

The Montague Reporter

Chamber Discusses Impact Of Area Housing Shortage



The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast this Wednesday morning featured a presentation by the state Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities, followed by a panel discussion.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – The economic impact of the region’s housing crisis was the subject of a panel discussion hosted Wednesday morning at Greenfield Community College by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

Over a breakfast of French toast casserole and scrambled eggs, local business leaders, public officials, and housing experts discussed possible solutions to the problem of an inadequate housing supply, which they said suppresses economic development in the state’s most rural county.

“Housing is economic development, and it’s one of the most important strategies that we can put forth,” said Chamber of Commerce executive director Jessye Deane. “When we talk about regional school consolidation, low student enrollment, vacant storefronts, infrequent foot traffic, workforce salaries, taxes, and even which restaurants are open on Sundays, we’re actually talking about housing, and its interdependence on population loss and economic vitality.”

Much of the discussion was framed around the report published

see **IMPACT** page A6

Montague Town Meeting Approves Farren Rezoning, Solidarity With Palestinians

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – “We’re doing zoning *and* apartheid,” one member of Montague’s representative town meeting was overheard to say in dismay as they entered the Turners Falls High School auditorium Wednesday night and scanned through the warrant packet.

It would take nearly three and a half hours, but the meeting got through every article of business without losing a quorum, thanks to an unusually high turnout. All 16 passed, including rezoning the former Farren Hospital land in Mon-

tague City to encourage housing development, agreeing to accept fixed payments instead of taxes on two large solar arrays, and declaring the town’s “commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and all people.”

At the outset, Elizabeth Irving of Precinct 1 was elected from the floor as acting moderator.

“There are 292 towns in Massachusetts holding town meetings, and we are only one of 32 representative town meetings,” Irving read from a prepared statement. “So, an extra ‘Thank you’ to all of you who

see **APPROVES** page A6



Before the meeting began, dozens of new town meeting members were sworn in.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Haskins New Police Chief, Now Deemed ‘Grade A’ Job

By JEFF SINGLETON

“I look forward to working with him during the short time we will have together,” said Montague police chief Chris Williams, who is scheduled to retire on December 30. “He’s a smart guy, and will be a real asset to the town.”

Williams was responding to the selectboard’s decision Monday night to approve a contract with Jason Haskins, currently a lieutenant in the Greenfield police department, to be his successor. The contract states that Haskins will begin his new job on Monday, November 17.

In other news from Monday’s short meeting, held over Zoom, the board approved new software to assist the Clean Water Facility superintendent in calculating sewer rates, hired an administrative assistant at the Gill Montague Council on Aging, and expressed satisfaction with a new contract for electricity that will save the town money over the next three years.

Selectboard chair Matt Lord began the discussion of the chief’s contract by saying that the board needed to do “a little bit of procedural housekeeping.” He noted that

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief Offer Made; Board Acts On Dog Bite

By GEORGE BRACE

A dog hearing and questions about the drainage project Dudleyville Road led to a lengthy and sometimes contentious Leverett selectboard meeting on Tuesday. The board also hired a new fire chief, pending contract negotiations.

Jesse Rose, the complainant in the dog hearing, said she had been charged by two dogs and bitten while hiking on Old Whitney Road on September 22, resulting in a substantial bruise described by others as “mango-sized” or larger. Rose said she was a dog lover and had a good talk with the dogs’ owner, but felt that she had a duty to report the bite after hearing of other incidents involving them.

Neighbor Eva Gibavic testified that the dogs, Walter and Django, had charged her three times, and that she had heard reports of other incidents.

see **LEVERETT** page A5

Pioneer School Committee Opposes Six-Town District

By MIKE JACKSON

NORTHFIELD – Public opposition to the proposal to form a new six-town school district in northern Franklin County gathered momentum in recent weeks. The Warwick school committee voted 4 to 1 on October 8 to oppose their town joining a new region, and on October 14 the planning board promoting the

district opted to postpone the votes in the towns until the spring, partly in order to extend the public discussion and respond to what some members described as misinformation about the proposal.

Last Thursday, October 16 the Pioneer Valley regional school committee, which represents the towns of Leyden, Bernardston, and

see **PIONEER** page A5

Two Apartment Buildings Pitched for the Patch



Igor Komerzan (left) and Veaceslav Falceanu of First Generation Investments Group hope to build eight units of rental housing in this historic industrial zone.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Next Tuesday the Montague planning board will hold a public hearing on a proposal to build two four-unit apartment buildings at 11 Tenth Street, a 0.9-acre lot in the Patch neighborhood of Turners Falls. The proposal is submitted by Veaceslav Falceanu, co-owner of First Generation Investments Group, LLC, which purchased the property last spring.

A notice of the hearing has been sent to abutters in the neighborhood. The lot is at the northeastern end of the Patch, and has not been de-

veloped in the recent past. It was purchased by First Generation company in April from Joel Tognarelli, Inc. for \$92,000. The property, which includes no buildings, was assessed at that time at \$77,600.

The land is zoned “Historic Industrial” which, according to the town’s zoning bylaws, is intended “to allow for adaptive use of historic industrial buildings and sites.” It is located between the power canal and a smaller impoundment that feeds water to the Turners Falls No. 1 hydroelectric plant, and it is surrounded on three sides by land owned by

see **PATCH** page A8

High School Sports Week

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The regular fall high school sports season concluded this week, and Western Mass playoffs began.

In soccer, the Turners Falls High School boys secured the second rung on the playoff ladder, leapfrogging Hoosac by beating them

3-1. Franklin Tech and Turners both won their opening volleyball matches in their respective classes, though the Thunder lost in the semifinal round while the Eagles play in Lenox on Thursday.

In field hockey, Turners ended their season while Franklin Tech played on, and in cross country,

see **SPORTS** page A4



The Turners Falls High School cheer team, a co-op team including students from Franklin County Technical School, energizes the crowd at last Friday’s Franklin Tech-Palmer football game. Turners Fall’s Jenna Stafford, second from left, was recognized during the Senior Night event.



Forget What You Might Have Been Told

Mango-Sized or Larger.....	A1	Yankee Thrift or Utter Laziness.....	B1
In General a River With Waves.....	A2	Leans In for Chin Pets.....	B2
Head to Head With Garlic.....	A3	Musicians With Pseudonyms.....	B3
Outkicking the Hurricanes.....	A4	An Acorn-Cracking Station.....	B4
Being Heard About Gravel.....	A5	Filled With Hopeful Consumptives.....	B5
A Full-On Flare.....	A6	Blandest, Local Local, Dimension Viewer.....	B6
Major Migratory Flyways.....	A7	The Dwarves, The Yawns, The Bestiary.....	B7
Seepage, Leakage, Percolation, or Other Escape.....	A8	Work On a Cloning Restoration.....	B8

The Montague Reporter

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Non-Binding Resolve

Many town meeting members surely groaned this fall when they learned this week’s special town meeting would include a citizen-petitioned article affirming opposition to Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian people – using the analytic framework of “apartheid,” at that.

The town has not generally made a practice of including these non-binding political statements with its town meeting business. That kind of affectation is for our cousins in Leverett, who surely picked it up from points south. In Amherst, the habit got so bad that town meeting was ultimately done away with entirely in 2018.

But times, apparently, are changing – Article 16 passed on

Wednesday night by a strong majority voice vote, even though it (non-bindingly) pledged that Montague will “join others in working to end all support to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.”

Chalk it up to two years spent watching the carnage unfold in Gaza, a nearly hundredfold civilian reprisal for Hamas’s October 2023 attacks, the reduction of the enclave to dust. And chalk it up to the alliances made visible between corporate, military, and political power structures in Israel and the US.

The discussion is worth watching – it’ll be on MCTV’s Vimeo page – as a sign of the times. We’ll see what it means in practice.

CORRECTIONS

Our article last week about conservation restrictions (CRs) on land in Montague (*Development Permanently Restricted From More and More Montague Land*, Page A1) seems to have included two errors.

First, we misreported that, in exchange for placing 31 acres on Old Sunderland Road under a CR, landowner Elinor Wright will be eligible to receive a state income tax credit of \$7,500. This figure should have been \$75,000.

“Jesus,” our reporter commented when alerted to the error.

We also wrote that CRs and agricultural preservation restrictions (APRs) “may technically be removed, though under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution this requires a two-thirds vote by the state legislature.”

This paragraph, actually an insertion by an editor, was entirely incorrect, writes Franklin Land Trust conservation specialist Liam Cregan, who helped establish the Old Sunderland Road CR and who also caught our little math typo for us.

“Conservation Restrictions are not protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution as described,” Cregan writes. “Rather, the right of enforcement is granted to a qualified conservation organization... and ‘can only be... released... by a court of competent jurisdiction under applicable law after review and approval by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or

successor official...’

“This quote comes from the Wright CR, and is boilerplate in all modern CRs,” he explains. “In essence, decisions to release land protected by CRs are made through the Judicial body of government rather than the Legislature, while decisions to release land protected by Article 97 are made through the Legislature.”

To be fair, our source was the the state website, at www.mass.gov/info-details/how-is-land-protected : “CRs and APRs are authorized under Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. All land acquired by EEA agencies (either in fee simple or by CR) is protected under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. Land protected by Article 97 requires a 2/3 vote of the Legislature before it can be disposed of. EEA has a ‘no net loss’ policy with regards to the disposition of any Article 97 protected open space.”

Repeated close readings of Section 32 have only deepened the confusion at our office, but it seems that while APRs are subject to the described legislative process for release, the above blurb on the state website is not accurate as pertains to CRs. Hmmm...

We are grateful to Mr. Cregan for the corrective feedback, and apologize to all of our readers for these errors, as well as for the length, terrible dryness, and somewhat inconclusive nature of this column.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Angelo Ferrer holds his loppers after clearing brush from a yard on a recent sunny day in Turners Falls. Angelo’s business, *Adventure Time Landscape*, specializes in arboriculture and landscaping. Before-and-after photos of his work can be seen on Nextdoor and Instagram.

Letters to

the Editors

Ceasefire Welcome; Peace Plan Lacking

For those of us who want to see an end to the Gaza genocide and the establishment of a free Palestine, President Trump has definitely helped the cause by creating a framework for an exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinian hostages and prisoners of war.

However, Trump’s so-called Peace Plan has one major flaw. Though US and UK support to help rebuild Gaza is welcome, Palestinians were not consulted as part of the overall plan. The Peace initiative is to be overseen by leaders of

Western, former colonial powers that had initiated and funded the conflict since the beginning.

If the ceasefire doesn’t evolve into peace, and Benjamin Netanyahu fails to allow significant amounts of aid into Gaza and the genocide resumes, the only respite for Palestinians would be if Netanyahu follows his stated desire to attack Iran again. That in turn may trigger full-scale Palestinian resistance, and likely Hezbollah and Yemeni forces joining the fray.

Meanwhile, wealthy Israelis

might do as they did during the 12-day war as Iran pummeled Israel: flee to Cyprus, where they have been building luxury apartments and shops and employing UK-US military bases to house and deploy fighter jets.

If Trump restrains Bibi from continuing the genocide, then Netanyahu will be itching to fight again to retain power. What would happen then is anyone’s guess.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser
Orange

Ed-ification?

In a Letter to the Editor on October 9, the name Peskeompskut is mentioned and interpreted as the “traditional” name meaning “thunder rocks place.” For the edification of all that may be interested in such things, the correct interpretation follows [see at right].

Ed Gregory Greenfield

The editors add:

Thanks Ed. It would have saved everyone today a lot of work if Sheldon had been the sort of historian to credit and document his sources.

The usage of this name prior to 19th-century European-American historians seems murky, and some among us even doubt its authenticity.

Still, the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Historic Preservation Office offers it as “The place where the fire bursts from the rock,” which is the version that indirectly inspired our October 9 letter-writer. – Eds.

To the Turners Falls Reporter

July 8, 1874

ADD. D. Welch, Esq.:—In compliance with your request, I will give you the Indian Name of “Turners Falls,” and its derivation and meaning.

Tuk, means in general a river with waves.
Peske-tuk, a divided river.
Ompsk, a divided, or cleft rock.
Ut, means *at, on, or in*.

The name the Indians gave to this place was,—
Peske-ompsk-ut,—the place where the river is divided by the cleft rock. A name given by the eye of the Indian. This might have been written *Pesq* instead of *Peske*, thus *Pesqompskut* and easily run into *Pesquampscot* and shortened into *Squampscot* or *Swampscot*, which was the name Drake affixed to the place as a new discovery, in his edition of “Hubbard’s Indian Wars,” published in 1865.

The name when written *Peskeompskut* might be divided and pronounced *Pes-ke-omps-kut*.

Yours respectfully,

George Sheldon Deerfield

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Four or five trucks immediately outside my office window, driving backward in circles, **beeping at a high pitch incessantly**. Not sure what they're up to but it's sure making it hard to focus on finishing this page up by the deadline!



A number of local people seemed to see **rainbows** on Monday. Some saw more than one.

We suspected it last week, but didn't want to speculate: That **network outage at the Athol Hospital** and Heywood Hospital in Gardner that we mentioned is being attributed to a cyberattack.

Yikes! The story hit the cyber-security-industry press this week, though from what we've read so far, the company is staying mum on the specifics.

One day the solar flares will wipe it all away and only you, dear reader, will still have a print newspaper in your hand.

Speaking of archaic communications tech... It's not exactly in our Vicinity, but I've had my eye on **Visions Video**, a volunteer non-profit brick-and-mortar video store in downtown Northampton. They report that they have amassed "about 34,000 titles in under a year" and are now expanding into a second space in the former (*sigh*) Haymarket Café.

Visions uses a membership model – \$12 a month gets you full

access to that crazy collection, and there are no late fees. They have an internal system of movie reviews and host screenings and events.

Speaking of crazy, **Looky Here** is in their annual fundraising season again over in Greenfield. Support them.

The town of Montague has announced this year's **Rag Shag Parade plans** for Halloween next Friday. It's a new era for the Rag Shag, and we are here for it.

The event has turned around backward: it will now *start* at 4:30 p.m. with costume judging at the Second Street parking lot, and the parade takes off at 5 p.m. in the direction of Peskeompskut Park. The Turners Falls High School marching band will lead. At 5:30 p.m., costume contest winners will be announced – three winners will win free pizza from the Pizza House – and cider and donuts will be distributed, and RiverCulture will screen the short 2010 family/horror movie *Scared Shrekless* at the park.

We've run it a couple times before, but it's always worth rereading the *Recorder's* account of the **1928 rag-shag parade at Turners Falls**:

"Hallowe'en was celebrated here last evening by practically every child in town, at least it appeared as if no boy or girl old enough to walk was either in the parade or along the side lines. The school children met at their respective rooms at 5:45

and went from there to the corner of Seventh and L streets from where the parade was started promptly at 6 o'clock. The St. Mary's drum corps headed the parade and the line of march was down L street to Fourth street, thence to the Avenue, down the Avenue to Seventh street, from where they counter-marched up the Avenue to the Shea theatre.

"There were at least 800 children in line and the costumes were of a great variety, many of them showing much originality and all combining to produce an atmosphere of weirdness. Hallowe'en is unquestionably children's night and the younger ones especially took keen delight in sending the cold chills of fear coursing up and down the spines of their elders as they bobbed up before them in the fantastic costumes and masked faces.

"At the Shea theatre, the marchers entered the wide-flung doors and for 10 minutes or more filed to their places in the theatre. When all had entered it was found that very nearly 1,000 children were in the house.... A cartoon was then thrown on the screen and then came one of the 'Our Gang' comedies to the immense delight of the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the little actors."

There's something to aspire to. There's a thousand kids here, right?

And while we're doing quotes, here's good old Hannah Arendt:

"Totalitarian government, like all tyrannies, certainly could not exist without destroying the public realm of life, that is, without destroying, by isolating men, their political capacities. But totalitarian domination as a form of government is new in that it is not content with this isolation and destroys private life as well. It bases itself on loneliness, on the experience of not belonging to the world at all, which is among the most radical and desperate experiences of man....

"What prepares men for totalitarian domination in the non-totalitarian world is the fact that **loneliness, once a borderline experience** usually suffered in certain marginal social conditions like old age, has become an everyday experience of the evergrowing masses of our century."

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



Here's a seasonal blast from the past: Reader Mary Feeney took this photo of the entrance to the Turners Falls post office just under a month ago. "The post office is cared for by an employee for us to enjoy," she wrote. "I don't know his name, and I wish I could give him credit..." Do you know who should receive the blame for this elaborate postal porchscaping? Let us know! We didn't want to hold onto this photo any longer, lest it start to snow out there.



This award-winning short documentary follows immigrant dairy farm workers forging community and solidarity through soccer leagues.

AT THE SHEA THEATER
This Friday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Q&A with the director after the screening!

Montague Community Television News

Play & Demonstration

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The Turnaway Play and the First Ever Stinkin' Chef Competition are two new and exiting videos up on MCTV's Vimeo page and TV channel this week.

The Turnaway Play, produced by the Reproductive Justice Task Force of FCCPR and presented at the Shea Theater, tells the story of what really happens when people are denied access to reproductive healthcare. The playwright, Lesley Lisa Green, was present for a following Q&A.

The Stinkin' Chef Competition was a live event at the demo tent at the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival in Orange on Saturday, September 27. Festival attendees got to watch chefs Elijah Lagreze and Nyanyika Banda go head to head with "garlic bucks," and now you,

too, dear readers, can watch as well from the comfort of your own home.

You never know what you will find playing on Channel 9! But it's easy to find what you are looking for on our Vimeo Page. You can find it linked through our website, *Montaguetv.org*, by clicking the "Videos" tab. There 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!

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Busy Weekend Ahead At the Common Hall

MONTAGUE CENTER – Autumn is in full swing, and we're celebrating community spirit at Montague Common Hall with a weekend of volunteerism, conversation, and dancing.

This Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. we will hold our fall cleanup day. Bring your gloves, tools, and good cheer! We'll spruce up the grounds, tidy up the garden beds, and prepare the building and landscape for the winter season.

Everyone is welcome – many hands make light work. Tasks will vary to include lighter options for those who prefer them.

Immediately following the cleanup at 1 p.m., stay for an open community meeting to discuss design options for the Hall's accessibility improvements – including a landscaped ramp, accessible parking area, and a new outdoor gathering space. Your

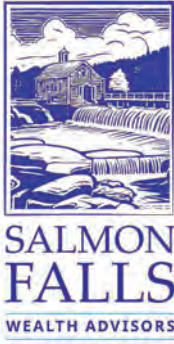
input and ideas are welcome as we plan this important next step toward making the Hall accessible to all.

And this Sunday, we're celebrating the success of our recent fundraising dances and the amazing folks who made them possible. Join us for a potluck dinner at 5:45 p.m., followed by a lively contra dance at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome to support the accessibility project.

Huge thanks to Becky Hollingsworth, Rebecca Weiss, and all the wonderful musicians who organized several benefit dances this year. Your energy and generosity keep the music playing and the community thriving.

During Montague's town-wide Halloween celebration, the Hall will once again be filled with live music – stop by for a tune or two as you make your way through the festivities!

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SPORTS from page A1

runners from Great Falls Middle School competed in a statewide championship meet.

And in football, Tech buried Palmer 49-0.

Volleyball
TFHS 3 – West Springfield 0
TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0
FCTS 3 – Mahar 0
PVCA 3 – TFHS 0

The Turners volleyballers capped off their regular season last Thursday with a sweep of the Terriers in West Springfield. Maddie Haight, Maddie Dietz, Janelle Massey, Autumn Thornton, Jakhia Williams, Gianna Marigliano, Addie Ehle, Abigail Moffatt, and Kaiya Adams all contributed to the victory, with Massey leading the Thunder in kills and Moffatt in digs.

On Monday the Blue Ladies defeated the Pioneer Black Panthers in the Western Mass Class D quarterfinal round.

When I arrived at the gym, Blue was leading in the first match 19-2, and they held on to win it 25-4. There was talk in the stands about whether the team’s earlier sweep of Greenfield had been a watershed win, propelling them to finish out the season 8-1.

Although the first match was a blowout, Pioneer did not go away; they battled Powertown point for point in the second match.

I heard chants I haven’t heard before. With the score tied, the older fans chanted, “Pick it up, Turners, pick it up,” and when Pioneer went on a run, the folks cried in unison, “Get it back Turners, get it back....” In the end, with the score 24-21, a missed tip went into the net to give the Thunder a 2–0 edge.

During the final match, fans were checking their phones, dreading the long trip down to the Pioneer Valley Christian Academy in Springfield. The score was knotted at 19-all, but Turners went on a tear to secure the 25-20 win and earn their way to the semifinals.

Monday’s victory was a total team effort with Massey and Shelby Beck leading in kills, Moffatt in digs, and Dietz in assists.

The same night, the Franklin Tech Spiking Eagles traveled to Orange, where they “upset” the favored Senators 3-zip in the Class C quarterfinals.

In the first match the teams were tied at 23, but the Lady Birds pulled off the win. The second match mirrored the first, with the squads again in a 23-23 barn burner, and again Tech scored the final

two points to go ahead 2-0. The third match was less competitive, as Franklin won 25-14.

The Blue Thunder rolled down to Pioneer Christian for the Class D semis on Wednesday, but lost to the top-seeded Eagles. Though knocked out of the Western Mass playoffs, they still hope for a favorable seed in the MIAA’s upcoming statewide tournament.

This Thursday, the Eagles will travel over the mountain to challenge the top-seeded Lenox Millionaires in the Class C semifinals.

Girls’ Soccer
FCTS 1 – Mahar 0

Last Thursday the Franklin Tech Kicking Eagles defeated Mahar 1-nil at home. Faythe Sobieski scored the winning goal, assisted by Mady Lynde. In goal, Shayly Martin made seven saves.

Boys’ Soccer
TFHS 3 – Hoosac 1

On Friday evening, the Boys in Blue outkicked the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes 3-1.

I was able to stay for the first half before heading to the football game. The PVIAC power rankings had just come out, and there was righteous indignation from the home crowd.

“How could [Hoosac] be ranked above us?” one alum questioned.

“That’s right,” a mother a few rows back agreed. “We’re undefeated – why should we have to travel to Adams if we play them in the playoffs?”

As it turns out, the Western Mass brackets had not yet been solidified, and the winner of Friday’s game would be ranked second while the loser would slip to third place.

Turners left nothing to doubt, scoring two goals off long kicks to go ahead 2-0. At 16:18, though, a penalty was called on the Thunder and a free kick was granted. The shot went past Jackson Cogswell, and the Hurricanes whittled down the score to 2-1.

Less than a minute later, Rojelio Galvez Mendez hit the ball into the goal with his head to make it 3-1. There was no scoring in the second half, and Turners held on to win the game and secure second place in the Class D Western Mass playoffs.

This Thursday, the Thunder hosts Smith Academy in the tournament’s first round.

Cross Country
Athletes from Great Falls Middle School competed on Tuesday in the Massachusetts Middle School Cross Country Championship Meet.



Franklin Tech QB Mason Bassett releases the ball just before contact from Palmer’s Jared Perry during the Eagles’ rout of the Panthers last Friday.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Turners Falls’s Janelle Massey sends the ball over the net against Pioneer Valley’s Abby Ray, Sophia Wood, and Kiara Gruszkowski during the Western Mass Class D quarterfinal game on Monday.

Lucian Carlo finished 17th in the boys’ heat at 11:05, and Lucas Edmonds completed the course in 15:36.

In the girls’ battle, Amber Marcy finished in 13:54 and Nova Galup in 19:28.

Field Hockey
West Springfield 1 – TFHS 0
FCTS 4 – Mahar 0
FCTS 1 – Mohawk 0

The Turners Falls Field Hockey Thunder played their final game of the season on Monday at home against the West Springfield Terriers. Before the match, athletic director Jen Luciano took to the loudspeaker and introduced the team’s two seniors, Clara Guidaboni and Khalifa Seck. Then the teams huddled.

It was interesting overhearing the strategies: which Terrier needed to be tailed, how recent rains had made the field fast, and how West Springfield had struggled against a team Turners had beaten. I stayed through the first quarter, and it was 0-0 when I headed to catch the volleyball game.

Volleyball ended first, and when I returned to the field I found the score at 1-0 with seven minutes left to play. The Thunder valiantly ran attacks for the rest of the game, but each time one of the Terriers broke it up, sending the ball back to the Turners side.

Finally the horn sounded, ending the game and the season on a one-goal loss.

Across the road, the Franklin Tech Sticking Eagles were ending their regular season on a high note, blanking the Mahar Senators 4-0 at home. Amelia Rider scored two goals and gave an assist, while Talia Pederzini and Cammy Jacques scored once each and Abi Dobias added an assist. Goalie Redyn Gutierrez made one save to preserve the shutout.

On Wednesday, Tech edged out Mohawk Trail in the Western Mass Class C semifinals.

Kailey Steiner scored the winning goal, assisted by Dobias.

The Eagles will now either travel to West Springfield to face the Terriers in the championship game, or host Hampshire.

Football
FCTS 49 – Palmer 0

The Franklin Tech football team extended their winning streak to two games last Friday by crushing the Palmer Panthers at home.

Tech scored on their very first possession, and it was uphill from there. They led 35-0 at halftime, and when they increased it to 42 the clock went into mercy mode, running continuously except for timeouts and when the standards needed to be moved on first downs.

This gave coach Joe Gamache the chance to empty his bench.

Quarterback Mason Bassett made four completions for 95 yards, one touchdown, and a 2-PAT. His targets were Nolyn Stafford and Cole Bassett. Stafford went on to score two 2-PATs, and Cole Bassett a touchdown.

Maxon Brunette led the rushing attack with 154 yards and two touchdowns. Brady Gancarz had 73 yards on the ground, Nathan Sabolevski rushed for 69 yards and three touchdowns, and Owen Leblanc ran for 17 yards and a touchdown. Stafford and Mason Bassett also carried the ball for Tech.

On the defensive line, Justin Lent and Wyatt Whitman led the team in tackles, Carsten Couture made a 45-yard interception and knocked away three passes, Jackson Morey had a sack, and Sabolevski, Gancarz, and Leblanc all patted away passes.

Joseph DiSciullo kicked off seven times for 185 yards, kicked in three extra points, and did not ever need to punt. Brunette and Gancarz ran back punts, and Whitman returned a kickoff 16 yards.

The Eagles attempt to extend their streak to three wins this Friday, facing off against the Bears in Athol.



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PIONEER from page A1

Northfield, formally had its say on the matter, voting 5 to 1 that it “does not believe that the school district merger proposed by the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board is in the best interest of Pioneer students.”

Like the Warwick vote, the Pioneer Valley school committee decision is non-binding. It comes after several weeks of public statements by district superintendent Patricia Kinsella criticizing the planning board’s efforts, its draft regional agreement, and its transition plan to the would-be district.

The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) was formed by the selectboards of Montague, Gill, Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick in 2019, and was endorsed at that time by the Gill-Montague school committee but not by Pioneer Valley’s.

While the planning board spent several years receiving grants from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and hiring consultants to examine the feasibility of a “super-regional” district, the Pioneer committee voted to close Warwick’s elementary school, prompting that town to instead secede and form its own district.

The Warwick school committee dedicated over an hour at its October 8 meeting to discussing the issue. Superintendent Carole Learned-Miller was among those who argued passionately that joining the larger region could derail the innovation underway in the nascent district, or again risk a campaign to close the school.

“I agree with the six-town planning board on a couple things,” said committee member Adam Holloway. “One, the PVRs and Turners have problems, and there’s no perfect or easy solution... The rate of attrition between eighth and ninth grade in both districts is a big problem.”

“DESE really encourages larger districts – they like it because it’s less people they have to control,” Holloway commented. “[But] I don’t think larger districts fix the underlying problem.... If we continue to do this truly *A Field of Dreams*-esque thing, of ‘If you build it, they will come,’ we will continue to augment our population and our younger people by having something that they want to come to.

“And if we get rid of that,” he continued, “we will go by way of Leyden. They abnegated all their stuff, and they are a town of old people that are dying, figuratively and literally.”

In the end, the sole vote in support of the six-town district came from member Alan Genovese, who also serves as chair of the STRPB.

Last Thursday’s discussion at Pioneer Valley lasted roughly 45 minutes. In May, the regional school committee had voted to authorize Kinsella to speak publicly on the super-regionalization effort, a step required by the state ethics commission as the superintendent’s own position would be affected by the potential dissolution of her district.

School committee chair Melissa Gerry of Bernardston said DESE’s suggestion that the dis-

trict agreement was “not ready to go before the voters” in the six towns “isn’t a big surprise.” She said recent public communication from the STRPB did not “sit right” with her, citing as an example a pamphlet listing outdoor learning as a “potential new program” available to a larger district.

“This may be something new for Gill-Montague,” Gerry said, “but ‘potential new programs highlighting outdoor learning curriculum utilizing surrounding acreage’ is exactly what our district is doing.... I am not on the Turners school committee. I do not know what their curriculum is.”

Warwick selectboard member Brian Snell, who was also in attendance, said he hoped his board would take a vote to tell the STRPB that “it doesn’t look like you have support, so drop us.”

If the regional agreement falls short of a majority among voters in any of the six towns, the district will not be created.

“It’s my understanding that neither the selectboard nor the town has the authority to withdraw from the process,” Kinsella told him. “The [STRPB], under the law, is empowered to put forward a draft regional agreement that includes all of the towns that were originally members, or any combination of the towns.”

When the committee voted, only Michele Giarusso, a Leyden member who also serves on the STRPB, voted to support its proposal. The other STRPB member on the committee, Reina Dastous of Northfield, was among the votes cast against it.

On Monday, Genovese contacted the *Reporter* to express his objection to this newspaper giving “oxygen” to Kinsella’s viewpoint in our October 16 edition. Several attempts to reach him for further comment received no response.

According Kinsella, who contends that the Pioneer district is undergoing a “renaissance,” the STRPB’s decision to postpone the public vote on the agreement from November to an unspecified date next spring created “uncertainty” that “makes it hard for the district to move forward at the pace we would like to with planning for a successful future.”

Specifically, she said, the Massachusetts School Building Authority has confirmed that the district’s high school at Northfield is in need of renovation, and the committee may be asked this winter to fund a feasibility study.

“It’s a little harder to go through that process when the six-town vote is looming over the district,” she told the *Reporter*.

“I typically have refrained from talking about the other districts involved,” she added, “.... [but] it will be hard, I would imagine, for Gill-Montague to hire a permanent superintendent this winter and spring when this vote is looming over the district.”

Representatives of the STRPB are scheduled to join the Gill-Montague school committee meeting next Tuesday, October 28. Montague representative Steve Ellis and other members have recommended that the committee study the six-town agreement and vote to take its own joint position on the proposal.



LEVERETT from page A1

Julieanne Patterson, the dogs’ owner, argued a number of points, including that a third dog which had been involved in earlier incidents had since died. Still, she said, she was “humbled” by the attack on Rose, and viewed the bite as a “wake-up call not to have any risk at all.”

The selectboard noted that at a 2020 hearing, Patterson had been ordered to install an electric fence on her property and leash her dogs when off-property. Patterson said she had either not seen or forgotten that leash order, and believed she had only been required to install the fence, and that she had done so, though the fence’s batteries had died.

Regional animal control officer Hillary Szteliga testified that after the September 22 incident she issued Patterson a written warning for violating town and state ordinances requiring the dogs to be licensed, and also leashed when they were not under voice command. She reported that Rose immediately licensed the dogs and provided proof of vaccination, that the two had discussed a “safety plan,” and that there had been no subsequent incidents.

Szteliga noted, however, that her department has only served Leverett for one year, and she did not have earlier records. She recommended that Walter and Django be declared “nuisance” dogs, restrained by leashes when not on Patterson’s property, and that Patterson consider insurance and provide photos of the dogs for identification.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy advocated that the dogs be required to be muzzled when off-property and penned while on-property. She recounted seeing other dogs jump over electric fences, and argued that Walter and Django were a significant public danger in light of the multiple incidents and seriousness of the recent bite.

She commented that the situation would have been much worse if a child had been involved.

Her fellow selectboard members, Tom Hankinson and Jed Proujansky, disagreed on the need for muzzles or a pen. Duffy joined them in voting to declare Walter and Django nuisance dogs, requiring a run system or fenced enclosure to be used on-property, and mandating that they be properly leashed when off-property.

Duffy’s suggestion of stricter conditions was entered on the record.

Dudleyville Road

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that Ludlow Construction planned to begin work within the next week on the first phase of the Dudleyville Road drainage project.

Dudleyville Road residents Richard Karsten and Heather Hutchinson questioned the selectboard about the process for residents “being heard” about the project, specifically citing decisions about the gravel used in culverts and the removal of trees.

The pair said they had only seen plans for construction within the last week, and asked what prior opportunity residents had to weigh in, and how they could stay informed.

Duffy said the project had been in the works for two years, a public meeting had been held, emails and robocalls sent to residents of the road, and news of the project’s

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progress posted on the town website.

Still, she acknowledged that communication was sometimes difficult in a small rural town, and recommended residents check the town website for news and possibly join Dudleyville Road committee.

Karsten said he had experienced difficulty communicating with his neighbor Richard Nathhorst, a committee member and the driving force behind the selectboard’s application for the million-dollar state grant making the project possible.

Nathhorst said Karsten had not responded to several emails he had sent over the past year and a half, but that he was willing to meet with him.

“You are doing exactly what your process is,” McGinnis said. “You come, you ask questions.” She said the project would be on the agenda for the next several selectboard meetings, but that the town’s input had already been given and at this point the engineers would “essentially make decisions” about what is best for the road.

Nevertheless, she offered to pass residents’ thoughts and questions along to the engineers for consideration.

Hankinson said it would be more helpful if Karsten and Hutchinson brought a dozen neighbors saying the same thing, but that the couple was doing the right thing in bringing their concerns to the board.

Karsten replied that other residents felt as he did, but had never formally gotten together to discuss the project.

Fire Chief

The selectboard voted to offer current Leverett firefighter lieutenant Mike Visniewski the position of fire chief, pending contract negotiations. Duffy said the lack of a full-time chief was hurting the fire department, and the town should give Visniewski the chance to “show us what he can do.”

Hankinson agreed, saying Visniewski had done well in the interview process and was a “good choice.”

Proujansky said he wanted to be “very clear” that he was not “speaking out against” Visniewski, but that there was disagreement among those who had contacted him on the subject, and that he thought the town should continue to advertise the position.

Duffy said many applications had been reviewed and that it was time to “move forward.” She and Hankinson voted in favor of hiring Visniewski, with Proujansky abstaining to “honor” the opinions he had heard that the search should continue.

Health Insurance

Proujansky provided an update on his research into the town’s health insurance expenditures after a 38% increase in the premiums this year from the Hampshire County Insurance Trust (HCIT), and given the possibility of a 20% rise next year.

A consultant, he said, told him that other insurers are facing similar financial pressures as HCIT.

He suggested that the town seek claim rate data from HCIT, saying it would be “good for us to know where we stand,” as claim rates affect the town’s attractiveness to alternative providers.

McGinnis said the claim data had already been requested.

Proujansky noted that no decisions are being made yet, and cautioned that based on his experiences in the health insurance industry, switching providers was “not a decision to be taken lightly.”





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APPROVES from page A1

have set aside this evening to perform the foundational work of self governing...”

Ten of the items on the warrant were passed in five minutes or less, either unanimously or with a single “Nay” vote. These included spending \$95,100 on raises for town police, another \$26,990 for department heads and other non-union staff, \$274,600 on increased health insurance premiums, and expanding tax exemptions for veterans estimated to total \$22,472 per year.

\$50,000 was approved for culvert repairs on South Street, the incorrect layout of Burek Drive was finally corrected, and a few “house-keeping” articles dealt with old bills and administrative formalities.

A proposal to impose a 6% local tax on short-term rental properties, such as Airbnb, encountered some friction, particularly from an Airb-

nb owner in Precinct 6 who warned it would be “a killer as part of our economy.”

Selectboard member Matt Lord said this seemed unlikely to him, as a number of surrounding communities have enacted a similar tax and their economies continue. “This is a small chunk of change,” he argued. The article passed over some dissenting votes.

And a proposal to transfer 38 Avenue A, the empty downtown lot envisioned to be a new central library, from the town’s Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) to the selectboard generated some debate.

Sam Lovejoy of Precinct 1 recommended wording be removed indicating that this would be “for library purposes only,” and moved to amend the article, but his amendment ultimately failed after assistant town administrator Chris No-

lan-Zeller pointed out that the EDIC had voted to surrender it only if the library project moves forward.

The article then passed unanimously.

A proposal to allow the assessors to enter a 16-year agreement for payments *in lieu* of taxes from Kearsarge Solar, which owns solar arrays on Turnpike and Millers Falls roads, also entailed some discussion.

David Jensen of Precinct 2 and finance committee member Fran- cia Wisniewski both asked why the payment schedule included only a 1% annual escalator.

Director of assessing Adam Tocci said solar photovoltaics tend to depreciate in value by about 5% each year, and that the agreement “adds stability” to the town’s revenue.

After some back-and-forth argument, Precinct 4 member Jen Aud- ley called the question, and the article passed unanimously.

A Village Park

A single topic took up over an hour of the evening: the future of the former Farren Hospital property on Montague City Road. The planning department has been working extensively to prepare the town for a request for proposals (RFP) from developers, and the publicly identified goal is a dense, mixed-use “village center” development on the seven-acre plot.

Article 12 updated the town’s zoning bylaws to include a new zoning category, Village Center Mixed-Use District, and a design overlay meant to facilitate these goals. The proposal had been vetted extensively by the planning department and selectboard, but members dug into the details.

Fred Biliel, who identified himself as a 54-year resident of Montague Center, pointed out that the zoning language did not specify that

parkland would be included in the development. Town planner Mau- reen Pollock said this goal could be incorporated into the town’s RFP.

Questions were raised about limits on building height, and Greg Cor- bo, the town’s attorney, eventually clarified that the cap of 50 feet for buildings was meant to account for four 12-foot-high floors.

Members clapped when the article passed – a required two-thirds vote was easily achieved – but some of the same discussions resurfaced at Article 13, which would put the lot under the selectboard’s control.

“It’s only fair to the people of Montague City that we have a park,” said Brian Smith of Precinct 6. “We could call it Farren Memorial Park.” Smith attempted to amend the article to require that 30% of the land area be kept as parkland.

Procedural bickering began to see **APPROVES** next page

IMPACT from page A1

recently by the UMass Amherst Donahue Institute and the Springfield-based nonprofit housing agency Way Finders titled *Building Homes, Building Futures*. The study projected that as the western Massachusetts population declines and grows older, demand for housing will remain high as more people choose to live alone, and outdated options will be unable to meet the need for smaller, more efficient, and more affordable homes.

“Contrary to popular belief, the decline is not caused by a mass exodus – people want to live here, people want to move here,” Deane said. “The problem is that our population is disproportionately more senior than the surrounding markets.”

Edward Augustus, secretary of the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, arrived late to the breakfast but shared his remarks to a packed room. Augustus focused on ways the state is trying to make it easier to develop housing in rural areas.

“Based on direct feedback from local elected officials and regional leaders,” Augustus said, “we recently changed how we distribute low-income housing tax credits and related state resources to better support projects in rural and small-market communities.”

Bridging the Gap

According to the Donahue Institute study, a family of four earning the area median income of about \$104,400 annually should be able to afford a home costing up to \$220,000, but the median sale price in Franklin County in 2024 was \$318,500.

As high costs and a limited supply push younger families out of state, Augustus said, economic uncertainty caused by tariffs and high interest rates is making it harder for private developers to build housing. The Affordable Homes Act, signed by governor Maura Healey in 2024, attempted to increase the supply with a variety of initiatives, including authorizing \$5 billion in funding to support new building.

“More than half of the deals we have funded in the last two or three years have come back to us with significant gaps – three- or five-million-dollar gaps – that need to be funded in order to actually get those projects that were already approved into construction,” Augustus said.

The bill also made accessory dwelling units (ADUs) legal by right on all single-family zone parcels, and Augustus said that the state will soon introduce a program to help low-income homeowners better afford to renovate and build these units.

“ADUs provide more opportunities for older adults to downsize,” he explained. “They also can create new rental opportunities at no cost to taxpayers or local communities.”

The secretary lauded recent efforts in Montague to streamline zoning and incentivize denser housing, and in Leverett to leverage funds through the Affordable Housing



The panel convened by the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the housing shortage on Wednesday included (left to right) Greenfield Cooperative Bank vice president Victor Rodriguez, Massachusetts housing secretary Ed Augustus, UMass Donahue Institute senior research manager Kerry Spitzer, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority director Gina Govoni, Coldwell Banker realtor (and Chamber vice president) Amanda Abramson Clarke, Franklin Regional Council of Governments executive director Linda Dunlavy, and retired Bete Fog Nozzle CEO Tom Finch.

Trust and Community Preservation Act to plan for future needs.

The Donahue Institute study found that limited water and sewer infrastructure has also hindered housing development in the region. To address this problem, the Healey administration created the HousingWorks Infrastructure Program, which helps municipalities upgrade infrastructure in ways that support housing development. Augustus implied that the Care Drive senior living development in Erving will likely be a recipient of those funds: “I think folks will be pleased when those [grants] are announced,” he said.

The state is also attempting to speed up development by shortening the required environmental review period for housing projects from 12 months to 30 days, he added.

“There’s very little return on investment for developers to come in and build new homes,” Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) housing and livability coordinator Megan Rhodes told the audience. “They’re not going to be able to recoup their project costs, because they cannot sell or rent for as much as they would need to cover the cost of building those homes.”

Rhodes added some of the area’s housing stock is “naturally affordable, but not for a great reason,” namely that it is old and in need of renovation.

“There’s often very limited public support for new housing, and often there can be active opposition to it,” she said. “We want to make sure that we do create this housing that allows us to have a sustainable population and a robust workforce, but in a way that maintains what we love about Franklin County.”

Housing As Development

The Donahue Institute study warns that in Franklin County, 25% of homeowners and 55% of renters are considered cost-burdened by their housing, and Deane said that the county’s workforce is expected to decline by about 20% by 2050.

“For a county with a tax base that is 75% residential, that is more than a red flag – that is a full-on flare,” she said.



Massachusetts housing secretary Ed Augustus told the audience about ways the state is attempting to spur housing development in small and rural communities, and seemed to imply that the town of Erving will be awarded a grant to extend infrastructure to support new senior housing.

After the presentations Deane asked Gina Govoni, executive director of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), what misconceptions about housing she wished she could dispel.

“This is a very simple answer, and it’s so from the heart: low-income housing houses working people,” Govoni responded, to applause from the crowd. “They may not live in your city or town yet, but once they get a home there they are your residents, they are your neighbors. As we talk about population decline, we need to welcome more people into our communities, and really look at these people for who they are – they are working people, supporting our community.”

Asked what she thought stood out the most in her organization’s report, Donahue Institute research manager Kerry Spitzer pointed to the remarkably low rental vacancy rate in Franklin County. In a healthy housing market, she said, about 7% of units should be available at any given time, but in Franklin County today the owner vacancy rate is only 0.3%, while 1.3% of rental units are vacant.

“Franklin County is a great place to live,” Spitzer said. “There’s folks who want to move here who don’t have options, due to those low vacancy rates – and the fact that over decades we just haven’t been producing enough housing.”

“We can’t just build our way out of the housing crisis – it has to be strategic,” another panelist, former Bete Fog Nozzle president Tom Fitch, added. “We need to have a clear shared vision of how housing fits into the region’s future.”

Fitch, a Greenfield Community College trustee, told the Reporter that in his years of experience in the western Massachusetts business community he has seen investments foregone due to lack of an adequate workforce.

“Where people live really shapes where businesses invest and hire,” he said. “People want to come here.... It’s just that we don’t have the right opportunities for people to come and stay to generate the sustainable growth that we need.”

“These population [decline] projections do not need to come true,” said FRCOG executive director Linda Dunlavy. “We can prevent them from coming true by working together in this room.... What we need to do is to build housing, create jobs, and improve our transportation network all at the same time, which is a bit of a challenge.”

Deane said simply waiting for elderly homeowners to die will not open up the right mix of housing for future residents, as many existing homes were “designed for the larger families of yesteryear, not for today’s smaller households, single professionals or retirees... Our housing crisis won’t just fix itself as our older residents move on to what I like to call ‘the ultimate housing development in the sky.’”



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APPROVES from previous page

develop after Lord suggested Article 12 be “revisited,” but did not make a motion to that effect.

Pollock pointed out that 20% of open space was already “baked into” the new zoning, and that it would be better to put the expense of developing and maintaining parkland on a prospective developer rather than make a very large new park at “taxpayers” expense a stipulation of housing development.

Smith’s amendment failed, and the article passed.

A Global Issue

The final article of the night was a petitioned article to declare Montague an “apartheid-free community” in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including a non-binding pledge to “to join others in working to end all support to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz moved that the debate be limited to 20 minutes, but his motion failed on a 42 to 38 vote.

Two of the petitioners, Maddox Sprengel and Kaia Jackson, explained their intent.

“I’m coming to believe that the most impact that I can have as an individual is as a Montague resident,” Jackson said, “and that we actually have more power

within our local government than we have to effect change at the national level at this time. And the reality is that I have paid taxes that have gone towards the destruction of Palestinian life.”

Though several town meeting members said they felt the article was not appropriate for town meeting, and one objected to the use of the term “apartheid,” no speakers defended the policies or actions of the Israeli state in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

“As someone who was raised as a Jewish person, I always felt the foundation that my people would never again allow harm to be wreaked on any other person like the harm that was wreaked on us in the Holocaust,” said Ariel Elan of Precinct 1. “I grew up with that as an absolute moral principle in my foundation. And it’s been devastating to me to look into the history of the founding of the Israeli nation politically, which really was a massive colonial gesture – destroying Palestinian villages and exiling their people when they have done nothing, *nothing*, to cause any harm to anyone, including their Jewish neighbors, for centuries.”

After several more members spoke in favor of the article, the question was called, and Article 16 passed on a majority voice vote.

“Good job, humans,” Irving said as she adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.



MONTAGUE from page A1

the town’s policy for non-unionized staff had placed the position in Grade B, and proposed that the board vote to amend the wage and classification document to place it on Grade A.

The contract with Haskins, which was offered at a meeting three weeks earlier following a brief search, had originally started Haskins at Grade B, Step 10, with a “base pay” of \$117,270. The final negotiated contract starts him at Grade A, Step 7, resulting in a base pay of \$125,000.

The board approved the motion to move the position to Grade A, and then voted to sign the contract, 2 to 0. Town administrator Walter Ramsey said Marina Goldman, who had represented the board in the negotiations but was absent on Monday, “strongly supports” the contract.

Ramsey described the negotiations with Haskins as an “iterative process.” In addition to the higher base pay, the final contract includes a 25% increase in the educational incentive for Haskins’s masters degree as well as a stipend for overseeing the department’s internet technology during his first 18 months.

Ramsey said that the total salary “might seem like a sticker shock to some people,” but that it was consistent with what chiefs are making in “similar communities.”

He added that a new pay scale for non-union employees, including the higher rate for the chief, would require a “motion from the floor” at Wednesday’s special town meeting.

Lord, who said he was “excited” Haskins had accepted the town’s offer, then introduced him to the board.

Haskins, who described himself as a “big community-oriented police person” and a “good systems guy,” said he had spoken with some of the Montague department’s officers and was looking forward to working with them.

Asked if he had followed the discussions in Montague in 2020 about police use-of-force policies in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Haskins said these policies have been an issue across the country, and that he would follow the guidelines established by the state Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission. He added that his work in Greenfield has

involved reviewing use-of-force reports and citizen complaints.

Ramsey said he would forward Haskins the reports of the two committees that evaluated the Montague department’s policies in 2020 and 2021 and Ariel Elan, who chaired one of the committees, offered to meet with him to discuss the “political side of how that process worked.”

According to Ramsey, Williams plans to take some “comp time” around December 1, so Haskins’s November 17 startup date gives the two chiefs “about a week and a half of overlap.”

Senior Center Hire

Continuing in its role as personnel board, the selectboard approved a request from Gill Montague Council on Aging director Roberta Potter to appoint Emily Leibinger to a new part-time position on her staff as administrative assistant.

Potter said that Leibinger, who has worked in the administrative team of the Baystate Medical Center psychiatry department in Springfield, has “an extremely strong background in customer service and office management.”

The job description, posted last month, states that the position “provides customer service and technology assistance for older adults, assisting older adults with on-line applications and searches, administrative and clerical support to the Council on Aging director, and managing the Senior Center monthly calendar.”

Lord asked Leibinger how she found out about the job. “What motivated you to come to the Montague Council on Aging?” he said.

“To be really specific,” Leibinger responded, “I really like the Carnegie Library.” She also mentioned her volunteer work for organizations in the county, and said she was “ecstatic” to join the senior center staff.

Leibinger, who will work 15 hours a week, was scheduled to begin Tuesday. “We were fortunate to have such a good candidate,” said Potter.

Magic Software

Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little came before the board with a request to purchase more sophisticated software to set sewer rates and consider their future impact.

Little explained that her department currently uses a “clunky, hard-to-use spreadsheet that doesn’t evolve with new information,” and that cloud-based software produced by a company called Waterworth, as well as the support the company provides, would “save a lot of time and aggravation.”

Waterworth account executive Adam Bracken said his company works with 380 communities in the US and Canada, and shared an example of its “bread and butter,” a chart of historical revenues and expenditures and resulting customer rates projected out into the 2030s. Evolving assumptions about various factors, he explained, lead to different recommendations for rates.

Bracken said the software is “backed and supported by our professional advising team,” which handles onboarding new departments and entering their historical data. He added that the company would run “public workshops to increase transparency” about the sewer rates recommended by the model.

The cost to the town would be \$7,500 annually, which Little said she could cover within her budget. She said the CWF could “try it out” to set next year’s rates.

Ramsey said he had reviewed the proposal and felt it would improve the “transparency” of the rate-setting process, and help address staffing concerns at the CWF.

“Let’s give it a shot,” said selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz. “Let’s test it out, kick the tires.” The board did not take a formal vote on adopting the software.

Other Business

Ramsey reviewed the 16 articles on Wednesday night’s special town meeting warrant, and the selectboard and staff members chosen to speak on each article.

Lord asked if town meeting members had been sent a revised salary schedule with the police chief listed at Grade A, and Ramsey answered in the affirmative.

Ramsey ended the meeting with an announcement that he had locked the town into a three-year electrical contract at a rate of 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, for a savings of 24%. This is expected to save the town about \$67,000 each year in electrical costs.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 27.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on October 22, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Dashcams, Bodycams

As the national debate over body-mounted videocameras unfolds, pitting privacy advocates against police reform activists, Erving police chief Christopher Blair has made up his mind. On October 26, the Erving police department

may become the first in the state to mandate its officers wear bodycams whenever on duty.

“I’ve wanted them since they came out,” he said. Eleven years ago, when he became chief, he introduced dashboard cameras in the department’s cruisers, a move he said eventually won the full support of his force.

Meanwhile, usage of the same bodycams by the Montague police remains voluntary.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 20, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Wendell Living History

The Wendell Senior Center was packed Sunday to hear stories from four longtime residents. Together they have lived in town 250 years.

The childhood stories shared included walking to Orange and back for movies, clearing the sand dropped by sand trucks in winter to keep the hills good for sledding, one telephone for an entire neighborhood, growing up without electricity, a building toppled in the hurricane of 1938, and other tales of a close-knit community of only a few hundred people.

Duck, Duck, Goose

Each autumn, phalanxes of Canada geese come in for a landing on the cove or the power canal, to join loons, mallards, and the oc-

casional Ross’s goose. Last Friday, the Great Falls Discovery Center narrowly missed being the site of an unusual landing, but the endless rain caused the US Fish and Wildlife Service to scrap its mission.

If the clouds had lifted, Turners would have seen a Cessna 206 amphibian plane with floats for water-based takeoff, used by the USFW for their twice annual waterfowl population surveys, purportedly the longest-running and most reliable wildlife survey in the world.

Instead, pilot-biologist Carl Ferguson arrived by commercial flight to speak with a small but avid crowd. He and 15 other scientist-pilots have clocked nearly four million miles of flight over the four major migratory flyways, from Alaska to southern Mexico, since the program’s inception in 1955, fifty years ago.

Ferguson is confident of his claim in saying, “Overall, the waterfowl population is in good shape.”

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 20, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The new railroad still hangs fire. “Uncle” John Clark of Factory Hollow is running his cider mill on full time. This is a good year for nuts, and the youngsters are reaping a rich harvest.

J.B. Marsh has opened an eating saloon in Sullivan’s block, Fourth street.

Rev. P.L. Quaille will marry a Bohemian couple in St. Mary’s church, Sunday.

Sickness prevails to a great extent at present, there being several cases of typhoid fever.

The Turners Falls lumber company are drawing out of the river a large supply of logs to saw during the winter.

The Clark & Chapman machine company have just finished a 51 inch Coleman water-wheel for the Ludlow manufacturing company of Jenkinsville Vt. It is the largest

water-wheel they have yet made.

N.D. Allen had a finger badly crushed between the jack and a wheel of the coach, while oiling the vehicle, the other day.

Dr. Walton shot a squirrel the other day but as some other hunter had killed the animal about three weeks before, he concluded not to bring it home.

One of the clergymen had to reprimand several young ladies for “laughing in meeting” last Sunday evening. The cause of the merriment was the utterance of an extremely long drawn “amen.”

Recognizing the great inconvenience occasioned by the want of a Catholic cemetery in Turners Falls, Rev. Father Quaille has made a move in the matter, and has purchased a lot on the plains in the rear of the Protestant Cemetery Association’s lot, containing over 12 acres, and costing something over \$1200. It is a beautiful spot for a cemetery. Work will be commenced on it at once, and it is expected to have it ready for consecration by Thanksgiving.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Sewer and Roofs Erode; Riverbank Protected

By KATE SAVAGE

At Monday’s meeting the Gill selectboard dealt with leaky roofs and clogged sewers, and voted to conserve land along the Fall River.

Town administrator Ray Purington announced that volunteers had placed a temporary patch on the leaky roof at the Riverside municipal building, but a long-term solution is needed.

The town has already set \$45,000 aside to re-roof the building, but the cost of the full project will be much higher. After a discussion of metal and asphalt shingle roofs, William Tomb, chair of the board of assessors, recommended “following the most expedient avenue, and not necessarily the ideal one.”

Purington said he needed to do more research on procurement law requirements before the town would be able to collect bids for the job.

Eighty-eight acres of land along the Fall River is now under a conservation restriction with the Franklin Land Trust. The land, which straddles Gill and Greenfield, contains 11.5 acres of prime farmland and 81 acres of prime forest land.

The conservation restriction documents describe the land as important habitat for shad, lamprey, trout, and “hopefully/potentially” salmon, and note that it is already part of the Riverside Archaeological District. The land is currently owned by the Stotz family.

The selectboard quickly approved the conservation restriction, with members noting that there weren’t many other potential uses for the land.

Grease-Bergs Below

The sewer commission met later in the evening to address the “grease-bergs” clogging up the wet well in Riverside. Fixes include a tool that functions like a “pool skimmer” to pull out the floating fat, but this option would require budgeting more time and money for regular sewer maintenance.

Another option is installing a “bubbler” at the bottom, which

jostles the sludge and keeps it more fluid.

A third way to address the problem is keeping fat out of the sewer to begin with. The commission noted that the owners of the food truck restaurant Cielito Lindo have only one more month to show progress toward new sewer regulations, including installing a grease interceptor in the drain. A certified letter was sent to the business in late August, giving them three months to respond, but the sewer commission hadn’t heard from them yet.

In brighter news, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) has offered to help with Gill’s aging sewer pump station. RCAP, a “national network of regional nonprofit organizations,” committed to evaluate the pump station’s needs, estimate improvement costs, and help the town apply for grants to move forward.

Other Business

The selectboard and board of assessors appointed Robert Whit-tier as an assessor through May of next year, filling Tim Storrow’s vacancy. Sam French was appointed to the zoning board of appeals, after Tupper Brown stepped down, and Rafael Neiman of Montague was hired as a firefighter.

Town clerk Doreen Stevens floated the idea of a town census raffle. Massachusetts requires every municipality to conduct a yearly census. Gill has a return rate of 61%, which is lower than most. Stevens suggested some of this might be because the Northfield Mount Hermon school has a high turnover. Former residents stay on the town rolls until they have missed two state elections.

“I also think that there are a lot of people who feel like it’s really none of our business,” Stevens said.

Stevens said she plans to reach out to local businesses to ask for donations to the raffle. She suggested the initiative could also help residents learn more about local stores. Selectboard chair Charles Garbiel joked that Leaf Joy could participate.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The lot, which First Generation has recently cleared, includes brick and concrete foundations of structures from the village’s hydropower heyday, including a plant of the Electric Steel Products company, which manufactured axes.

PATCH from page A1

FirstLight MA Hydro, LLC.

Further to the northeast is the Griswold Cotton Mill, later the Railroad Salvage department store, once sat. That building was recently demolished by the Environmental Protection Agency, and only a small warehouse “annex” building and the hydro plant remain.

The rest of the Patch neighborhood across Tenth Street is zoned “Residential 1,” which is meant “to allow for livable and walkable residential neighborhoods on generally smaller lots serviced by municipal sewer.”

Historic Industrial districts allow “multi-family dwellings” by special permit from the planning board, while in the rest of the neighborhood, “multi-family dwellings not exceeding 4 units” are allowed by special permit from the zoning board of appeals.

A market analysis of the town’s housing stock by the consulting firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), part of a January 2024 reuse study for the former Farren hospital property, found that “[d]espite the strong demand for newly constructed housing units from households living in aging houses, seniors looking to downsize, and low-income households looking for more affordable housing options, there has been notably little construction in recent years.

“Only 39 residential units were permitted over the past eight years,” the report continued, “including 29 single-family residences, seven accessory dwelling units, and three units in a multifamily, mixed-use building.”

The Reporter spoke with Falceanu, who co-owns First Generation with Igor Komerzan. The Greenfield-based company, he said, not only buys and sells property but constructs, renovates, and manages buildings. Falceanu confirmed that the two buildings would include a total of eight new apartments, and that First Generation intends to remain as landlord of the tenants.

Falceanu, who lives in Bernardston, said that he and Komerzan are of Moldovan ancestry and that he is bilingual, being fluent in English and Romanian. He

added that Komerzan spent his early years on Griswold Street in Turners Falls and briefly attended Sheffield Elementary School before moving to Greenfield. He currently lives in Northfield.

The building lot, a 200-by-200-foot square, was first sold by the Turners Falls Power & Electric Company in 1921 to the Electric Steel Products Company, “with the buildings thereon.” At that time the power company had recently completed the extension of the canal and the construction of Cabot Station downstream.

The 1921 mortgage deed notes that the purchase “shall not include any of the apparatus or machinery in said buildings except the boilers and heating apparatus connected therewith.”

In 1933 the lot was acquired by foreclosure by the Quinehtuk Co., another electric company, which granted Turners Falls Power & Electric and its successors a “perpetual” easement to “maintain... such canals, forebays and reservoirs as may now exist on said land” without making the owner liable “by reason of any seepage, leakage, percolation or other escape of water either upon or below the surface of the ground” to the parcel.

The property and “buildings thereon” were acquired in 1950 by Julius Blassberg, who lost it to the town of Montague under tax title in 1963. In 1972 Mary Ann Barlow bought it from the town for \$850, and when it was sold by John Barlow to Margaret Ruggeri in 1985 for \$75,000, the deed still noted “buildings thereon.”

Older residents remember a brick garage structure on the property, which had long been demolished by 2006, when Ruggeri sold it to Joel Tognarelli, Inc. When the land was acquired this year by First Generation, the deed mentioned the 1933 power company easement.

The planning board hearing is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall annex, and can be accessed via Zoom.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



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Pet of the Week



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‘DANNY’

Danny is a shy, one-and-a-half-year-old domestic shorthair kitty who just needs a little extra time and patience to feel safe around new people. Once he gets to know you he especially leans in for his favorite chin pets.

Danny has lived peacefully with two other cats – Brady and Carrie, who are also looking for homes – so he may do well in a quiet home with other feline friends. With a slow introduction and lots of love, Danny is sure to blossom into a

loyal and affectionate companion.

Ready to make a difference in a special kitty’s life? Adoption fees for many animals are 50% off in October. Come to the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield during open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., call us at (413) 781-4000, or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

If you’re ready to adopt without meeting a cat first, you can call or email to place a non-refundable \$25 hold to reserve a cat for 24 hours.

THEATER from page B1

common district had already become glaringly apparent. Wendell likes to reuse old buildings the way I like to reuse old notebooks.

Look at what Jerry Eide, historic commission member, had to say at that long-ago charrette: “The Congregational Meetinghouse has been given to the Friends of the Meetinghouse, to hold meetings, small concerts. It would have to be open for religious purposes. We’d love to have people hear bells ring and weddings and open it up as a church. You don’t have many buildings that define the Green. There’s a certain feel when you go into a small town.”

Amen to that.

Well, Kate O’Kane’s goat survived the tornado, the senior center swapped places with the library, Anne Marie Meltzer sold her land to the town for a new office building, and the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse undertook a painstaking, decades-long renovation of that community-defining structure and opened it up just in time for me to arrive, breathless, notebook in hand, for Friday’s performance, where the shifting meridians of gender, the interior cartography of love, the porous architecture of familial bonds, and the magic lantern-lit passageways of the aging mind formed the intertwining themes that weave the dramatic structure of Court Dorsey’s latest opus: *Swamped*.

Not just a play in two acts but an episodic unraveling of id, estrogen, ego, and a kaleidoscopic spelunking of a communal zeitgeist hovering in a time zone where, on some supra-cellular level, we remain connected. In an era where phones still ring, ballads play, and the long shuffleboard of our mortal coil remains slippery with wax amid the caroming slings of outrage and misfortune, Dorsey plumbs the briny depths of our collective consciousness.

We are in Our Town, Wendell, at the intersection of Depot Road and Morse Village, seen through the intersectional lens of Wendell’s resident dramaturge, Dorsey, who has been pacing and demarcating the various stages of life in the Valley since he departed Juicy John Pink’s in Dekalb, Indiana, circa 1976 for the seething town dump on Rocks Road in Seabrook, New Hampshire and Pat DeCou’s detached garage, a former gas station on North Leverett Road.

As he moved up to Wendell, Dorsey took an entrepreneurial interest in a number of possible venues for his theater work, including an old Baptist Church located somewhere on the cheap side of Greenfield, and the Shea Theater as it underwent another renaissance in downtown Montague.

But his labors were not lost in the years of toil he and other Friends invested in the Meetinghouse restoration. Here his theater work and love of community have found a harmonious marriage at last. You can hear the wedding bells ring.

On Friday, was he preaching to the choir in the meticulously restored building, where the pulpit had suddenly been transformed into an old folks’ home? Certainly.

The wide pine floorboards resounded with applause and self-deprecating laughter as the hometown crowd and a few near neighbors recognized themselves in the prism of four characters prowling the many levels of meaning in the Russian



CATALINA MENDEZ TORRES PHOTO

Heather Willey and Steve Eldredge play Kat and Stephen, and our reviewer wonders: “What are they doing together in the first place?”

dollhouse of a set, designed brilliantly by Tim Holcomb, with every bower of plastic bliss preserved in amber light, every delaminating plywood boundary of marital harmony exposed, every fibrous bat of protective insulation flitting through the belfry of our Aquarian aspirations or hanging from the dropped ceiling and twisting in the spectral wind of time.

First to emerge from the Kafkaesque burrow of Dorsey’s brain, Joe Laur, as the Captain, makes his way onto a tight elevated platform, stage left, leaning on a cane and wearing a beat-up Bosox cap, looking like someone who never made the playoffs. He’s a loser, certainly, and he’s lost someone that’s dear to him. But he’s not what he appears to be. When it’s time for meds, he takes bourbon, neat.

We come back to Laur repeatedly, for he is the dark star around which the other three players shift and orbit. He is a fulminating, fulgurant, volcanic force journeying from the center of the Earth, which is to say, Wendell. But he tricks us, first, into thinking he’s a real nowhere man, a washed-up old fool beached on the outgoing tides of decrepitude.

Who comes to greet him but Klaus Kinski? No, Steve Eldredge, Kinski’s drop-dead Doppelganger. He stalks the stage like *der Nosferatu* in a long, loping glide, and he’s got that fey glitter in his eye like he’s searching for the jugular but willing to settle for Perrier. He’s an empath with daddy issues, and he quickly finds the beating heart of the play on the shoals of the Captain’s chamber.

They talk about cats. Or is it about women? Ah! The latter: “A woman needs a firm hand,” opines the Captain to the younger man. Now there’s a line guaranteed to go down swimmingly among the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse.

Turns out, Stephen’s partner is named Kat, played by Heather Willey in a brittle, bruised performance that leaves the audience thirsting for more, right up to the point she gives it to them. Her tears begin to flow, the partnership, on the rocks, sinks, and Kat flees the home front for an indefinite stay in Wellfleet. Or even the outermost bounds of liberation, that promontory of pride and self-discovery, the point of contact and conquest between our Old World and the New – Provincetown.

As we watch Kat and Stephen trade barbs over the details of their daily lives, we wonder: what are they doing together in the first place? They have no chemistry. They’re like oil and water, Boris and Natasha, Nixon and Agnew. But look in the mirror, people.

It’s obvious. Stephen would rather marry an interior decorator and

move to the City. And Kat would rather spend long evenings alone in a cabin by the shore watching reruns on TCM: *The Three Faces of Eve*, or *Mädchen in Uniform*.

As Kat begins to retreat from view, one thinks of Eugene O’Neill’s raw dissection of familial relations in a seaside town, *Long Day’s Journey Into Night*: “That’s what I wanted – to be alone with myself in another world where truth is untrue and life can hide from itself. Out beyond the harbor, where the road runs along the beach... The fog and the sea seemed part of each other. It was like walking on the bottom of the sea.”

But then, in bold counterpoint to Willey’s reserved and chalk-white character, in walks Izzy Miller wearing green scrubs, and the quartet of players is complete.

They, let’s use the proper pronoun, are giving away Candy, their birth name, for Clove, and they are a nurse’s aide in the long-term care facility where the Captain dreams of reuniting in death with his beloved wife, and rails against the changes in the long-established shipping lanes of sex roles and gender. He is lashed to the mast of white supremacy but all ears for Izzy, who finds common ground with the old coot, a familiar type since, after all, they grew up here.

Miller is a slow burn, but lights up the stage by the second act, as Clove becomes a willing accomplice to the Captain’s planned rendezvous with the Grim Reaper. He challenges the young aide to let him do with his body as he wills, even as they contemplate rearranging their own hormones to remain true to their deepest sense of self.

How does it end? In a new beginning for all, of course, a newly renovated space, and new pulpit from which to reach and beseech all lovers of bold community theater to dare the treacherous currents that isolate and divide us and come together, next weekend, at the Meetinghouse in Wendell, for the second rising of *Swamped*.

You don’t have many buildings that define the Common like this 19th-century meetinghouse. And you don’t have many plays that define the Common experience of life, and love, in the 21st century like *Swamped*. Go see it while you have the chance.

Swamped, written and directed by Court Dorsey, continues at the Wendell Meetinghouse this Thursday through Saturday, October 23 through 25, at 7:30 p.m. each night and this Sunday, October 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$25 at the door, or \$15 to \$20 in advance at wendellmeetinghouse.ludus.com or at the Wendell Country Store.



Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 27 THROUGH 31

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 10/27

9 a.m. Good For U

10 a.m. Seated Fitness

12 p.m. Pitch Game

1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 10/28

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringers

Wednesday 10/29

9 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/30

9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow

12 p.m. Halloween Lunch

Friday 10/31

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

Open Sew

12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday

3 p.m. Tai Chi

4:15 p.m. Spanish Lessons

Wednesday 10/29

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 10/30

10 a.m. Library Resources Presentation

Friday 10/31

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is November 18. 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.

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 10/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Beginning Yoga

6 p.m. Library Trustees

Tuesday 10/28

9 a.m. Chair Yoga

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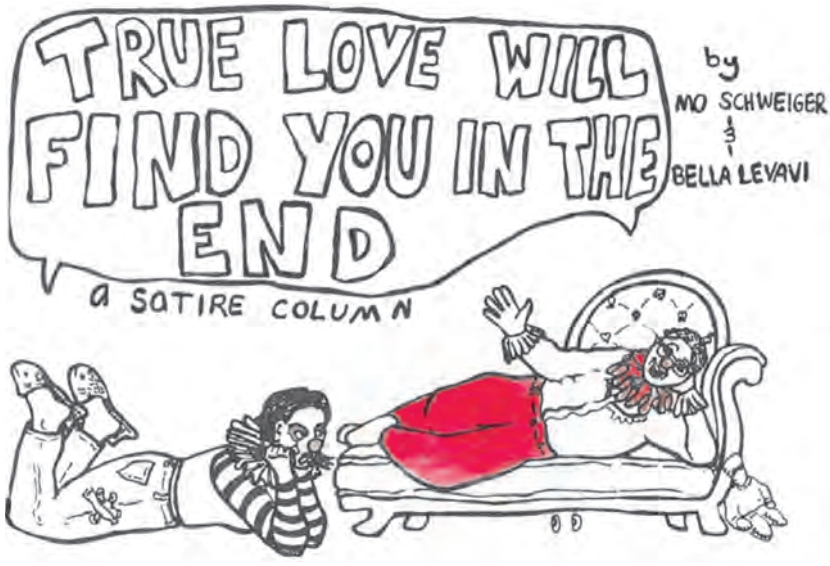
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Dear Montague Cultural Council,

By MANDY MANDYBALLS

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Please accept this application for a grant of \$420 so that I can host Montague’s First Annual MandyFest at Peskeompskut Park, across from the office that Mike Jackson keeps me locked up in, churning out articles month after month and hand-feeding him pizza during the 48-hour *Montague Reporter* Edit-A-Thon that takes place every Tuesday to Thursday, regardless of the fact that this is a weekly paper that in no way requires such a thing.

Summarize the Proposed Project or Program:

Naturally, this will be a festival celebrating every artist who makes work under the pseudonym “Mandy.” Honorees will include: me, of course; pop sensation It’s Mandy, the Club Mango rockstar and most famous girl in the world; and probably other extremely serious Mandys too who I just haven’t met yet.

The event will begin with a non-sense parade at which attendees will each burn an effigy of their least favorite Mandy. They will then be led in a rousing chorus of “The Mandy-Spangled Mandy,” which they will easily pick up as it has the same tune as “The Star Spangled Banner.”

They will then be led to the Carnival of Mandys, which will feature various Mandys enacting everyone’s favorite park-festival activities: bobbing for apples; a Kiss a Mandy booth that I alone will volunteer at; and open carrying – guns or alcohol, at the discretion of the Mandy in question.

Other activities will include a slate of other local pseudonymous icons: Denise the Beast of Easthampton, who has not left the park since the Home Body concert there this summer and was last seen yelling the phrase at the famously straight duo, will lead a chant of “Homo Body! Homo Body!”; Monte Belmonte will dress as an ugly woman; and DJ Dutch will, as always, be playing the best music ever written, but only by musicians with pseudonyms, with a special preference for Mandys.

Unfortunately, famous clown JJ Waffles had to be kicked out of this illustrious event in my mind – which has not happened yet, and will not until you fund it – because he legally changed his name to the aforementioned title, rendering it no longer a pseudonym, and also because he has died. Rest in peace, Waffles, I hope to fill your clown shoes one day.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project:

I, Mandy Mudballs, live under a desk at the *Montague Reporter* office. From my perch I have seen the comings and goings of this town like no one else. I know what this park needs because I hear the bored children there screaming “We need Mandyfest in this park in two to six months!” every time the office door opens.

Additionally, no one can Mandy like I can, because no other Mandys have any executive functioning abilities. The other Mandys can be the talent, but I am the only one fit to organize such a spectacle.

Also, the funding of MandyFest is crucial because I really need to get out of this office – Mike won’t let me out unless I learn the *Montague Reporter* Style Guide by heart, which everyone knows is impossible because it’s just whatever he is feeling at that exact moment!

Budget:

\$419 for ads in the *Montague Reporter*. (Don’t worry, Mike, I’ll design them during the unbreakable sleep you fall into after your Edit-A-Thon.)

\$1 for one can of PBR. (For me to drink because I’m going to get nervous hosting all of these Mandys.)

In-kind donations: Everything else from RiverCulture. (Thanks Suzanne!)

Additional Materials:

Thank you, Massachusetts, for providing the small amounts of necessary money to fund ridiculous events throughout Montague all year long. Long live Mandyfest.

True Love Will Find You In The End (TLWIFYITE),

Mandy Mandyballs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sick-Looking Fox on the Hill; Serious Bike Crash; Bookstore Exuberance; Ding-Dong Ditch; Actual Ditch

Monday, 10/13

2:49 p.m. Caller states that while he was driving on Vladish Avenue near Millers Falls Road, he thinks he saw a fox and just wanted patrols to keep an eye out as they are usually nocturnal, so it being out in the daytime could mean it’s sick. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 10/14

12:27 p.m. Party approached officer advising that a vehicle passed him on the bridge and blew a stop sign. Vehicle described as a gray Matrix; plate number provided.

2:49 p.m. 911 report of a two-car accident near Nouria; no injuries or fluids. Tow requested for one vehicle.

2:51 p.m. Multiple 911 reports of male party unconscious in the road, gargling blood, on Turners Falls Road. Possible bike accident. Officers advising party conscious but not alert. Heavy blood flow. Requesting helicopter. TFFD A1 responding. Road closed from Hatchery to Old Northfield Road. State police detective unit on scene. Family member notified of accident.

3:09 p.m. DPW advising they are working on a water line on Fourth Street and will have a barrier set up over the manhole for the evening and until they return in the morning.

5:13 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that the neighbors moved a couch and some other junk outside and the caller came home to find these objects in his front yard. Referred to an officer.

6:26 p.m. 911 caller from Vladish Avenue reports that a fox has killed some of his chickens; states it’s not the fox that looks ill and mangy. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 10/15
12:12 a.m. 911 abandoned call; upon callback, female states she is struggling and needs someone to talk to but feels like she just wants to go to bed now. Referred to an officer.

5:38 a.m. Walk-in would like to speak with an officer about more stuff missing in her apartment. Party reports some food has gone missing. Advised of options.

10:49 a.m. Walk-in reports

that she owns a vacant Millers Falls Road property, and when she was there today, she noticed someone attached a piece of paper with “Vacant” written on it to the mailboxes. Finds this suspicious and wants officers to monitor the area. 11:04 a.m. Caller from the Montague Housing Authority reports that a female threw a key at her and she would like to press charges for assault. Officer advised. Involved female called in reporting that her father passed away on Wednesday; she went in to speak to the caller about getting items from his apartment, and was told she would be billed for their removal. States she went back today to give the key back, and was screamed at by the original caller that removing the items is her responsibility, not theirs. States she then tossed the key on the desk, then received a voicemail from the original caller that she needs to come clean up her deceased father’s mess.

4:44 p.m. Caller from Sheffield Elementary School states she is a teacher and was assaulted today; the principal wanted her to file a report. An officer will call and take the report; MPD will follow up with it on Friday.

5:08 p.m. Caller would like a check on a 50-ish-year-old male yelling by Unnameable Books. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 10/16

12:03 p.m. Report of a sick fox wandering around a driveway at the town highway garage. Animal control officer (ACO) *en route*. 1:07 p.m. Shelburne Control called to report a vehicle operating all over the road. Officer spoke with vehicle owner at his residence and advised him of the complaint.

5:43 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that they have had someone knock on the door multiple times and they believe it is a female resident’s ex, against whom there is a restraining order. Caller states he has video of the male walking and driving around the block and knocking on the doors, then running away. Vehicle description and plate number provided.

11:42 a.m. Walk-in reports someone altered

Second and Canal streets.

Friday, 10/17

5:46 a.m. Shelburne Control advising they received a call on their business line reporting a black lab in the roadway on Federal Street about a half mile from the Sunderland town line. Officer checked area; no dog seen. Female caller states she was the one who called Shelburne Control and she was able to get the dog out of the roadway and into her car. Caller states she is currently in the parking lot with the dog. Phone number located on dog tag; officer left a message. Number associated with female at an address in Montague. Chief made contact with person dogsitting while owner is on vacation. They will be down to get her in a few. Dog picked up by dogsitter.

1:17 p.m. Walk-in states he gave a \$400 cash advance to a male for some work to be done around the house, and three months later, the male has not shown up. Advised of options.

4:15 p.m. Caller reporting a rabid fox roaming Turnpike Road by the high school. Referred to other agency.

5:06 p.m. Manager from Nouria states that a customer slapped or hit a worker. Referred to an officer.

6:11 p.m. Caller states that they hit a deer and it is in the middle of Route 63. Deer is deceased, per officer. Called MassDOT, and they will remove deer.

8:31 p.m. Caller states that a known party stole \$11,500 from him; would like to speak to an officer.

Saturday, 10/18

9:10 a.m. Officer from another department requesting assistance locating a female who has a laptop from their town that needs to be returned. Officer made contact with female, who had a few choice words to say toward Belchertown and advised she is not returning any property. Called other department back and advised.

11:31 a.m. Employee from Rendezvous advises their fire alarms went off, but there is no fire; states it was from their stove downstairs. Control advised.

11:42 a.m. Walk-in reports someone altered

and forged a check he had mailed to pay his Comcast bill. Original check was for \$362.02 and someone altered it to \$862.02. Referred to an officer.

1:19 p.m. Caller reports that a mangy-looking fox is walking down Turnpike Road, most likely the same fox that has been reported for weeks. ACO advised via radio. ACO did not see the fox; will check around the area; also advised that environmental police officers are aware.

1:45 p.m. 911 caller reports that he is walking by a Station Street address and the smoke alarms are going off; believes the house is vacant; can’t see any smoke or flames. Transferred to Control. Officer advises fire alarm only on the front porch. FD is already on scene.

2:20 p.m. 911 call transferred from Control; caller reports that a male was coming at him being aggressive and has since gotten into his vehicle; states male has a trespass order for all of Powertown Apartments. All units advised. Officer out with vehicle near the basketball courts at Unity Park. Officer clear; advises no one is in vehicle. Investigated.

7:25 p.m. 911 call reporting car vs. deer on Millers Falls Road. Deer dispatched. Message left for DPW.

9:58 p.m. Vehicle pursuit, Millers Falls Road to Carlisle Avenue. Checking area of airport where tire marks were noticed. Vehicle in upper lot on East Main Street. Officer approaching; female outside screaming. Erving PD in area responding to call location. Summonses issued.

Sunday, 10/19

4:44 a.m. Loud noise complaint regarding upstairs residents on Third Street. Ongoing issue. Call logged.

4:52 a.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue reports a large mother bear and three cubs in the area roughly an hour ago.

7:06 p.m. Walk-in reporting a fox crossing Turnpike Road that looked sick. Officers advised.

8:08 p.m. 911 caller from East Mineral Road reporting a male party lying in a ditch on her mother-in-law’s property. Would like him removed. Officers spoke to male party; advised of options.

Monday, 10/20

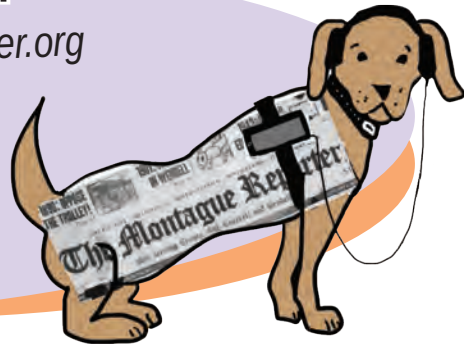
4:44 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that a male party is making threats toward her and her daughter who reside on a floor above him. Caller states that this morning the party called her names and has advised that she and her 15-year-old daughter “better watch it.” Officer spoke with caller and advised her of options. Male advised of complaint.

Have a question for the editor?

Email it to us at podcast@montaguereporter.org and listen for our “Ask the Editor” segment to hear the answer!



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**THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE**

EXHIBIT from page B1

For TV shows, Ebon Moss-Bachrach from Amherst is in *The Bear*, and *Blue Bloods'* Bridget Moynahan is from Longmeadow.

Several other actors' filmographies were presented like this, but it was also shown which films have been filmed in the area. *The Judge* is one example, and *The Cider House Rules* is another. Movie posters connected to some of this stuff were a feature of the exhibit.

It wasn't just actors that came from the Pioneer Valley. Darius Marder, a director from Conway, was featured – he directed *Sound of Metal*. Costume designers and their costumes were part of it, including Ruth E. Carter of Springfield, whose costumes include one from the 2016 *Roots* remake and one from *Coming 2 America*.

A highlight reel showed people and clips from those films I mentioned. Films coming to theaters connected to the region include *Avengers: Doomsday*, which stars Moss-Bachrach, and *Grendel* by Turners Falls writer and director Robert Krzykowski.

A small section in the exhibit specifically showcased some of the types of films that have connections with the area. Ted Sears was nicely highlighted, with his connection to animation. I liked this and the timeline the best.

You can see what else this museum has on exhibit at memorialhalldeerfield.org.



FACES...



MARK RESSL PHOTO

Above: The acorn-cracking station at the fifth annual Chestnut Festival held October 11 at Big River Chestnut Farm in Sunderland. Reader and attendee Donna Petersen writes that the festival was a "big success, with lots of visitors enjoying the varied learning opportunities, tastings, tables of cool things to buy – native plants, beeswax candles, acorn flour, baked goods – music, talks about acorns, and of course all things chestnut! There were farm tours, roasted chestnuts, and chestnuts to take home... The oak acorn ice cream was popular, and sold out."

At right: Photojournalist Joe R. Parzych recently visited the newly refurbished Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, and sent in this cool shot of the reflection under the adjacent Iron Bridge, which connects the village's Shelburne and Buckland sides for automobile traffic. "Northern Construction Service of Palmer did an excellent job of renovation on the Bridge of Flowers," Joe notes.



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

& PLACES

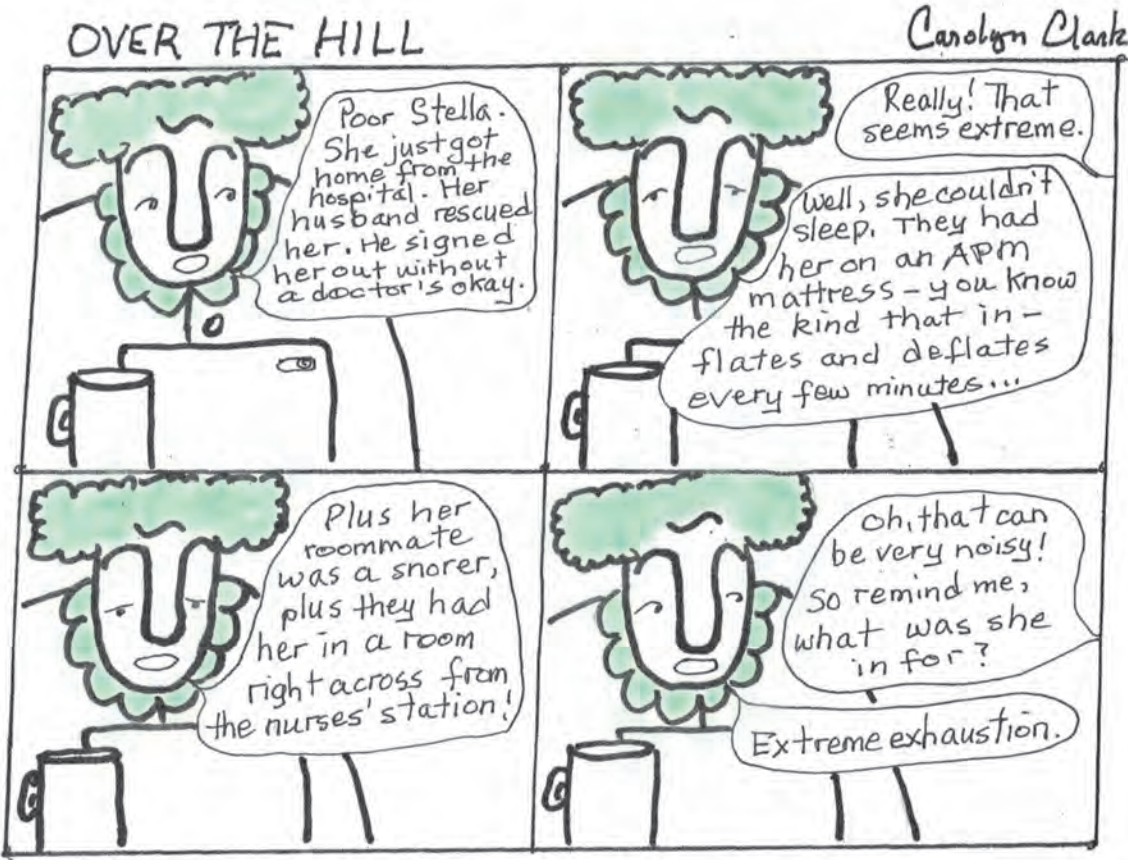


JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

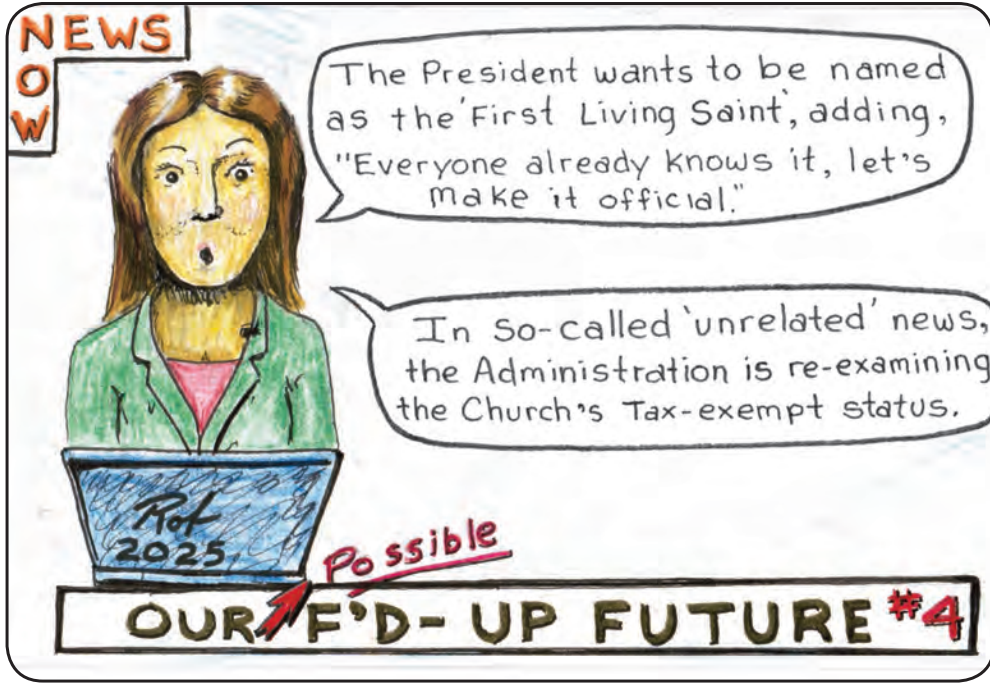
Cool Cats on the Ave



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The Science Page

BOOK REVIEW

Even This Headline Is Tuberculosis

John Green, *Everything Is Tuberculosis* (2025, Crash Course Books)

By JOSH WATSON

TURNERS FALLS – Consumption was considered, in Europe until the approach of the 19th century, a kind of gift, a condition found among society’s elite known as *spes phthisica*, a sort of mercurial passion that animated and inspired them toward euphoric creativity. The physical qualities of phthisics, who were unnaturally slender and moved languidly, with milky complexions and wide hollow eyes, were envied and imitated. The consumed, so blessed, often died by their mid-20s, and rarely made it into middle age, their lively spirits extinguished and their artistic ambitions left unfinished.

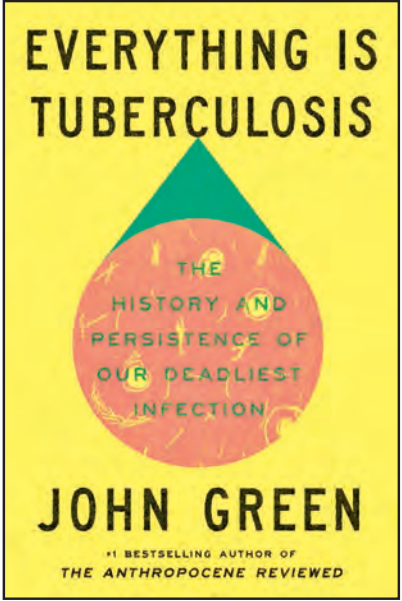
“According to the mythology of tuberculosis,” Susan Sontag writes in her 1978 essay “Illness as Metaphor,” “there is generally some passionate feeling which provokes, which expresses itself in, a bout of tuberculosis. But the passions must be thwarted, the hopes blighted.”

Along with industrialization came a decrease in quality of life for the poor and an increase for the rich, who, in their improved living conditions, found their tendency toward *spes phthisica* had somehow dwindled. Many of the poor, packed into tenements and coerced into factory jobs, possessed the physical qualities similar to those once prized, but now seemed pale, underfed, indolent.

Once the bacteria that causes consumption, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, was identified by the German doctor Robert Koch in 1882, any lingering fetishization of the gift of consumption had been lost to the stigma of the disease tuberculosis.

John Green, a podcaster and best-selling author of fiction (*The Fault in Our Stars*) and non-fiction (*The Anthropocene Reviewed*), traces this history in his new book *Everything is Tuberculosis* from both a sociological and scientific standpoint over the last several hundred

years, while telling the moving story of a young man he befriended in Sierra Leone whose early life was defined by, and is a searing example of, the disparity in tuberculosis treatment in our time.



While *Spes phthisica* had not been a condition considered available to non-white Europeans, tuberculosis was. Even so, in the Jim Crow era Black Americans were considered less susceptible to tuberculosis and to have a much lower rate of infection, mainly because they were denied diagnoses, and when diagnosed, often denied treatment.

In Canada, Indigenous children packed into residential schools were 11 times as likely to die of tuberculosis than the Native American population generally, who were themselves already 10 times more likely to die of the disease than White Canadians. As Green points out, “8 percent of all kids confined in [residential] schools died of tuberculosis *each year*.”

Still, there were wealthy and middle-class consumptives who sought treatment for the disease they knew would almost certainly kill them. They traveled or relocated, often from crowded cities, to places where the air was dry.

Cities like Pasadena and Colorado Springs sprouted overnight to host consumptives. The then-territory of New Mexico, pursuing statehood but blocked by Congress for having a too-high proportion of Indigenous people, finally lured enough white consumptives to convince Congress to approve the bill.

Sanatoriums opened throughout the world and were filled with hopeful consumptives willing to cede control over their lives to the strict regimens in hope of convalescence. Their entire communities were made up of consumptives, their quotidian lives devoted to the process, the progress.

“People who were only slightly ill did not count for much – he had often overheard conversations to that effect,” Thomas Mann writes in his 1913 novel *The Magic Mountain*, set in a Swiss sanatorium, “whenever his tablemates asked about his temperature, Hans Castorp [the protagonist], too, would add a few tenths.”

In 1944, with the isolation of the antibiotic streptomycin, the US began treating patients – the third patient was war hero Robert Dole, who later went on to become the Republican Senator from Kansas. The sanatoriums emptied; patients began to recover.

Here is where this review, in attempting to linearize the history described nonlinearly in Green’s book, admits to perhaps burying the lede. Tuberculosis has killed more people through history than any other disease, more than plague, more than cancer, and is responsible for perhaps one billion deaths. Although tuberculosis has been a curable disease since 1945, millions of people worldwide continue to die of it every year.

Few of these cases occur in the United States. 10,300 were reported by the CDC in 2024; 254 of these cases were in Massachusetts. While the US in 2023 had an infection rate

of 2.9 per 100,000 people, the rate worldwide was 135 per 100,000. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1,247,800 people died of tuberculosis in 2023. Tuberculosis is the leading cause of infectious death worldwide.

M. tuberculosis travels through air from coughs and sneezes, and is transmissible in close contact. It reproduces slowly compared to other bacteria; but its cell walls are thicker, fattier. Our own white blood cells, unable to destroy the *M. tuberculosis*, barricade themselves around it, hardening into microscopic balls called tubercles. Within the tubercles, the bacteria continue to divide.

This latent tuberculosis is present in the bodies of millions of people, most of whom remain free of symptoms, and who perhaps never realize they’re infected at all; but for a tenth or so of those afflicted, their white blood cells are outnumbered, and approximately 80% of those people, whether untreated or unresponsive to treatment, die.

Green’s premise, that “everything is tuberculosis,” draws from the disease’s odd romantic history, from its lethality – the poet John Keats morbidly, tragically inspired by his sickness, dead at 25; Gavril Princip, emboldened by his own to assassinate the Archduke Ferdinand, sparking World War I, dead at 23 – and from the economic and racial imbalance of treatment options to argue that tuberculosis touches every facet of our lives, whether we regularly encounter its victims or not.

Why do so many people still die of this disease? There are several primary reasons, which often work together.

Any case of tuberculosis can become, perhaps famously, resistant to antibiotics. There are several antibiotics that treat tuberculosis, but not more than that. As Green says, “[t]he real problem is that in the forty-six years between 1966 and

2012, we developed no new drugs to treat tuberculosis.” There are several effective drugs developed since 2012, which are ruinously expensive, and may also be poisonous in other ways, causing hearing loss, kidney failure, liver damage.

Resistance to antibiotics can result, of course, from a patient failing to complete the full course of antibiotics, but this is rarely the failure of the patient. In many regions it is difficult to find these antibiotics, or they are stored at a hospital hours away; sometimes they’re doled out daily in a way or in a location that makes it untenable for the patient to continue them.

Sometimes, when the body has wasted away long enough to become nearly skeletal, the recovery process, as the patient regains their appetite, causes a hunger so biting, so all-consuming, that if there is not sufficient food available or affordable enough to sate it, the patient may simply prefer to be consumed.

Sometimes the protocols are broken. Green writes of WHO guidelines which simply administered the same antibiotic a second time if it failed the first time, resulting in resistance and, in one example, “supportive therapy.” What is supportive therapy, Green asks a doctor on the scene. “It basically meant,” she replied, “put sick people in a hut on the side of the road and wait for them to die.”

And, of course, there is always the question of who pays. In March 2025, the Trump administration cut all funding for USAID – the primary source of one-quarter of the world’s funding for tuberculosis treatment, according to the WHO. A joint study by Harvard’s Chan School of Public Health and Boston University School of Public Health released last Friday finds this lack of funding will lead to an additional 2.5 million pediatric cases of tuberculosis worldwide, and 340,000 pediatric deaths.

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EVENTS

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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*. Drink cider and enjoy the vista. 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 help send Linda off in style. 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls: Culinary workshop, *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: 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 encouraged at bit.ly/HBC-Birdability2025. 8:30 a.m. Free.

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: Reception, *Charlotte Treiber: Tuna Croquette*. 5 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Reading, *Nora Claire Miller*. 6:30 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. \$.

Shelburne Falls Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. Music at 7 p.m., 133 Skeelee. Benefit for NEPM. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *DJ Lucas, March Davis, Papo 2004, 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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Open House and 15th Anniversary Party*. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.



Cult indie-folksinger Jason Anderson plays Northampton this Friday and Keene this Saturday.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Midpoint reception, *Silent Art Auction* to benefit the LAVA Center, with an opportunity to "Meet the Artists." 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Author Talk*. John Bollard, *Protesting with Rosa Parks*. Also *Friends of the Library Annual Meeting*. Both at 1 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wings Without Borders: A Bird Migration Talk* with ornithologist Chad Witko. 2 p.m. Free.

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Reception, *Day of the Dead Altar*. 3 to 5 p.m. Free.

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 this 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, through November 22.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Local Local*, small works by 21 local artists who were asked to create work using material from Franklin County. Through January 4, with a reception Friday, November 7, from 5 to 8 p.m.

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. Open house and 15th anniversary party for the gallery this Saturday, October 25, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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.

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

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Primal Reflections*, paintings by Walker Antonio, through December 12.

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, through November 21.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Tuna Croquette*, works by Charlotte Treiber. Through November, with a reception this 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.

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

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

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 FOR ART

Artspace, Greenfield: Interpret the theme *Making Light* in all forms – emotional, literal, or metaphorical – for a community art show premiering January 9. Information about applying at www.artspacegreenfield.org. Submit by November 23; no submission fee.

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CALENDAR

The Beech House, Northfield: *Sounds for Hounds* feat. *Chick'nWire* and *Just Fine Thank You*. Dinner, raffle, door prizes. Benefit for the Regional Dog Shelter. Information at (413) 676-9182. 4 p.m. \$

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Reading: *L. Scully, CAConrad*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Take Ten*. Staged readings of 10-minute plays by Valley playwrights. Refreshments. 6:30 p.m. \$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *The Time Is Now Climate Change Play Festival*. Short plays by Alister Emerson, Lewis Hetherington, Katie Pearl. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dogo Du Togo & the Alagaa Beat Band, Selector Tomás*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Trash Panda Kill Kill, Crowrider*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Couchboy, The frost heaves and hales, Mass Resistor*. 7 p.m. No cover.

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

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

Shelburne Falls Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole Pictures* presents *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. Music at 7 p.m., *Davis Bates*. Benefit for NEPM. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tony Vacca and Fusion Nomads*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Claudio Simonetti's Goblin* performs the live score to *Dario Argento's Deep Red* (1975). 8 p.m. \$\$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mind Left Body*, Grateful Dead tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Rival Galaxies, Teen Driver, Sleep Destroyer*. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Book Club*. Silvia Moreno-Garcia, *Mexican Gothic*. Copies available at the library. 2 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *The Time Is Now Climate Change Play Festival*.

Short plays by Nikhil Katara, Georgina HL Escobar, Caridad Svich. 2 p.m. By donation.

Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield: *Motown in Your Town*. 2 p.m. \$.

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

Four Phantoms Brewery, Greenfield: *Sunday Scaries*, double feature by Italian horror director Lucio Fulci: *City of the Living Dead* (1980), *Zombie* (1979). Free popcorn. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Halloween Photo Booooooth*. 4 to 5 p.m. Free.

SUBMITTED IMAGE

Brooklyn-based clarinetist and composer Katie Porter joins a stacked bill of experimental musicians Sunday evening at Greenfield Records.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Community Potluck and Contra Dance*, with *Monday Night Session* and caller *George Marshall*. 5:45 p.m. By donation.

Greenfield Records, Greenfield: *Ben Richter, Eric Wong & Mark Cetilia, Katie Porter*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Ailey Verdelle, Lonnie Plaxico*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *J. Burkett, belltonesuicide, Triiish, Jeff Gallagher*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

John Zon Community Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Election Forum*, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Franklin County and the Precinct 7 Neighbors Network. 6 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Presentation Night*, hosted by Olivia Nied. "We will provide a laptop and a projector, for slides or reference materials, a mic, a timer, and an eclectic, community-oriented audience." 8 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Drop-In Knitting/Crafting*. 6 to 8 p.m. Free.

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

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Poetry Group*. 3 p.m. Free.

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

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Vasen, The Fretless*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown, Scott Sasanecki*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Palladium, Worcester: *Biohazard, Onyx, Bayway, Swollen Teeth*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

Franklin County YMCA, Greenfield: *Spooktacular Family Fun Night*. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *PWRUP, Joker's Republic, The Prozacs, Sad Snack*. 6 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions and Cloudgaze present *A Happening V: The Bestiary*. Interactive performance art event. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Halloween Party with Lady Pop*. Costume party, prizes, snacks. 8 p.m. No cover.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Punk Rock Costume Party with Slobdrop, Oziem, Slow Pony*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *DJ Quills, The Boo!-52.0s*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

236 Pleasant, Northampton: *Teen Driver, Cliffrose, Pillars of the Community, Dr. CrOde*, costume contest. 9:30 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

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.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Spooky Disasters*, storytelling open mic and potluck. 6 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Buoyant Heart Presents Another Halloween Oil Bill Benefit Cover Band Show*. 6 p.m. \$.

Taproot, Williamsburg: *Landis Brothers, Faith Snow, Joseph Tracy*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Heavy Covers*, Halloween show feat. *'Rage Against The Machine,' 'The Pogues,' 'Weezer.'* 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dave Dersham*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: Screening, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. 3:30 p.m. Free.

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Boos & Brews*. Palm reading, bingo, costumes encouraged. 4 to 9 p.m. No cover.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Lady Killigrew, Montague Center: *The frost heaves and hales*. 4 p.m. Free.

Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke: *Ned Rothenberg*. 5 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Advance Base, Moontype, bobbie*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Norma Dream, Elijah Berlow, Lyle de Vitry*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

First Churches, Northampton: Ambient Church presents *Laraaji*, with live light projections. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Reception for *Local Local*. 5 to 8 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Partygirl, Sapien Joyride, Annie Collette*. 8 p.m. \$.

Asbestos Farm, Hadley: *Vega, The Clearwater Swimmers, Ruby Lou*. 9 p.m. By donation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Crop Dusters*. Benefit for the Wendell Meetinghouse. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Modern Ego, Bunnies, Neon Fauna, Warm*. 8 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *PMS, Sun Urchins, Nanny*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Juggler Meadow Band*. Coffeehouse with refreshments. 7 p.m. By donation.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Palladium, Worcester: *GWAR, Helmet, The Dwarves, Blood Vulture*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

The Drake, Amherst: *Florry, John Andrews & The Yawns*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tori Jock, Damage Control*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Tom Rush*, accompanied by *Matt Nakoa*. 7 p.m. \$.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

discarded with the trash. Nowadays, modern technology makes it possible to salvage such damaged photos.

When I learned that my friend Chris Clawson of Turners Falls had the restoration tools, I allowed him to give it a go. Meticulous and careful, he didn’t disappoint – removing the sherds piece by piece from their case and carefully reassembling and scanning them before going to work on a cloning restoration. The result is a restored, printable photo that is probably the only surviving image of Mary Graham Arms, a member of historically important Sunderland and South Deerfield families, besides being an ancestor of mine.

Mary Graham Arms’s life wasn’t easy. Far from it, in fact. Just 36 at the time of her 45-year-old husband’s untimely death on December 17, 1830, she was left to care for eight children ranging in age from 16 to 1. Included among them was her 12-year-old daughter Angeline, identified by Deerfield historian George Sheldon and some Deerfield records as “simple.” Precisely what that means is unclear. Most likely the child suffered from birthing brain damage or Down syndrome.

I knew little to nothing about my third great-grandmother before researching deeds as a member of the Deerfield 350th Anniversary history committee. I discovered her during a deep dive into the town’s 1688 Long Hill Division, which had established the original proprietary lots that became Muddy Brook, Bloody Brook, and eventually South Deerfield.

Mary Arms spent her entire married and widowed life residing on the eastern border of “Lot 22 West,” dominated by Arms dwellings and located roughly between today’s high school and Pleasant Street.

It appears that husband Erastus died before the completion of his new home, which still stands at 111 North Main Street. Today known as the Yellow Gabled House, it was the creation of South Deerfield joiner Pliny Mann, whose account book survives at Deerfield’s Memorial Libraries. His records place him on the job in 1830, the year Erastus died. Mary probably never got to enjoy a day in her new home before widowhood.

Deeds reveal that her community took care of her after her husband’s passing, and she never remarried. When financial times got tough, family and friends pitched in to keep her afloat with what is today known as refinance mortgages.

Then, as she got older and her youngest child – son David Brainard Arms (1829-1918) – came of age to



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Mary Graham Arms, restored to her glory.

start a family, he took ownership, likely initially keeping his mother under his roof.

At the time of her death, she resided across Bloody Brook in a family home that still stands on 101 North Main Street. The front end of that building began as a post office, run by mid-19th century stagecoach express agent and nephew William D. Bates, whose mother, Miriam, was Erastus’s sister.

That lot is bordered north by the old W.D. Bates home lot, historically occupied by his grandfather Eliphas Arms, uncle Josiah Arms, and eventually cousin D.B. Arms, who lived across the brook in the Yellow Gabled House and temporarily transformed the so-called “Old Arms Place” into a pocketbook shop in the 1890s.

Today, the home on that lot is occupied by my 96-year-old mother – not an Arms descendant, but the spouse of one.

So, Mary Graham Arms lives on, stoically watching me peck at my keyboard from her cozy perch. Thanks to Chris Clawson’s extraordinary efforts and modern miracles, the South Deerfield *grande dame*’s portrait and legend are preserved for posterity.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

People Mostly Just Taking Breaks

Tuesday, 9/2

8:27 a.m. NMH security advises they will be conducting fire drills.
12:45 p.m. Reports of metal on Main Road; a truck traveled through full of uncovered scrap. Company contacted. Large amount of sheet metal still on side of road. Company called back, stated an employee will be out again.

Friday, 9/5

11:04 a.m. Report of a female wearing animal hides climbing on the French King Bridge railing; a dog is with her. Officer and CSO co-responder out; she was walking her dog.

Saturday, 9/6

12:02 p.m. Female reported “passed out” in a parked vehicle, French King Highway. Officer found she was taking a break and is OK.

Monday, 9/8

12:23 p.m. Caller reporting a vehicle pulled into the lot on Route 142 with a party screaming at his daughter, who appeared upset. Checked. Family trip with parents and children; dad stated he needed to pull over to address an argument between sisters. All appeared calm, confirmed the story.

Tuesday, 9/9

11:10 a.m. Party asked to speak with an officer about items taken by a family member.
12:22 p.m. Resident reports limited visibility turning from River Road onto Main Road because of Gill Tavern umbrellas. Resident spoke with Tavern staff, but today an additional umbrella is out.
Wednesday, 9/10
4:12 p.m. A caller reported her vehicle is disabled on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Help en route.
Thursday, 9/11
3:28 p.m. Missing per-

son report, Oak Street.
Friday, 9/12
9:57 a.m. North Cross Road caller reports a vehicle sped past him on a double line in the school zone, and no one stops at signs for the lane reduction. Asked for police presence.
11:35 a.m. Motorcycle unattended in the rest area, French King Highway. Note said it will be towed today.

Saturday, 9/13

2:27 p.m. Possible cardiac arrest on a boat on the Connecticut River.
2:50 p.m. Open 911 call mapping to sports field, Cottage Row. NMH security advised.
Monday, 9/15
8 a.m. Highway department working on drainage, Center and Ben Hale roads.
11:38 a.m. Erving PD at the Gill Mill requested a Gill unit and CSO; male in crisis.

Tuesday, 9/16

9:28 a.m. Individual looking to speak to an officer about an application for a concert on private property.
Wednesday, 9/17
11:32 a.m. CO hazard, Boyle Road.
2:04 p.m. Anonymous caller reports driving on Main Road and seeing a handover of some bags between two males and one female.
2:16 p.m. Observed unattended vehicle in the travel lane, Mountain Road. Operators working at a nearby residence; will move it.
3:16 p.m. Loose cow, Main and Lyons Hill roads.
6:53 p.m. Summons service, Setback Lane.
Sunday, 9/21
6:06 a.m. NMH security located a loose dog with long white hair.
8:31 a.m. Gate open, one white-and-brown cow in the road, Main and Lyons Hill roads.
8:33 a.m. Oak Street

party looking for assistance with a skunk in his garage. Something is stuck around its neck and it appears aggressive. ACO en route.
1:53 p.m. Walk-in report of a dead deer, French King Highway. MassDOT notified.
11:22 p.m. Caller requesting a check on a party on Main Road wearing dark clothing and standing in a “weird” position. Officer advises individual is on a walk, is OK, and does not need a ride.

Tuesday, 9/23

2:19 to 2:48 p.m. Assisted installing lockboxes, West Gill Road, French King Highway, and Mountain Road.

Thursday, 9/25

2:39 p.m. Main Road resident reported a rock slide, but not on the road. Highway department has already moved the pile.

Friday, 9/26

7:22 p.m. Greenfield dispatch asked Gill PD to divert traffic at the lights for an accident at Factory Hollow.

Saturday, 9/27

11:21 a.m. Bald coyote seen in the Main Road area. ACO notified. Gone on arrival.
1:30 p.m. Mountain Road caller reports he found a male slumped over the wheel of a running car. He tried to help and the driver woke up, said “I don’t want to deal with the cops,” and took off.
8:02 p.m. Party advises he and his wife were traveling down Main Road and two young men flashed a flashlight at them. The couple then came upon an empty pickup truck with its lights on.
Tuesday, 9/30
11:34 a.m. Passerby stopped an officer to report a large oil slick in the river, north of the French King Bridge.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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