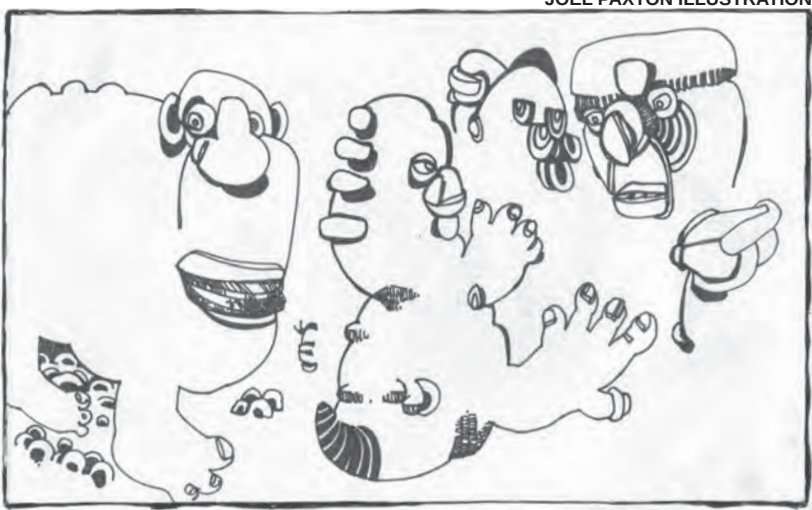
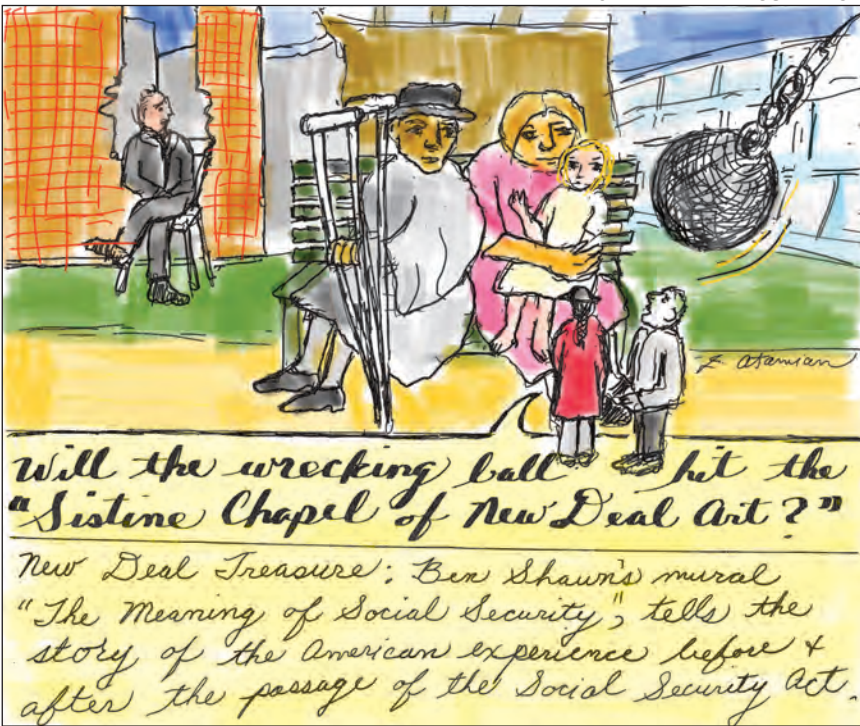
COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



SUZETTE SNOW-COBB ILLUSTRATION



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



Carolyn Clark

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

THE LOVELIGHTS AND THE LIBRARY

WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



VIOLA RACED HOME FROM HER JOB AT THE NEWSPAPER ONE BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN DAY, TOO EXCITED TO NOTICE THE FALLING LEAVES AND PURPLE AND GOLD FLOWERS THAT SHE WOULD NORMALLY HAVE BEEN SO CAPTIVATED BY. SHE HAD BIG NEWS FOR CHELLA!

SHE RUSHED UP THE STEPS AND BURST THROUGH THE DOOR, "THE TOWN HAS VOTED TO BUILD A NEW BIGGER LIBRARY!" SHE SHOUTED. CHELLA'S EYES WIDENED AND SHINED. A LIGHTBULB SEEMED TO APPEAR ABOVE HER HEAD. "HMMM", SHE SAID "WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THE OLD LIBRARY?"



VIOLA INSTANTLY KNEW WHAT SHE WAS THINKING. THEY HAD OFTEN DREAMED OF MAKING THEIR OWN SCHOOL! A PLACE WHERE ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS COULD TEACH WHAT THEY KNEW. MS. CLEFT COULD TEACH MUSIC, CHERRY DEVILLE COULD TEACH MOTOR REPAIR, NOVELLA COULD HAVE WRITING CLASSES.



CORDELIA WOULD HAVE A DOLL REPAIR WORKSHOP, DOT COULD SHARE HER CHEMISTRY EXPERTISE AND ELDA COULD BE THE SCHOOL SECRETARY. THEY HAD TALKED OVER THE POSSIBILITIES SO MANY TIMES IT FELT AS THOUGH IT COULD LEAP INTO FULL SWING.

THAT VERY NIGHT THEY STARTED TO WRITE A PROPOSAL TO THE TOWN. THEY CALLED ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS WHO THEY THOUGHT MIGHT LIKE TO BE INVOLVED, CREATED LISTS AND SPREADSHEETS AND ORGANIZED INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS. EVERYTHING WAS GOING SWIMMINGLY.



BUT LATER THAT WEEK, IT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT PICTURE. AS VIOLA CAME HOME FROM WORK, SHE DRAGGED HER FEET AND HAD TO HOLD BACK TEARS. THIS TIME AS SHE CAME THROUGH THE DOOR SHE SAW ELDA AND CHELLA WORKING BUSILY ON THE PLAN AND SHE HAD TO TELL THEM THAT PRETTY PLEASE, FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, WAS GOING TO USE THE BUILDING AS A MUSEUM OF NUTS AND BOLTS.



ALL OF THE SISTERS WERE CRESTFALLEN. JUST THEN, CORDELIA ARRIVED WITH A STACK OF DOLL REPAIR BOOKS, READY TO DISCUSS THE CLASSES SHE WOULD TEACH. "WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?!" SHE ASKED WHEN SHE SAW THEM. "SOMEONE ELSE IS GOING TO USE THE OLD LIBRARY BUILDING." VIOLA SAID, GLUMLY.



A DETERMINED LOOK PASSED OVER CORDELIA'S FACE, "WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT." CORDELIA MARCHED BACK TO THE PLAYHOUSE WHERE SHE LIVED NEXT DOOR. THERE SHE SAW FLORA AND FAUNA, THE FAIRIES FLUTTERING HAPPILY IN HER DOLL HOUSE. "I NEED A PLAN SO WE CAN USE THE OLD TOWN LIBRARY AS A SCHOOL, AND RIGHT NOW THE TOWN HAS AGREED TO MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING ELSE! A NUTS AND BOLTS MUSEUM! ALL OUR PLANS AND DREAMS ARE AT STAKE."



SHE PACED THE PLAYHOUSE FLOOR. FLORA FLUTTERED OVER, "WE CAN USE MAGIC." SHE OFFERED. CORDELIA FROZE IN HER TRACKS. "MAGIC! WHAT MAGIC?" FAUNA JOINED IN, "WE CAN MAKE THE NUTS AND BOLTS DISAPPEAR!" CORDELIA LOOKED INTERESTED. "OR...WE COULD CAST A SPELL TO MAKE THE BUILDING LOOK TERRIBLE SO NO ONE WILL WANT IT BUT US!" "BUT THEN," SAID CORDELIA, "MAYBE THE TOWN WOULD HAVE THE BUILDING TORN DOWN." THEY ALL SAT WITH FURROWED BROWS, DEEP IN THOUGHT. "WAIT! I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!" FAUNA DECLARED. TO BE CONTINUED.....

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EVENTS

submissions:
events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

Dickinson Library, Northfield:
LEGO Drop-In and Play.
3 to 4 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers
Falls: Senior Tech Time, *Cyber Security: Protect Yourself from Online Predators*. 5 p.m. Free.

First United Methodist Church,
Greenfield: *Música Franklin Community Concert*, with student performers and *Zaccai Curtis*. 5 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield:
Costume Swap and Campfire S'mores. 5 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield:
Workshop, *Public Interest Zines: Learn How to Make and Share*. 6 p.m. By donation.

New Salem Public Library,
New Salem: *Stories in Stone*, presented by Ta Mara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Arena Civic Theater presents *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Benefits TransHealth. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Curmudgeon Bingo!
7 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Meetinghouse,
Wendell: *Play, Swamped*, written and directed by Court Dorsey. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:
Wolf Girlz, Deerest, Byrne Bridges. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro:
The Rear Defrosters, Pointe Noir Cajun Band. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Greenfield Public Library,
Greenfield: *Seed Saving: The Why and How*, presented by Paulina Borrego, wrangler of the Mass Aggie Seed Library at UMass Amherst. 3 p.m. Free.

Element Brewing, Millers
Falls: *David Brule and His Irish Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
Presentation, Reclaiming the Greenfield Swimming Area from Invasive Species, by Wisty Rorabacher of the Floodplain Forest Restoration Project. 6 p.m. Free.

Leverett Elementary School,
Leverett: *A Conversation with Congressman Jim McGovern*. See www.tinyurl.com/convwthjim for more info and reservations. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Arena Civic Theater presents *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Benefits TransHealth. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hollow Deck, Wednesday Knudsen, Raub Roy, Vic Rawlings, Groan Man, Krissy & Jeff, A.P.I.E., Ben Hersey, Kurt & Omeed*, more. 7 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton:
Fred Eaglesmith & The Velvet Frogs. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater,
Easthampton: *Gold Dust, Convinced Friend, Silvie's Okay, Two Wrong Turns*, free pizza from *Vegan Pizza Land*. 7 p.m. \$.

Montague Common
Hall, Montague Center:
Gianna & Rebecca, Joy Factor. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse,
Wendell: *Play, Swamped*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton:
Doctor Gasp, Tender Spot. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield:
Bella's Bartok, The Slambovian Circus of Dreams, The Picky Bastards. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls:
Sleep Destroyer, Ruth in the Bardo, Soup Dreams, Jack O Lantern. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst:
White Reaper, Lip Critic, Worlds Worst. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Comedy Open Mic, hosted by Lana Epstein. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield:
WriteAngles, writers conference, with workshops, panels, speaker *Franny Choi*. Scholarships and info at writeanglesconference.com. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$\$.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Northfield:
Orienteering Day, with outdoor skill specialist Jonathan Meserve. Learn how to use an orienteering map and compass to complete a race. All experience levels welcome; for ages 11 and up. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$.

Rattlesnake Hill Trails, Leverett:
Hike with the Leverett Trails Committee. RSVP to steve.weiss47@gmail.com. Rain date October 19. Meet in the Leverett Co-op parking lot to carpool. 9 a.m. Free.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *LifePath Walkathon*. Donate, create walking teams, and have fun in support of Meals on Wheels and other programs. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Archaeology Month: Indigenous Fishing Along the Kwenitekw*. Presentation, activities, and more. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Practical AI for Everyday Life*. Beginner-friendly workshop explores how AI powers the tools and services you already interact with daily. 1 p.m. Free.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Swedish Dance*. Intro workshop, snacks, open dancing. Live music on five-string fiddle and nyckelharpa. All welcome. 1:30 p.m. \$

Energy Park, Greenfield:
No Kings Day II, rally and march to the Town Common. 2 p.m. Free.

Keene, New Hampshire: *Keene Pumpkin Festival*. 2 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Reading, *Kate Colby, Darcie Dennigan, Emily Pettit*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

The National Spiritual Alliance, Lake Pleasant:
An Evening With Luke DeRoy. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Day of the Dead Altar*, built by local families with support from the Heartwing Center, through November 2 with a reception Saturday, October 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. *Migrations*, paintings curated by GuateMaya Art and Culture Connection featuring scenes of village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, October 18 through November 22.

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Elizabeth Long: Quilts*. Through November.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Guest artist *Ruby Henry* presents hand-tufted rugs during October and November.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Primal Reflections*, paintings by Walker Antonio. Opens with a reception next Monday, October 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; on view through December 12.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Plein Air Voices: Paintings*, group show featuring works by Sally Dillon, Maggie Hodges, Lori Lynn Hoffer, Ruth Rinard, Donna Roy, and Ruth Sanderson. Through October, with a reception this Sunday, October 19 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Art & Crafts Inspired by the 1774 North Leverett Sawmill*, with work by dozens of artists, through October.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Silent Auction Art Exhibit*, works donated by local artists and assemblages by Andy Rothschild for sale to benefit LAVA, on view through December 20. Anna Bayles Arthur, *Selected Paintings*, through October.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Gray Matters*, monoprints by Karen J. Axtell. Opens with a reception this Friday, October 17 at 5 p.m.; on view through November 21.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Tune Croquette*, works by Charlotte Treiber. Through November, with a reception next Friday, October 24, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall Museum, Old Deerfield: *Pioneer Valley Picture Show*, images and artifacts from a century of local movie-making, through October.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Fall Into Fiber*, group show, through November 2.

Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield: *Doorways*, self-guided audio-visual tour with sculptural doorways and sound pools by multiple artists, through November.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Perspectives*, works by Rochelle Shicoff and Diane Steingart, through October.

Mead Art Museum, Amherst College: New exhibits include *A Contentious Legacy: Paintings from Soviet Ukraine; Spaces That Hold: Swapnaa Tamhane; Re/Presenting: An Activity Gallery*; and the installation of Fred Wilson's chandelier *Dramatis Personae*.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Majeski*, detailed drawings of local birds and plants, through November 16.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Nature's Palette*, group show by members, through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Old and New*, paintings by father-and-son duo Robert and Matthew Steinem, through November 2.

CALL TO FASHION

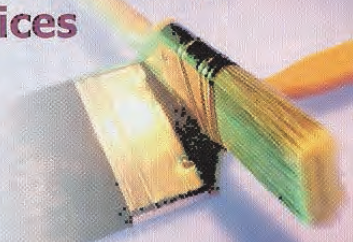
Seeking models and makers for the FAB Passion Fashion Week New England *CeleBraTion*, October 24 to 26 at the Robyn Newhouse Hall in Springfield. Produced by international fashion experts Richie Richardson, Richard Young, Jerry Jordan Brown, and Stephen Dooba. Show your collection or sign up to model: female, male, and mature models are all welcome! To register or for tickets, visit fpfwne.com.

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CALENDAR

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Anne Louise White and Friends*. Concert and community sing, benefit for LUCE Immigrant Justice Network. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, *Audition* (1999), with live accompaniment by *Order of the Illusive*. 7 p.m. \$.

Thirsty Mind, Hadley: *The Leafies You Gave Me, Burial Grid*. 7 p.m. \$.

All Saints Episcopal Church, South Hadley: *Indrajit Roy-Chowdhury*, sitar, with *Pt. Arup Chattopadhyay*, tabla. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Fred Eaglesmith & The Velvet Frogs*. 7 p.m. \$.

Williamsburg Grange Hall, Williamsburg: *Miramar, Mica Far, DJ Bongohead*. 7 p.m. \$.

Wizard's Castle, Montague Center: *Gaslight Tinkers*, more. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Noise Soup Miasma, Rachel Devorah*, *zbs.fm*, *ctLT*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Play, Swamped*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ladies Dance Party*, with *DJDadoftheYear*, snacks, bonfire. Costumes encouraged. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Joan Shelley*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Wolfman Jack*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Andrew Brooks Band*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Harvest Festival*. 12 to 4 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Craft Day with the Friends*. Materials provided. Register at (413) 423-3348. Older teens, adults welcome. 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Swamped*. 2 p.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewery, Greenfield: Double feature by Italian director Lucio Fulci: *The House by the Cemetery* (1981), *The Psychic* (1977). Free popcorn. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Artist reception for *Plein Air Voices: Paintings*, group show. 3 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Coyote Makes A World*, multimedia experience led by Indigenous musician, storyteller, and educator *čnaq'ymi* (Lone Eagle), with percussion ensemble *The Forest*. 4 p.m. \$



Revered Kentucky singer-songwriter Joan Shelley's show this Saturday night in Northampton is sold out as of press time, but you can catch her and her band Sunday night at Nova Arts in Keene, with Will Lawrence opening.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Estey Field Organ Tone Archive*, Karen Schoemer & Eric Hardiman, Adam Bosse / Brian Gibson / Dakota Gill trio, Scott Seward. 4 p.m. By donation.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Reading, *Guillermo Rebollo Gil*, Leslie Sainz. 4:30 p.m. By donation.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Fiber Group / Mending Circle*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sleep Destroyer, Wall Ball, Big Egg in the Sky*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Rhodes Arts Center, Gill: Opening reception for *Walker Antonio* exhibit. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Spite House, Bullzeye, Sowing, Lucky To Be Me, Almost Hours*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Adult Book Group*. Kazuo Ishiguro, *Klara and the Sun*. 10 a.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Information session, *Five College Learning in Retirement*. 3 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: Information session, *Age-Friendly Initiatives*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Tree House, Deerfield: *Julian Lage*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Hynoki, Mersō, Heaven Through Violence, Letters of Marque*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Music and Movement*, for toddlers and their caregivers. 10 a.m. Free.

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.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Afterschool Activities*. Games, makerspace, snacks. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

New Salem Preserves, New Salem: *Village Neighbors Meet-Up*. 2 to 4 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Light the Bridge*. "An evening of remembrances, awareness, and celebration." Hosted by the Franklin County & North Quabbin Domestic Violence Task Force. 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Linda Ackerman Retirement Party*. Share stories, enjoy refreshments, and send Linda off in style. 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls: *The Art and Science of Kimchi*, with instructor Young-In Kim. Fundraiser for Stone Soup Café. 5 p.m. \$\$.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Author Talk*. Andy Harrison, *The Seymour Desk*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: Presentation, *Moose in New England*, with local photographer Dale Monette. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: Senior Tech Time, *The Google Suite: Free and Easy Tools for You*. 7 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied, Brian Dickens*. In the lobby. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Play, Swamped*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Acid Mothers Temple, The Macks, The Regal Drug*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dan Weintraub*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

Turners Falls Power Canal, Turners Falls: *Accessible Bird Walk*, hosted by the Hampshire Bird Club. Registration at *bit.ly/HBC-Birdability2025* encouraged. 8:30 a.m. Free.

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *GCC Community Chorus*, preview concert. 12:15 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Artist reception for *Charlotte Treiber: Tune Croquette*. 5 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Book launch for Nat Baldwin's *Antithesis*, with Stella Silbert & Liz Tonne, Mike Bullock & Vic Rawlings. 6 p.m. By donation.

Ulculvert, Conway: Screening, *Over the Garden Wall*, 7 p.m.; *Blandest, Rhubarb Duo, Dialog Talk*, 9 p.m. By donation.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *The Time Is Now Climate Change Play Festival*. Short plays by David Geary, Dylan Van Den Berg, Kirby Vicente. 7 p.m. By donation.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Rubber-O Cement, Diagram:A, Mike Young, Dimension Viewer*, more. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Documentary screening, *La Liga*, on immigrant farmworkers in Vermont's dairy industry. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Play, Swamped*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Weston Olencki, Henry Birdsey*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *DJ Lucas, March Davis, Papo2004, Pleasant Street, Internet Drugs, Subjxt* 5. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Jason Anderson, Cloudbelly*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Footings, Lady Pills*. 7:30 p.m. By donation.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Torie Jock & Damage Control*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *The Classics, Wishbone Zoë Band, Chris Wardlaw*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Revival Wheeler Mansion, Orange: *4th Annual Orange Pumpkin Festival*, with games, costume contests, food and craft vendors, and a Haunted Fun House. 2 to 6 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

Four Phantoms Brewery, Greenfield: *Slobdrop, Illicify, Breaking Up, Two Wrong Turns*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Jason Anderson, Lady Pills, Footings* (solo). 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *French/Breton Jam Session*. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics*. Bring your own synth, drum machine, sampler, etc. 7 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Life with Bill, The Gifts of Alzheimer's*. Multimedia presentation by writer, storyteller, composer, and musician Nick Kachulis about caring for his elderly father. 1 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Second Street Parking Lot, Turners Falls: Start of the *Rag Shag Halloween Parade*, proceeding to Unity Park. 5 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Voo Halloween Party!* 9:30 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *@, beetsblog, Free Body Estimate*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

No Fun, Troy NY: *Earth, Stebmo*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: *18th Annual Domino Toppling Extravaganza*. 5 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Banish Misfortune*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Little Lies*, Fleetwood Mac tribute. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Drake, Amherst: *Prawn*, record release. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Palladium, Worcester: *Cattle Decapitation, Aborted, Frozen Soul, Tribal Gaze*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Mr. Sun* play Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker Suite*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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SPORTS from page B1

the soccer field, but I did see several attacks from my vantage point. When I returned to the field it was still a 1-1 game, but late in the fourth, Seck found Ella Larouche who scored the winning goal. Goalkeeper Connor Glennon made seven saves in the win.

Boys’ Soccer

TFHS 6 – Smith Academy 2
TFHS 3 – FCTS 2

On Monday, the Turners Falls Kicking Thunder defeated Smith Academy 6-2 at home. John Ramirez-Martin and Yolvin Ovalle-Mejia finished with two goals each, Rojelio Galvez Mendez scored once and lent an assist, Kainen Stevens scored one goal, and Noah Kolodziej gave an assist. In net, Jackson Cogswell made five saves.

On Wednesday the Thunder hosted Franklin Tech as part of the soccer/field hockey doubleheader. The crowd at this game presented a little differently than the field hockey faithful. While the field hockey fans loudly cheered on their respective teams, the soccer folks seemed more rowdy, laughing and clapping – especially when the ball landed in the stands, which it did several times. People even joked about getting to take it home if they caught it.

As in the field hockey game, two goals were scored very early on, though in this case, Turners scored both, putting Tech in a hole. But the Eagles did not give in. Coming in as the odds-on underdog, they had nothing to lose. At times a single player would disrupt a Turners attack, and at other times their goalkeeper wandered way out of the crease, to the gasps of the crowd.

Franklin finally scored at the end of the half, so it was a one-goal game at the break.

At 32 minutes of the second half, Tech angled the ball into Turners territory and kicked a grounder into the net to tie it up. A minute later a hand-ball infraction was called, setting up a Turners penalty shot. The kick was good, and the Thunder retook the lead.

Over the next half hour, the two teams jostled for position, but neither could score as kicks went high and attacks were thwarted. In soccer the scoreboard clock is an estimate, so it freezes with five minutes left to play while the official time is kept by the refs.

So, with five minutes left, the

clock froze and fans and players were left counting the seconds in their heads, the Tech fans hoping for a tying goal and the Turners folks hoping for a win. But when the timer finally went off, Turners’ unbeaten record remained unblemished.

Ovalle-Mejia, Ramirez-Martin, and Kolodziej scored goals for Turners, while Cody Yetters and Dorin Marin scored Tech’s.

Turners hosts Hoosac Valley this Thursday for Senior Night, and on Monday the Tech Boys head to South Hadley.

Girls’ Soccer

FCTS 1 – St. Mary’s 0

Last Thursday the Franklin Tech girls’ team escaped the St. Mary’s Pirates with a 1-nil win down in Westfield. Faythe Sobieski kicked in the winning goal, assisted by Carly Walsh. In goal, Shayly Martin saved 14 shots.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Drury 0

On Monday, the Turners Falls Spiking Thunder swept the Blue Devils at home. The first two matches were runaways, with Turners winning 25-14 and 25-13. And though JV coach Abby Loynd liberally substituted reserve players in the third match, Turners won it by five points to complete the sweep.

Maddie Dietz finished with two kills, 10 digs, five assists, and six aces; Maddie Haight one kill, three digs, and four aces; Janelle Massey four kills and two assists; and Autumn Thornton three kills and a dig.

Jakhia Williams made three kills; Gianna Marigliano two kills and an ace; Addie Ehle one dig, an assist, and two aces; Abigail Moffatt nine digs, seven assists, and four aces, and Ameliya Galbraith one ace.

The Ladies in Blue wrap up their regular season in West Springfield this Thursday against the Terriers.

Football

FCTS 28 – Greenfield 16

Last Thursday night, under the waning harvest moon in Greenfield, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles defeated the Green Wave. The parking lot was jammed, with some folks forced to park in the gym lot, though this wasn’t because of the game, but because of parent-teacher conferences that evening.

This actually helped the attendance, as several parents joined the crowd after their meetings.

It didn’t start well for the Eagles.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech’s Austin Platek (left) and Turners Falls’s Kevin Perez Cueto (right) compete for the ball as the Thunder hosted their cross-town rivals on Wednesday. The Turners team remains unbeaten after a 3-2 win in the competitive, high-energy match.

On their first possession they were forced to punt, and to make matters worse the punt was blocked, gifting Greenfield a first down on their own 40. But penalties and the Eagle D pinned the Wave back to their own 35, handing them a fourth-and-21.

Green’s punt went deep, but Maxon Brunette caught it cleanly, found a seam, and scampered 23 yards, setting up Tech’s first touchdown. Three plays later he twisted into the end zone, and Nathan Sabolevski capped off the drive with a successful 2-PAT to give the Birds an 8-0 lead.

In the second period Greenfield had to burn two timeouts, but in the closing seconds of the half they used time management to march down the field. With 15.4 seconds left, the refs called an official timeout and adjusted the clock to 18 seconds. This was all Green needed, as they scored on a deep pass.

The refs then called a roughing penalty, and the ball was moved half the distance to the goal line on the 2-PAT attempt. Green got the couple of yards they needed and tied it up at 8 as the half ended.

In the opening drive of the third quarter, Green was forced to punt. The ball bounced on the turf and Brady Gancarz ran towards it. He had to make a decision: he could ei-

ther jump on the ball to prevent the turnover, or pick it up and try to run it back for better field position.

As the Green-shirted players rushed at him, Gancarz decided to pick it up. The first pursuer barely missed him as he hooked left just out of his grasp. Then he followed his blockers 70 yards to give Tech a first-and-goal from the 7.

As the fans shifted to the left side of the field, many of the regulars told me that they disagreed with Gancarz’s decision to try the return, but they were all pleased he did decide to run it back. Then Sabolevski bulled into the end zone, and Brunette capped it off with the 2-PAT to give Tech back the lead 16-8.

Green was forced to punt on their next drive and the Eagles drove down the field as the third quarter ended. Two minutes into the fourth, quarterback Mason Bassett pitched the ball to Brunette, who crossed the goal line to put Tech up 22-8.

On Greenfield’s next possession, the Tech defense forced a fourth-and-1. Behind by two scores, Greenfield was forced to go for it. They ran a keeper, getting the first down and much more, gaining 31 yards and setting up the Wave’s next score.

On the ensuing kickoff, with the

score 22-16, Green attempted an onside kick, but Tech recovered the ball. Five plays later, Brunette somersaulted into the end zone for the final score of the game. After the whistle, the Greenfield fans showed some class. Although they had lost the game they began singing heartedly as the players exited the field.

Mason Bassett made five completions for 35 yards, and ran two keepers for 10. Brunette rushed for 117 yards, caught a pass, ran back a punt 23 yards, and scored three touchdowns and a 2-PAT.

Nolyn Stafford had 35 rushing yards, caught two passes, and on defense made 12 tackles and knocked away a pass. Sabolevski had 27 yards on the ground and scored a touchdown and a two-pointer, and Jaxon Silva and Cole Bassett caught one pass each.

On special teams, Gancarz ran back two punts while Joseph DiSciullo kicked off five times for 139 yards, punting twice for 42. Defensively, Caleb Begos and Ben Baker each sacked the quarterback while Carsten Couture and Dillon Laffond batted passes away.

The Tech Boys will attempt to keep their streak alive this Friday in a home game against the Palmer Panthers.



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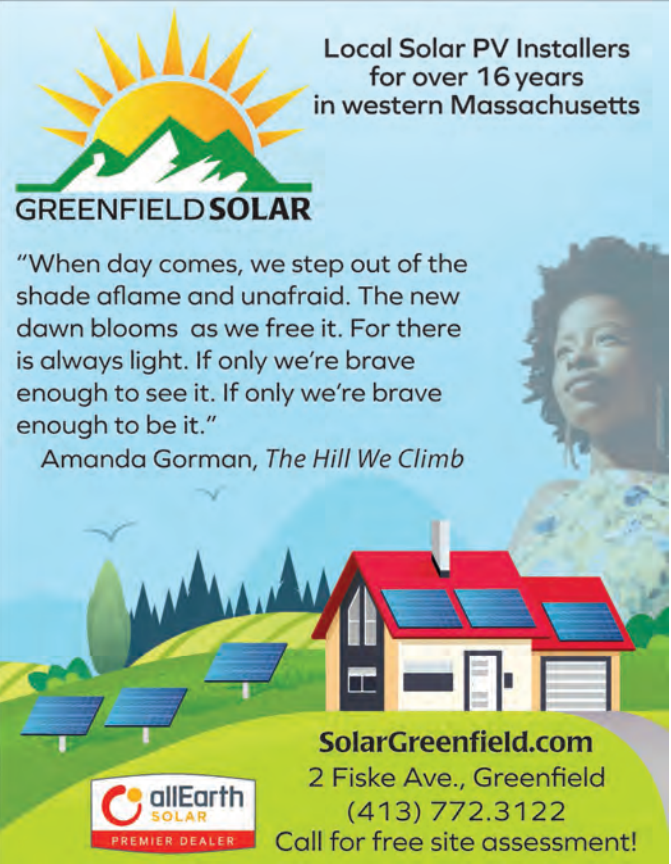


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