

# The Montague Reporter

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\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

## Young Piano Teacher Joins Downtown Mix



GAGNON PHOTO

Streeter Elliott says music education helped him gain self-confidence when he was growing up, and he wants to create the same opportunity for the next generation.

By BEN GAGNON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Around the edge of a large round rug covering the floor of the new music studio are the black and white keys of a piano, while a range of other musical icons decorate the brightly colored carpet.

This is the room where 29-year-old Streeter Elliott has been teaching piano since February, adding to the eclectic mix of retail and services found in downtown Turners Falls. His love of music began as a toddler when his parents brought him to a James

Taylor concert at Tanglewood, and his dad sang him James Taylor “lullabies” before bed.

“Those were truly my earliest musical memories,” said Elliott in a recent interview at his studio at 131B Avenue A, just around the corner from Kharma Salon. “I was lucky enough to be exposed to music at a young age from my parents and at school.”

Later in childhood, Elliott was diagnosed with ADHD, and he now recognizes just how important it was to take part in the choir and band at the Bement School in

see **PIANO** page A3

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Erving Eyes Free Cash To Balance Its Budget

By KATIE NOLAN

At Monday’s joint selectboard and finance committee meeting, Erving town administrator Bryan Smith presented draft estimates of FY’27 revenues and departmental budget requests which, if fully funded, would result in a \$300,000 deficit.

The draft revenue spreadsheet showed \$14.66 million in expected revenue from all sources, excluding free cash, unspent funds from previous fiscal years. Departmental requests totaled \$14.96 million. The largest of these are \$5.6 million for education, \$3.3 million for benefits, \$1.6 million for general government, and \$1.5 million for public safety.

As of the March 2 special town meeting, the town held \$1.1 million in certified free cash.

“We do have a slight structural deficit,” Smith said, “where we have to balance the operating budget with free cash. And that’s not a position that we can be in, [or] should be in.”

The town administrator reported that although the draft budget did

see **ERVING** page A8

## ‘Six-Town’ Supporters Unsurprised By Carnage

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – As local schools from one end of the valley to the other suffer through a budget season marked by deficits, layoffs, and calls for overrides, one group believes it has a long-term solution: the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB), which has been working since 2019 on a proposal to form larger middle and high schools for Gill, Montague, Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and – maybe – Warwick.

“These ‘fiscal cliffs’ and cuts that we’re going through right now at the town level – this is nothing new,” vice chair Greg Snedeker argued at the STRPB’s meeting on Tuesday. “Where have you been? We have been discussing this for 20 years!”

The board plans to have the towns vote on two agreements – one to create a six-town district, the other a five-town district without Warwick – during the September primary elections. The state Department

see **SIX TOWN** page A6

## Candidates Submit Papers For Gill, Erving Selectboards; None Declared in Montague

By JEFF SINGLETON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Annual elections in our coverage towns are now two months away, and as of our reporting two weeks ago, incumbent selectboard members in three of those five towns had decided not to run again, and a fourth was uncertain. Only in Wendell had the incumbent, Paul Doud, declared for re-election.

Candidates for town office typically must “pull” nomination papers, gather supporters’ signatures,

and return them by the end of March to gain a spot on the ballot. Leverett does not experience this process, being the only town in the state which continues an old tradition of nominations and elections from the floor of its annual town meeting.

The *Montague Reporter* contacted town clerks in Montague, Gill, Wendell, and Erving to find out whether any candidates had returned papers for selectboard seats, as well as the status of other positions filled at spring elections.

see **CANDIDATES** page A5

## New Library Campaign, Debate Begin in Earnest



SIMPSON PHOTO

Montague public libraries director Caitlin Kelly presented on the project Tuesday.

By JAMIE SIMPSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – A standing-room-only crowd filled the Gill-Montague senior center on Tuesday to hear a detailed presentation on the proposal to build a new library at 38 Avenue A, the space between the Discovery Center and the Country Creemee.

Attendees expressed a wide range of reactions, from being “giddy with joy” to deep concern about the cost to residents and the impact on the rest of the town budget – particularly if voters approve tax override votes this year for both

the new library and a new Franklin County Technical School.

The presenters included public libraries director Caitlin Kelley, town administrator Walter Ramsey, libraries trustees chair Will Quale, project manager Adam Thibeault of Downes Construction, and selectboard chair Matt Lord. Treasurer and tax collector Eileen Seymour and town accountant Angelica Desroches spoke about the project’s fiscal impacts.

“My role tonight isn’t to advocate for a particular outcome, but to help make sure that the process is transparent [to] residents,”

see **LIBRARY** page A4

## New Salem Considers An Override to Avoid Staff Cuts at Swift River

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**NEW SALEM** – Community members are urging New Salem officials to consider using a tax override this spring in order to mitigate staff layoffs at Swift River School, an elementary school shared with Wendell. On Tuesday night, the finance committee held a meeting to answer questions and collect feedback from the public about the potential cuts.

On March 5 the Wendell/New Salem school committee approved a preliminary FY’27 budget of \$3,577,466, which would represent

an increase of 2.87% over the current year. Administrators for Union #28, the superintendency district that also includes Erving, Leverett, and Shutesbury elementary schools, have said that this could entail cutting four paraprofessional teaching assistants and one special education paraprofessional.

Finance committee member Claire McGinnis said the fin com was still assessing whether even that budget scenario was “truly figured out,” and how it would impact the town.

“All our budgets are way over,”

see **SWIFT RIVER** page A5

## NIGHT FIGHT



MIKE HENRY PHOTO

A fire broke out early Wednesday morning in the Equi Block on East Main Street in Millers Falls, reportedly in the Whistle Stop Café. The Turners Falls Fire Department and 13 other departments worked for nine hours to extinguish the blaze. The historic building was saved with no reported injuries, though upstairs residents were displaced and the café was destroyed. Reader Mike Henry, heading home from working second shift, captured this image of firefighters on the roof at 2:45 a.m.



### Contains Lion's Mane, Ashwagandha, and L-theanine

Being Giddy With Joy.....A1	Resting in the Palm of Their Hand.....B1
Outdated Response to a Sense.....A2	A Dastardly Attempt to Injure.....B2
Come In and Shake Off the Cares.....A3	Not Combative at This Time.....B3
Peace to Tired Muscles.....A4	Like to Stalk and Pounce.....B4
Unsuccessful As of Press Time.....A5	Minds Bursting With Ideas.....B5
Nearly Got Overwhelmed.....A6	Bazaar, Chiburi, Sparxsea, Booyah.....B6
Snakes the Saint Drove Off.....A7	Magic Mojo, JigJam, Visceral Filth.....B7
A Slightly Different Atmosphere.....A8	Keep the Mixture Juicy.....B8

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## ONE CLARIFICATION

In our Montague selectboard coverage last week, we reported that an article heading for town meeting "would allow the town to acquire a parking lot on Second Street... for the construction of the library," and that town administrator Walter Ramsey portrayed this as an 'add-on' to a previous authorization allowing the town to use the lot

on which the building would sit..." Libraries trustees chair Will Quale worries this "could give the impression to a reader that the parking lot will be reduced in size," and clarifies that while a portion of the lot would be torn up during construction for drainage and electrical work, it would return afterward to its "fully functional condition."

## TWO CORRECTIONS

Last week, in relaying Joe R. Parzych's reporting on a reception hosted by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council at the State House (*Bringing It to Beacon Hill*, Page A1), we misread him as saying his aunt Joanne Parzych Olsen "[attended] the Perkins School for the Blind back in the '80s." Joe explains that his aunt was a teacher

at the Perkins School, as well as a board member of the United Arc of Franklin County. Our apologies! And one reader let us know that last week's Montague Cryptojam included an error – we had left in the previous first letter when we pasted in the new puzzle. The puzzle should begin OYKAA US NFR, not IOYKAA US NFR. Ack!

## A Farren Fantasy

As citizens of Montague contemplate what to request from developers of the old Farren site, one thing should be clear: commercial storefronts should *not* be on the list.

Requiring "first floor commercial" of a developer is an outdated response to a sense, in the 1990s and early 2000s, that our downtowns were on shaky footing and that more retail space would somehow help. In those halcyon pre-Amazon, pre-pandemic days, towns indulged in the "if you build it, they will come" fantasy. As new apartment buildings were planned in nearby downtown Northampton and downtown Amherst, first-floor commercial spaces were required.

What happened next should be a lesson for Montague: these commercial spaces went empty for years, before eventually being filled by mostly nonprofit of-

fice users, not retail. Do we think Montague City has more retail or restaurant potential than downtown Northampton or downtown Amherst? In this small town? In this post-pandemic economy?

This point was made by the panel of experts who presented in a meeting at the Shea last week. Heed their advice. They have decades of real-world experience to back it up. They are not burdened by nostalgia for the Montague City of 50-plus years ago.

What our communities need more than ever is housing – of all kinds, at all price points – not brand-new storefronts destined to stay empty. We owe it to the town to do this right. Build housing, not commercial albatrosses.

Mark Lattanzi  
Montague

## Regime of Terror

Over 25 years, more than 12 million Muslims have been killed by Israel, the USA, and its allies, destroying Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Gaza, parts of the West Bank in Palestine, Sudan, Libya, and Lebanon. It has been a regime of terror. Currently, due to the war initiated by Israel and the USA, Iran seeks to drive the USA's presence from the Middle East and is currently bombing Israel.

The newly selected Ayatollah has no intentions of negotiating with

either country, especially now that Israel-USA has assassinated his father and murdered his mother, wife, sister, and brother-in-law. I do agree that regime change is in order, but the regime change I envision might bring about peace would be in the United States and Israel.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser  
Orange

P.S.: Let's give peace a chance, as we older hippies would say.



Montague selectboard member Marina Goldman (center) has been holding office hours, often with special guests, in the history room at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. In addition to conversations with residents, Goldman reports that this has been "a great way for me to get to know these department heads and see all that their job entails." At right is one such head, director of public health Ashley Gough; Charlie Olchowski, at left, came in to discuss the final report of the battlefield grant advisory committee. Goldman says her first year on the board has been full of surprises, "many delightful, and one or two – while not outrageous – a little unnerving."

## Letters to the Editors

### Can't Hang With Special Funding

One of the highlights in last week's article on the March 10 meeting of the Gill-Montague School Committee (*Admin Outlines Restructuring, Reduction in Teaching Force*, Page A1) was a recommendation that Montague's Annual Town Meeting appropriate \$163,748, by special article, to cover "instructional materials and an after-school program."

I do not agree with this separate funding source. This treatment supplements the \$13,120,375 being requested as the normal assessment for GMRSD operations, and distinguishes the expense from other operations; the fact that town officials reportedly suggested this treatment is not persuasive.

I make no judgment on the necessity for the expenses but the funding method, if correctly reported, is short-sighted.

The \$83,748 for instructional materials and af-

ter-school programs should be included in the operating assessment, and the \$80,000 for textbooks would better be funded from the Gill-Montague Stabilization Fund rather than from taxation or other sources.

The \$83,748 is a normal cost of continuing programs, which should be evaluated and funded as part of normal operations.

One could state that the \$80,000, though an occasional recurring expense, does not occur every year, and is large enough to deserve some special attention. I recall that when this appeared several years ago it was paid from the G-M Stabilization Fund, whose balance now is \$264,728 and is provided for exactly such unexpected or non-annual charges.

John Hanold  
Turners Falls

### Glad After Lobbying

Good news: Coverage of the United Arc of Massachusetts's press conference at the State House in Boston on March 10 was very heartwarming. I'm very happy everyone got together. By the way, it was an honor working as a photo correspondent for both the *Montague Reporter* and the *Springfield Republican* / MassLive.

On behalf of my fellow friends of the Pioneer Advocacy Group, it was a pleasure to join the Arc together with speakers and state officials, to hear our voices and why it's important to do this across the nation. I was wondering how individuals around

the world with developmental and intellectual disabilities are doing advocating for themselves, risking their lives every day, trying to survive especially in war times. Trying to be activists, turning their proudest moments into history in the making.

I never dreamed in my 28 years as a self-employed professional independent freelance photojournalist and writer that I would be at a press conference while the *Boston Globe* and many other news agencies were there. It was quite an honor making a difference as someone with a form of autism, and advocating for everyone to be treated equally.

Everybody's a winner in everyone's book, including people of all walks of life, color, creed, etc. All are very important and we respect each other the way they want to be treated, no matter who they are.

Feel free to send feedback or comments to [joerparzych@gmail.com](mailto:joerparzych@gmail.com), or contact [fredwarren@theunitedarc.org](mailto:fredwarren@theunitedarc.org) to find out more about how to support the United Arc. They're always looking for workers, including volunteers, and much more funding.

Joe R. Parzych  
Greenfield

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# TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Tons of ice above the dam this week, a massive and sharply garbled surface, impossible to really capture in a photo. Thank you to Ken and Suzette and Garth and everyone else who sent photos of it in, and I'm very sorry to have ended up using one from my own camera roll for the B1 header.

It always comes down to the shape, 11 inches wide by five high. The best documentation of the ice jam-up I've seen, though, is aerial drone video from Mike Wallitis's ever-engaging "Eyes Above Franklin County - MA" page on Facebook. Mr. Wallitis posted a batch of six new videos of our river this weekend and you should check them out. Not sure how I feel about drones these days, but I'm glad someone's using them for good...



ANDREW ST. JEAN PHOTO

Gill reader Andrew St. Jean sent in this guy, the first little nighttime frog of spring, on Monday.

"Last year's first peepers peeped on March 18th, according to my 2025 calendar," he added. "I'm on the edge of my seat for this year."

It wasn't me that won \$25 million this week on a \$50 scratch ticket from the Turners Falls Cumby's. Stop asking! The announcement that someone had done so, and had cashed it out as a smaller lump sum anonymously, was a good distraction from the increasingly insane world news and the increasingly depressing local news for about 48 hours.

If it was you, please get in touch; we can work out an offer for a lifetime subscription...

Other news not covered in this edition include the crazy winds Monday night that shook our brick buildings and snapped a ton of trees, particularly up by the Montague Plains; the resulting power outage, which led in a cascade to the total failure of the electrical system at Franklin County Technical School and the closure of that school Tuesday; and the building fire in Millers Falls early Wednesday morning.

Tech officials have been talking in recent months about the building's electrical system being at end of life as part of their pitch for an entirely new building, so the failure shouldn't be a shock. This didn't stop the wags online from implying the failure was a false flag attack intended to bolster support for the project! Sounds like they got it back up and running on temp parts (thank you to Greenfield Recorder reporter Erin-Leigh Hoffman for keeping me informed), so school is back in session.

Just before press time we learned that Tech superintendent Richard Martin has announced his retirement. Martin says this decision, which is "based on a transition to the next phase of my life," won't stop him from seeing through the proposed building project, which goes to an override vote in district towns in October.

We didn't send anyone over to the Millers fire while it was happening, figuring we'd give everyone working on deadline time to get the scoop, but Turners fire chief Todd Brunelle must have been catching up on sleep when we tried to follow up with him before going to press, so all you get in this edition is a dark photo and caption on Page A1. I'm glad no one was hurt, and impressed they managed to save the building. Rough, rough news for the Whistle Stop.

More alleged news, though pressing against the outer edge of what I'd consider newsworthy: the Massachusetts land court ruling last Thursday upholding the state attorney general's previous rejection of the bylaw passed by Wendell town meeting in 2024 regulating batteries.

It is definitely reasonable to want to regulate batteries, which have safety and environmental risks that scale up alongside the magnitude

of storage. But - watching it all unfold down here in the valley - this has been an odd saga, given that the leaders of the group promoting said bylaw were on the record at the time arguing that it should be sent to town meeting despite its clear incompatibility with state law, in order to make visible a conflict with said state law, because they disagreed with it.

Two years later here we are, with many supporters duly outraged, and a nonplussed land court judge having to point out, on paper, that the Home Rule Amendment to the state constitution holds that "a town is not free to adopt a bylaw that is inconsistent with the constitution or laws enacted by the general court."

The local-bylaw-propagators shot back with a hefty press release including statements like "Local zoning regulations are an exercise of the general police powers conferred by the Home Rule Amendment."

Are they? The Zoning Act gave towns the power to zone in 1954, and the Home Rule Procedures Act came in 1966, which.... Okay, setting aside the particular issues of batteries and the state's special protection of solar-related industry, what's this decentralism pointing toward, as a strategy? The idea that towns enjoy a sovereignty superceding that of the Commonwealth isn't from history - towns didn't federate into the state - but I think there's a hidden assumption that town governments are likely to be better guarantors of our well-being than state government.

I'm not so sure I'd go along with that. Towns look like a pretty shaky basket to be putting our eggs in.

Whatever the future may hold, there is certainly power in building real, face-to-face relationships, and wherever that's happening at the town level that's great.

Often the relevant groups are much smaller. I had a great conversation this week with Derek Birr, who is taking steps to organize community here in Montague under the banner "The Village Project." In January they hosted a standing-room-only screening of *Join or Die*, a documentary about social clubs, at the Brick House, and a follow-up event, *Community Conversations*, will be held next Thursday, March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Brick House's new

location at 22 Third Street.

"I started The Village Project because of the friends who changed my life - people who gave me the confidence and support to step outside my comfort zone," Derek writes. "I realized I could help others experience the same gift: the joy and strength that come from meaningful connection. The Village Project makes it easier for neighbors to come together through local events such as social gatherings, movie nights, and, when the weather warms, outdoor activities.... [W]e focus on supporting neighbors who experience social anxiety or neurodivergence, providing accommodations and listening to their needs. Our goal is to build social wellness and confidence, empowering people to start their own initiatives and grow a web of community connections throughout Montague."

If you can't make it next Thursday but want to get involved, email [villageprojectma@gmail.com](mailto:villageprojectma@gmail.com).

Reminder: there's a big benefit two Sundays from now, March 29, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Montague Center, involving singer-songwriter Moira Smiley, poet Martín Espada, state senator Jo Comerford, food, and what I am told is an "amazing raffle" with over 40 prizes. All proceeds benefit the Franklin County People's Fund, which raises funds for local immigrants impacted by current threats and deportations.

Those who can't make it in person can purchase raffle tickets online at [franklincountymutualaid.org](http://franklincountymutualaid.org). The drawing will be held on the 29th.

**Far Out, Charles Light's great documentary** on the Montague Farm, Packer Corners, etc. communes, is now streaming - via Amazon or Google Play, or with commercials on Tubi or Fawesome.

In 2024 I recommended it as "a resource for understanding the local commune scene in its particularity, which is in turn a skeleton key for understanding shifts in the region's class and political composition in the decades since," and I stand by that review... Very worthwhile.

Send your little bits of news to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## PIANO from page A1

Deerfield, along with piano and guitar lessons at Artspace Community Art School and Matt Kim's Academy of Rock, both in Greenfield.

"I didn't realize it at the time," he said, "but sitting in a classroom was a real challenge for me, so it was important to be able to stand up and move around in the choir, use my voice, and use my arms and hands to play instruments."

At Frontier Regional High School, Elliott learned the electronic and technical side of producing music on SoundCloud and played in a hip hop group that toured around New England.

"I was growing up just as computer programming made creating your own music accessible," he said, adding that he was a fan of rap artists such as A Tribe Called Quest and Chance the Rapper. After making connections in the music business as an assistant manager at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, Elliott became an organizer of the Foundation Festival in Greenfield in 2019.

Elliott's life experience also includes spending a year with AmeriCorps, traveling the country to set up field offices for FEMA and helping peo-

ple apply for disaster aid. While studying abroad in Cambodia, he learned the melodic chants of Buddhist monks and was intrigued by their meditation practices.

Elliott's first experience with teaching came again through the AmeriCorps program, when he worked for DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services in Greenfield, playing games and helping with homework for students who needed a safe place to go after school. His after-school work even led to the formation of a band.

"It was kind of like *School of Rock*," he said, referring to the 2003 movie starring Jack Black. "We had bucket drums and all sorts of stuff. That's when I realized I enjoyed working with kids."

Soon after, he led a delegation of middle school students on an exchange program with Poland, in which five students from each country spent three weeks in Greenfield and then three weeks in Poland. When COVID arrived, Elliott tried producing hip hop but ultimately decided to go back to school, earning a bachelor's degree in music at the University of Maine at Augusta with a concentration in music education.

"I understand how important music was to me when I was young, how it helped me develop my identity, made me feel important and confident, and how it helped me find my group of friends," said Elliott. "Now music is offering me a career, and I want to create that same kind of space for kids - where they can come in and shake off the cares of whatever else is going on in their life, just relax and be themselves, have fun, feel valued and feel competent, and engage with this beautiful art form."

Elliott understands that not every household has a piano to practice on, but said electronic keyboards are a perfect substitute, adding he can help find affordable keyboards through Facebook Marketplace and other platforms.

"I want to develop lifelong musicians so that wherever you end up in life, this art form can always be with you," he said, "whether you become a concert pianist, or 40 years later you'll still remember how to play 'Jingle Bells' at Christmas and bring joy to your family."

More information can be found at [elliottpiano.com](http://elliottpiano.com).

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**David Brule**  
King Philip's War In Your Backyard: From Wequomps to Peskeompskut

Monday, April 6 at 7 pm  
Leverett Elementary School  
85 Montague Road, Leverett

Free Admission (Donations Encouraged)

*The massacre at Peskeompskut/Turners Falls took place 350 years ago, during King Philip's (Metacomb's) War. David Brule coordinated the just-completed 12-year study of the site and its surroundings sponsored by the National Park Service Battlefield Grant Program. He will talk about the precedents, aftermath, and present implications of that war, and the fascinating and often surprising results produced by the project team - research scientists, town historical commissioners, and Native American cultural custodians.*

What really happened here in our backyard?

*David is a member of the Nehantic Tribe in Connecticut and Chair of its Tribal Council. He coordinates the 1676 Commemoration Steering Committee in Montague and is president of the Nolumbeka Project, dedicated to honoring the presence and culture of Native Americans in the region. A well-published book author and columnist, he is a very engaging speaker! He lives in Millers Falls/Erving side.*

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MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Public libraries trustees chair Will Quale (standing, at right) said that in 1903 Montague voters approved building both the Carnegie Library and a new high school.

## LIBRARY from page A1

Ramsey said, setting the stage. "Ultimately, the decision about whether to move forward belongs to the voters yourselves."

He added that the Carnegie, built in 1906, "was arguably small the day that it opened, and the town has been trying to expand it since then."

Quale explained that in 2022, Kelley and a strategic planning committee spent the year gathering extensive community input. The message from the public was clear, he said: "We need an addition, or we just need a new building."

Kelley screened an eight-minute video showing many ways the Carnegie Library does not meet various community, staff, legal, and safety needs. The 120-year-old building was portrayed as cramped; expensive to heat and cool; almost completely inaccessible to people who use wheelchairs; lacking dedicated spaces for programming, staff, chil-

dren's, and teens' areas; and containing hazardous materials.

In January 2025, Montague won a competitive state grant to cover a substantial portion of the cost of library expansion. As with the Franklin County Tech School construction grant, the project was placed in the "immediately funded" category.

The application mandated that a renovation or addition to the current downtown library be considered as an option. As Kelley explained, in order to meet the department's space needs, the Carnegie Library – which is under a historical preservation restriction – would need to be lifted and moved closer to Avenue A, and the house behind it purchased and demolished to make room. The total cost for this was professionally estimated at \$5 million.

After the study determined that a new building would be a more cost-effective solution, the library building steering committee worked last fall with an owner's project manager (OPM), Downes Construction, and Schwartz/Silver Architects to "come up with a design that will best suit the Montague community," according to the libraries' website.

Following several community feedback events, a revised design was sent to the state in December, and was approved with only one minor change. The trustees and steering committee greenlit the final plans in January, and the state's announcement of a \$11.3 million matching grant, nearly half of the estimated \$23.7 million cost, came soon after.

### All Coming Together

Tuesday's forum included details about the construction, cost, and tax impacts.

Kelley highlighted features of the new building, including a large community room available after hours; dedicated children's, teen, adult, and staff areas; and quiet study and local history rooms. There would also be a rooftop terrace.

Thibeault followed with cost-saving and sustainability features, including the \$5 million that would have been required to move, renovate, and expand the Carnegie. The new building would not have a basement, he said, saving \$2 million in excavation and materials costs. Its hydronic HVAC system would use water to cool and heat the building more consistently, and at lower cost, than a forced-air system.

The town is not seeking LEED

certification, Thibeault said, but the building is designed to meet the state's energy-efficiency "stretch code," with triple-paned windows, all-electric systems, rooftop solar, and low-carbon concrete to reduce net emissions. The building would not be built with a generator, but would have all the connections necessary to add one later.

Desroches discussed the project's fiscal implications. If approved by voters, the project would be funded using a debt exclusion, a temporary increase in property taxes to pay back borrowing for a specific large capital expenditure. When debt payments on the public safety complex end in FY'28, Desroches said, "there is a drop, and the library would drop into that pocket."

Seymour added that there were also short-term financial impacts, in the form of interest payments. Montague's "AA" bond rating, she said, "puts us in the very best rate scenarios, and all of the bonds that we currently have are at extremely low rates."

As the project now stands, Montague homeowners could expect to pay \$49 per \$100,000 of a home's value annually to finance the new library. A \$300,000 home would see an annual tax increase of \$147.

Asked what would happen if both the library and tech school projects are approved, Desroches said the school would require an additional \$16 million debt exclusion – for an additional \$74 per \$100,000 of residential property per year.

"It's not the first time, believe it or not, that Montague has built a library and a high school at the same time," said Quale. The Carnegie foundation gifted the town library funds in 1903, he explained, but the big issue that year was deciding where and how to fund a new school; a marathon town meeting that September saw both projects approved.

"That's how we brought Turners Falls and Montague from the 19th century into the 20th century," Quale said, "by building infrastructure that provided for the changing needs of schoolchildren and teachers, the changing needs of the general public and librarians. And it's time to do that again."

Quale also elaborated on economic benefits the project could bring to the town. Library visitors, he said, were likely to spend money at other downtown businesses.

"The chance is unlikely to come again this good," he argued, "with

this much of the project being funded, and this many pieces all coming together at the same time."

### Joys and Concerns

As the question-and-answer session began, the first commenter drew laughter when he joked that he was disappointed the new building would not have a wet basement. He asked about the duration of the bond, whether the construction could employ staff from the public works department and tech school, and if the community room could be named after a Native American.

Seymour said the typical duration of a construction bond is 25 to 30 years, and Kelley told him the idea of using local help had been brought up with the architects.

To another question, Kelley said the new building would encompass 21,000 square feet, which she said was in line with average per-capita space at other community libraries, and nearly 10 times the currently accessible area at the Carnegie. Many of the library's collections, she said, would double.

One commenter said that construction projects tend to go over budget, which would cost taxpayers more, as would keeping open the Montague Center and Millers Falls branch libraries, and carrying the Carnegie, potentially for years, until it is sold.

Kelley responded that the decision to maintain the village branches was part of the agreement with the state, and Ramsey said the project budget included a considerable contingency, and that costs for maintaining the Carnegie after the move were expected to be nominal.

The questioner repeatedly interrupted the presenters' responses, and the most heated moment of the night came when he refused to yield the microphone despite being asked several times.

Another resident asked if "senior tax write-off" volunteers could help at the new library. Kelley said it would provide more space for volunteer projects.

Several commenters expressed support for the project while also voicing serious concern about its potential cost.

One resident of the Patch, who said she teaches in Greenfield, said capital projects in that community have led to cuts in other areas. "They're talking about closing a school," she said. She expressed worry that other projects in Mon-

tague, including the redevelopment of the Farren land and the demolition of the Strathmore mill, would require debt exclusions.

"Eight minutes up the road – three miles from where you want to put this building – is a \$27 million, state-of-the-art library," she argued. "Is it worth our investment, when people can drive eight minutes down the road?"

Capital development committee member Ariel Elan replied that rising health insurance and salary costs, and not capital debt, have had more of an impact on local taxes. Desroches pointed out that a debt exclusion "doesn't put any pressure on the levy and the internal operations."

Ramsey added that going above Montague's recommended limit of a 4% to 6% ratio of debt to operating expenses for a short period of time, as is projected if voters approve both the library and tech school, would not be "calamitous."

"It is a benefit to this town," Lord said, "to be able to attract young people, to attract school-age children, to attract people who want to live in a space like this, people who want to go to the library."

Responding to a comment about libraries attracting visitors, including potential business owners, to towns, Kelley said Greenfield's new library saw an increase in visitors of more than 100% in its first year. A similar increase in Montague, she argued, could lead to a significant financial boost to the community. She added that several local business leaders had expressed enthusiasm about partnering with the new library.

She also assured listeners that the new building was designed so that the department's current staff could manage it, despite its larger size.

"The strength of people coming together, and the number of ways and places that our community can do that, makes us stronger," said Laurie Davidson, who has offered "music and movement" programs at the Montague libraries with her husband for 20 years. "It makes our town governments stronger, because people are engaged. It brings [seniors, teens, parents of small kids] out of social isolation. I am giddy with excitement about this."

If the debt exclusion for the project is approved by town meeting in May, it will go to a general election on June 24.

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**CANDIDATES** from page A1

Montague voters will go to the polls Tuesday, May 19 to fill a seat on the selectboard being vacated by Matt Lord. Candidates for this and other offices, including the town moderator and seats on the board of health, the Montague housing authority board, the public library trustees, and town meeting, have until next Thursday, March 26 to take out papers, and must return them by Wednesday, April 1 at 5 p.m.

Town clerk Wendy Bogusz reported that one resident had taken out papers for the selectboard seat, three for seats on the library trustees, and one each for the boards of health and assessors. Bogusz declined to name the individuals who had taken out papers until they return them.

At least seven seats representing each of Montague's six town meeting precincts are up for reelection, and some have no declared candidates.

Papers for the Gill election, which takes place Monday, May 18, must be handed in by Monday, March 30, according to Gill town clerk Doreen Stevens. Stevens told us that one candidate – Jenn Waldron, currently a member of the town's finance committee – has handed in nomination papers for the position on the selectboard being vacated by Greg Snedeker.

As of press time, Waldron had not responded to a request for comment on her candidacy.

There are two vacant positions on the board of assessors and one on the cemetery commission, Stevens said, and the office of constable is currently wide open. Papers have been taken out for one of the assessor seats as well as the other two, but Stevens, like Bogusz, declined to name the candidates until papers are in.

Each year one Gill seat and two Montague seats on the Gill-Montague regional school committee are up for election.

Gill incumbent Bill Tomb and Montague incumbent Clifford Spatcher have told the *Reporter* they intend to submit papers, but Montague rep Steve Ellis plans to leave the committee. Administrative assistant Tara McCarthy reported that Sue Richardson of Lake Pleasant has filed papers for Ellis's seat.

Richardson told the *Reporter* she had offered to run for a vacant seat last year as a write-in, "mostly because I had so many unanswered Town Meeting questions about school finances and school affairs," but withdrew after she learned Ellis was also a write-in candidate. "In the intervening year," she said, she has paid close attention to the committee's work.

"I have always cared about public education, and I think in general Massachusetts does a good job at making education available to everyone," Richardson wrote. "That benefits students, parents, the general community, and the country as a whole.... I admire the people and communities here, and I hope to be more involved in the educational future of the area."

Papers for these positions can be obtained at the superintendent's office on Crocker Avenue in Turners Falls, and voters in both towns vote on all three seats.

The deadline for candidates to return papers in Erving, which will hold its annual election on Monday, May 4, was this past Monday.

Erving town clerk Dick Newton told the *Reporter* that Jacquelyn Boyden, who currently serves as an assessor, and Gerald Sykes III, who serves on the cable advisory committee and ran unsuccessfully for the selectboard last year, have both tendered papers for a selectboard seat being vacated by Jim Loynd.

Newton said there are also openings for seats on the Erving school committee, planning board, and recreation commission for which no candidate submitted papers.

Efforts to contact the town clerk in Wendell, where incumbent Paul Doud has indicated he will run in the spring election for selectboard, were unsuccessful as of press time, and the town website does not reveal when candidates need to turn in papers, or even when the election will be held, though it is typically on the first Monday in May.

A notice on the site announces that there are "known vacancies" on the library trustees, planning board, and school committee, and urges residents to contact the clerk's office "for more information."

On March 5 we reported that incumbent Leverett selectboard member Tom Hankinson, whose seat is up for election at the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 2, was still undecided as to whether to run again. This week Hankinson said he does in fact intend to run.

According to the Leverett town newsletter published last week, at least one seat on the Leverett school committee and one seat on the planning board, and possibly a seat on the board of health, will be completely vacant at town meeting due to their incumbents not seeking re-election. Voters at town meeting may choose to nominate a challenger and unseat an incumbent, but this is a rare occurrence in Leverett.

Mike Jackson provided additional reporting.



**SWIFT RIVER** from page A1

said finance committee chair Gabriele Voelker. "So yes, an override is a serious possibility. We just can't say 'Yes' today – we're going to have to figure out how we're going to plan that out."

Voelker said the fin com will continue meeting with other New Salem and Wendell officials, and expected to present a final budget for the school committee's approval within the next three to four weeks.

"What happens next?" asked New Salem resident Tina Newman, who works as a media specialist at Swift River. "What more can we do, as residents, other than get the word out here that we're trying to go for this?... It feels like we're kind of at a standstill until you guys figure out the next step."

Swift River principal Kelley Sullivan asked whether the finance committee would be able to share additional information before the school committee's next meeting on March 26.

School committee chair Nancy Slator told the *Montague Reporter* the committee plans to approve a final school budget at that meeting.

New Salem must have a municipal budget, including its assessment from the school district, ready to vote on by the annual town meeting on May 11. If the fin com decides to recommend a Proposition 2½ tax override, the budget passed at town meeting would be contingent on the override also passing by a ballot vote, which must be held at least 35 days later.

"If one town presents one budget, and another town presents another, nothing is going to work," Sullivan explained. "We need to be all on the same page."

Last year, Wendell town meeting passed its share of the school budget, but opted to rely on a tax override to bolster the remainder of the town budget. That override failed to pass.

"I'm not speaking for the fin com, but I do not think a school-only override is appropriate, or a town-only override is appropriate," Voelker said. "You're then pitting people against people, and you always lose."

**"I do not think a school-only override is appropriate, or a town-only override is appropriate... You're then pitting people against people, and you always lose."**

**– Gabriele Voelker  
Chair, New Salem  
finance committee**

Community members, parents, and Swift River School staff attended Tuesday's meeting to voice their support for an override, or for any alternative that would allow the school to retain staff.

Student support teacher Benjamin Caulton warned that removing roles that students with special needs or behavioral issues rely on

for support could result in out-of-district special ed placements of as much as \$200,000 per student.

"One of those students' needs not being able to be met would completely undo any of the cuts we make financially this year," Caulton said.

Rising health insurance premiums paid to the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust are cited as a primary driver for school and town budget shortfalls across western Massachusetts this year. Health insurance costs for Swift River School are expected to increase by \$179,679, a 45.8% hike.

Maintaining current services would require an increase of about 9% to the school's budget, Slator told the *Reporter*, or a roughly \$313,000 increase. At Tuesday's meeting, McGinnis said an increase of that size is "not sustainable for either town."

It was not clear Tuesday how an override vote in New Salem would impact Wendell's assessment to the school, or whether it would also trigger an override in that town.

"New Salem, of our surrounding towns, has the lowest tax rate – unfortunately, Wendell has the highest," said New Salem resident Marny Ashburne. "My feeling is we need to make a case for this. It seems an easier case to make in New Salem to have an override."

The last time New Salem voted on a general budget override was in 2007. It passed 156-142, giving the town an extra \$92,555 to fund general operating expenses and the schools.

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TOWN OF GILL  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Town of Gill Planning Board will hold a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5 on March 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA. In the event of inclement weather, the public hearing will be held on April 2, 2026, at the same time and location. The purpose of this public hearing is to review proposed bylaws and amendments to the Gill Zoning Bylaws and provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Written comments will be accepted by the Planning Board prior to the hearing.

Proposed changes include amendments to the following sections of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws: **1) Section 2C, Table Of Use Regulations** – to replace "Accessory Apartment" with "Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)" and replace "Mobile Home" with "Manufactured Home"; **2) Section 17, Definitions** – to delete the definitions of "Accessory Apartment" and "Mobile Home" and insert a definition of "Manufactured Home."

In addition, a new **Section 4, Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)**, is proposed to be added to the Gill Zoning Bylaws to establish the purpose, definitions, regulations, and administration & enforcement relating to the establishment ADUs to be built as-of-right in Gill.

In addition, the existing **Section 15, Flood Plain Regulations**, is proposed to be deleted in its entirety and replaced with new language that complies with current FEMA regulations.

In addition, a new **Section 18, Building Integrated Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Data Centers**, is proposed to be added to the Gill Zoning Bylaws to establish a one-year moratorium on Building Integrated Energy Storage Systems and/or Data Centers.

The complete text of the proposed zoning bylaws and amendments is available for inspection during the regular business hours of the Town Hall, can be found on the Town's website at [www.gillmass.org/calendar](http://www.gillmass.org/calendar), and may be requested via email to [clerical@gillmass.org](mailto:clerical@gillmass.org).

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**USED 10-TON WHEELED EXCAVATOR**

The Town of Warwick is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a used 10-ton wheeled excavator under the requirements of MGL Ch30B. Sealed bids must be addressed to the Town Coordinator at Warwick Town Hall, 12 Athol Road, Warwick, MA 01378 and clearly endorsed on the outside "Bid - Used Vehicle Purchase: 10 ton Wheel Excavator." Bids will be accepted until **4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026** at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town Coordinator's office. Two identical copies must be enclosed. If the Town Hall is closed due to weather or any reason, bids will be opened and read the next business day. The Town of Warwick, who is the awarding authority, reserves the right to waive any informality in and to reject any or all bids.

Bid packages are available by email request to [coordinator@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:coordinator@town.warwick.ma.us).

MARCH 13, 2026  
J. DAVID YOUNG, TOWN COORDINATOR  
On behalf of the Town of Warwick Selectboard

The Town of Warwick does not discriminate on the basis of disability with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication with respect to programs and services of the Town should contact the Town's American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Coordinator at [coordinator@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:coordinator@town.warwick.ma.us) or (978) 729-3224.

**Assistant to the Assessors**

The Town of Gill seeks applications for an Assistant to the Assessors for the Board of Assessors department for 30 hours per week with benefits. The position performs technical and routine administrative work related to the Assessing that includes coordination of the appraisals of all town-wide property, utilizing various databases, and coordinating activities of consultants, in accordance with state and local statutes and regulations.

Interested candidates can obtain the position description and an employment application on the Gill MA website, <https://gillmass.org>. Candidates should submit a completed employment application with resumé, references and a cover letter to: Town of Gill, Attn: Assistant to the Assessors Search, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354, or in a PDF format via email to [taxcollector@gillmass.org](mailto:taxcollector@gillmass.org) with the subject line "Assistant to the Assessors Search."

About 140 students attend Swift River; to determine the share of the costs each town is responsible for, Wendell and New Salem use a five-year rolling average of the enrollment from each town. Wendell is currently shouldering about 60% of the cost of the towns' combined assessment.

"Our budget process requires both towns to pass the budget, so no one town has 'final say,'" Slator told the *Reporter* last week. "We historically help each other out as best we can."



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Various Suspicions Unfounded; Humans and Hawk Helped

### Sunday, 2/1

2:51 p.m. Caller requesting assistance for a vehicle lockout.

4:27 p.m. Caller concerned about a black-and-white cat out in the cold in a parking lot since last night.

### Monday, 2/2

9:19 a.m. Medical emergency, Main Road. 7:19 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a 911 call with shouting in the background.

### Tuesday, 2/3

8:05 a.m. Tractor-trailer collided with a Jeep on the French King Highway. Both vehicles were traveling westbound and stopped at the light; as it turned green the tractor-trailer rolled forward into the Jeep. Minor damage, no injuries.

3:55 p.m. Medical emergency, Main Road. 4:03 p.m. Main Road caller reported an injured Cooper's Hawk. Bird captured, transported to South Deerfield Veterinary Clinic.

### Friday, 2/6

1:17 p.m. Caller reported a Ford Edge passing in a no-passing zone and driving erratically. Information passed to state police. Vehicle later reported entering I-91 southbound.

6:38 p.m. Officer was requested on Main Road; juvenile issues.

### Saturday, 2/7

7:59 a.m. Single-car accident reported on the French King Highway. Vehicle off the road; front-end damage. No injuries; vehicle towed. 12:56 p.m. A tractor-trailer driving westbound in Erving has side panels flapping in the wind. Officer determined the flapping was torn canvas that was secured, not a hazard. 8:03 p.m. Medical emergency reported on Myrtle Street.

### Sunday, 2/8

3:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with an accident; no injuries.

### Tuesday, 2/10

11:44 a.m. Assisted a West Gill Road citizen.

### Wednesday, 2/11

9:43 a.m. Received a report of a semi truck backing into another vehicle on Purple Road near the new ice barn.

### Thursday, 2/12

3:10 p.m. Suspicious person reported sitting in the snow with sticks on Grist Mill Road. No issue found.

### Friday, 2/13

7:11 p.m. Report of an illegal burn on Factory Hollow Road. Determined to be a bonfire located in Greenfield. Greenfield FD handled.

### Sunday, 2/15

6:54 a.m. State police reported a stop sign taken down on Pisgah Mountain Road, obstructing the bike lane. Highway department removed sign.

### Monday, 2/16

6:17 a.m. Vehicle struck a deer on Main Road. No injuries to the driver; the deer ran into the woods. The vehicle remained drivable.

2:33 p.m. Multiple reports of a male lying in the snow in the middle of the French King Highway near the boat ramp. Subject requested transport to the hospital for medication issues.

5:41 p.m. Wellness check, River Road.

### Tuesday, 2/17

1:14 p.m. A caller from West Gill Road reported the odor of propane. FD notified.

4:35 p.m. Suspicious truck reported at a Ben Hale Road construction site. Investigation revealed the vehicle belonged to a plumber expected at the site.

### Wednesday, 2/18

9:31 a.m. Main Road caller inquired about an employee who had not shown up for work. Options discussed.

9:45 a.m. Wallet found on Main Road turned in. Owner contacted to arrange pickup.

11:28 a.m. Bickford Road resident reported possible timber cutting on a neighboring property. Parties met on-site to walk the proper-

ty line. Issue resolved.

### Thursday, 2/19

10:23 a.m. Dump truck caught and snapped a utility pole on the French King Highway near the bridge. Communication and fiber-optic cables across the roadway. Eversource and Verizon responded. Detail officers assisted with traffic.

4:22 p.m. Medical emergency on the French King Highway.

### Friday, 2/20

6:53 p.m. A Main Road citizen who locked his keys in his vehicle used the station phone to arrange a ride.

7:48 p.m. Fire alarm on Main Road.

10:46 p.m. Second activation of the malfunctioning detector on Main Road. Maintenance responding to replace the unit.

### Sunday, 2/22

9:39 a.m. Third activation of the malfunctioning detector on Main Road. Maintenance was updated.

10:59 a.m. Vehicle slid off the road and struck a tree, Mountain Road. No injuries. Vehicle towed. Officer provided courtesy transport of the occupants to Deerfield.

### Monday, 2/23

10:47 a.m. Medical emergency reported on Cottage Row.

12:45 p.m. Burglar alarm activated on Munn's Ferry Road.

### Wednesday, 2/25

10:56 p.m. Main Road caller dialed 911 to report being followed into her driveway.

### Friday, 2/27

2:39 p.m. Box truck stopped on the French King Highway due to a noise in the wheel well. No assistance required.

4:57 p.m. Welfare check requested for a male slumped over the wheel of a white pickup at the French King Highway rest area.

### Saturday, 2/28

10:36 a.m. Caller reporting harassment.

7:42 p.m. Main Road caller reporting fraud.

## SIX TOWN from page A1

of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is still reviewing the five-town document, as well as the long-term plan for dismantling the Pioneer Valley and Gill-Montague districts and transferring their students, staff, and assets to a new entity.

"I've been hearing there's been a lull," chair Alan Genovese reported. "People are starting to wonder, 'Hey, what's going on - is it still going forward?' It is really, really important to start getting the word out."

With its small remaining funds, the board hopes to hire a communications expert for the final campaign. Regionalization has been largely absent from the public discussion, which is focused largely on lobbying for extra state aid to districts with declining enrollment.

"We actually have a very progressive state funding mechanism," Snedeker argued. "The state can come back and say... 'You've lost 50% of your enrollment, and yet we have maintained minimum aid, and increased it, even if it's by a little amount.'.... This is not about finances. This is about structural declines in enrollment, and it's about the benefit that will return by making our educational communities larger."

"These districts peaked in '96 - they've lost 50%, or 55%," he added. "We are cannibalizing our schools.... And if you think being 'progressive' is trying to maintain what you have right now, it is not."

The next STRPB meeting is scheduled for March 25, with March 31 as a backup if DESE has not finished its review in time for a vote.



## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Water Sources Large and Small

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard had a full week last week: a special town meeting on Monday, March 9; a regularly-scheduled board meeting on Wednesday; and a "joint teams" meeting about the Farley bridge with Erving and state officials Thursday afternoon. The week before, they had held a special all-boards meeting to discuss town finances.

The special town meeting was short. In 12 minutes and with few questions or comments, voters unanimously approved the entire warrant, including an article to increase the town clerk's salary to pay for work added to her schedule, and another that brought the town coordinator's salary up to the level in the contract she signed.

At the regular selectboard meeting, members signed a resolution supporting increasing state compensation for Wendell and the other towns that have Quabbin Reservoir watershed land within town boundaries, but are not able to use the reservoir's water.

The resolution points out that forested lands maintained in these towns filter rainwater that eventually feeds the reservoir, one of the purest drinking water sources in the country, and that preserving those forests restricts the towns' abilities to attract industry or other development that can add to their revenues.

It asks that state payments *in lieu* of taxes (PILOT) be increased; that a Watershed Community Trust Fund be established; that the watershed towns be granted more representation in decision-making bodies such as the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and that the Commonwealth recognize these towns' commitment to conservation and water quality.

The resolution is addressed to governor Maura Healey, the state Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, state legislators, and the MWRA.

## Fire & Water

Fire chief Matt O'Donnell asked the selectboard to approve a new schedule of inspection fees, saying the old schedule is decades old. The fees he recommended were in line with New Salem's, making his job as the fire chief of both towns simpler. The finance committee had already approved of the proposed fees.

The most common inspections, for installations of propane tanks and smoke detectors, would change from \$25 to \$50. Oil tank removals require both his presence and that of the state Department of Environmental Protection to make sure

the tanks are disposed of properly.

The board approved his request.

O'Donnell also asked for a letter of support for a grant to pay for installing a dry hydrant at McAvoy's Pond. The letter cites environmental concerns, climate resiliency, and fire suppression needs.

The town's existing dry hydrant at Bowens Pond is no longer useful, as Bowens Pond has been gone since the dam that held it was taken down in January.

The Shutesbury fire department also needs a backup water source for the north section of that town when Lake Wyola is drawn down for dam repair. O'Donnell said he did not know the schedule for those repairs. He said the estimate for dry hydrant construction at McAvoy's Pond is \$44,000, making the grant relatively small compared to other requests.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato recused herself from the vote, because McAvoy's Pond is on her property, but her fellow selectboard members Paul Doud and Adam Feltman voted to approve a letter of support.

O'Donnell is asking for support from Shutesbury as well.

Regarding the resolution about the Quabbin, O'Donnell added his concern that these same towns, with relatively inexpensive land, are under pressure to allow large-scale battery and solar projects which have the potential to degrade water quality.

## Bridge Money

Road commission chair Phil Delorey reported that Wendell and Erving had been granted an additional \$344,000 for work found to be essential to repair the Farley Road bridge.

The original grant was to replace the bridge's pressure-treated wood decking and underlayment, but removing the old wood showed that more repair was necessary. Keith Nelson of Gill Engineering created plans for the additional work, and Delorey said the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) was expected to approve them soon.

The estimate for the complete bridge repair is \$680,000, including a \$60,000 contingency, leaving Wendell and Erving to share a cost of \$120,000 if no contingency money is used.

State Chapter 90 money may be used toward the expense, and Delorey said Wendell's Chapter 90 funds have been increased by \$155,000.

The grant must be spent by June 30. Delorey said he was waiting to hear from the contractor, Warner Brothers, to make sure they were aware of the deadline.

Town treasurer Caroline Manley said she would be happy if the grant was paid up front, and not as a reimbursement after the towns spend their own money. She said the town had received the \$156,000 covering the original project the day before the meeting.

Delorey said that because Farley Road was not paved in 2025, the Wendell road crew has more to spend in 2026 on that repair and other road projects.

## Procuring Assistance

Library trustee Phyllis Lawrence asked the selectboard for help with procurement. Librarian Miriam Warner, she said, had applied for and received a digital equity grant to upgrade audio-visual equipment. In the process of pursuing vendors, she spoke with FRCOG and then the state attorney general, and nearly got overwhelmed with details.

When former town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad left Wendell for Erving, Lawrence said, he took with him his knowledge and certification as a procurement officer. Kelly Tyler, the current town coordinator, said she had looked into taking the same courses herself.

Feltman explained that vendors respond to requests for proposals with bids, which are essentially proposed contracts. The town can then negotiate for changes as needed.

The bid Warner received for the work expired after 30 days, but Feltman said he thought she could explain the delay and get another bid, which after 30 days would not be very different; a second site visit, for example, would not be necessary.

Contacted after the meeting, Warner said she had contacted the selectboard, Manley, FRCOG director of municipal services Bob Dean, and the attorney general's office for advice on confusing regulations for procuring services that cost more than \$10,000. She said she received conflicting advice, and a 50-page set of regulations, from the AG's office.

Warner said she is continuing to work on hiring a contractor, in accordance with the regulations, to complete the audio-visual work under a \$22,000 grant.

## Other Business

Manley reported the estimated increase of the town's health insurance costs in FY'27, originally 16% to 20%, was down to 12.48%.

Wendell's prior premium plan, with no deductible for town employees, will be replaced with a \$250 personal deductible, and a \$500 family deductible, "the best deal we could get." She said the schools will get the same deal.



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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Third or Fourth Culture Committee; Advice on Splitting Up Farren Land; Reversal of Geopolitics Vote

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday night the Montague selectboard was asked to allocate \$7,500 in town money to “fund arts and culture.” This relatively small request led to the longest discussion of the meeting, partly due to uncertainty as to whether a third town committee dealing with culture should be created to oversee the fund.

The fairly short meeting also saw the board review the advice of the previous week’s expert panel on marketing the Farren property, discuss the town’s “legislative priorities” in advance of a visit by state senator Jo Comerford, take another step toward approving the warrant for the annual town meeting, and step away from an earlier decision “adopting” the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

The request for money to promote local arts and culture – which would need to go to town meeting – was presented by town planner Maureen Pollock. Pollock said the appropriation would be “seed funding” for a “strategic reserve” that would be used for planning purposes, rather than for the direct funding of arts programs.

According to the proposal, the reserve would be overseen by a five-member board appointed by the selectboard. “Our expectation is that that fund will grow over time,” Pollock said, through fundraising, grants, and further town appropriations.

Suzanne LoManto, assistant town planner and director of the town’s arts promotion bureau RiverCulture, said she thought this was the “ideal time to create an arts fund for the medium- and long-term goals for the town,” because “people really like the idea of saving and planning for future opportunities.”

The RiverCulture steering committee and the Montague Cultural Council supported such a fund, she said, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council is revising its policies supporting cultural districts in a way that makes it likely that “some sort of account or match may become a requirement in a few years” for state grants.

Selectboard member Marina Goldman asked for more clarity about the funding source for the new program, as compared with money used for RiverCulture initiatives. Pollock said the latter, which includes both state and local funds, must be spent within a specific time frame.

LoManto said she had discussed the idea of a long-term account with town accountant Angelica Desroches, who told her that a “gift account was the easiest and simplest way” to set it up.

Town administrator Walter Ramsey pointed out that the proposal would require the selectboard to set up a new committee in addition to the Cultural Council, the RiverCulture steering committee, and an unofficial oversight committee for the downtown cultural district. “We’re setting up a fourth?” he asked.

LoManto said there were really

only two other committees, and emphasized that this was just an initial proposal. “We really don’t have to,” she said. “That structure [could] exist inside RiverCulture, or inside the Montague Cultural Council.” She added that “confusion about this is not just a Montague [problem].”

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

### Going to Market

Next up was a “debriefing” about the advisory panel on marketing the former Farren Hospital property, which had met with various stakeholders the previous Tuesday and culminated in a public forum at the Shea Theater.

The real estate and housing professionals, organized by the Urban Land Institute, recommended that the town-owned property be subdivided into “two development sites and one public amenity open space,” Pollock reported, and that Montague should issue multiple requests for proposals (RFPs) “to allow for different scales of development and a phased approach.”

These RFPs, she said, could include “cohesive streetscape design guidelines, that provide identity without being overly prescriptive.” The lots would be most suitable for housing, along with some “flexible commercial space” such as food trucks and pop-up cafés.

Pollock recommended that the town should consider continuing to receive technical assistance from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, and applying for grants to extend town infrastructure to the site, though perhaps not this year. Montague will also need to calculate the cost of designing, building, and maintaining a park, which the experts recommended.

Selectboard chair Matt Lord acknowledged that members of the public had expressed considerable concern at the meeting over the lack of commercial space in the final proposal, but said he felt “the professionals gave very sound answers as to why they made the proposals that they did.”

The board did not take a vote on the conclusions of the panel, which Pollock said would issue a formal report “in the next one to three months.”

### Town Budget

Ramsey updated the board on the process of finishing the next fiscal year’s budget. “May 2 is just around the corner,” he said, “and we’re getting into crunch time.” On Wednesday the selectboard was scheduled to meet with the finance committee to review the town operating budget “as a whole,” and potentially vote on capital requests.

Ramsey said he was hoping to have a draft town meeting warrant ready for the selectboard to review on March 30 and approve on April 6.

Noting an upcoming meeting at the Gill-Montague senior center on the proposal to build a new downtown library (see article, Page A1), Ramsey said that he and the “financial team” at town hall planned to comment on the library’s financing, which would include issuing bonds

that would require a townwide debt exclusion vote.

### State Priorities

Ramsey also discussed a list of potential topics to discuss with Comerford, who plans to visit the board at its March 30 meeting.

These included reform of the state’s Chapter 70 school aid formula; rural school aid; reimbursements to municipalities for state-owned land; the redevelopment of the Farren site, particularly as housing; and the need to increase other forms of state aid, such as “unrestricted general government aid.”

Lord advised that Ramsey narrow the topics down to a more realistic number, and suggested that the board could also ask Comerford to help Montague understand the status of important legislation pending on Beacon Hill.

### Global Politics

Goldman, who had placed an item on the agenda to reconsider an earlier vote to “adopt” the IHRA definition of antisemitism, said she had done so because she “need[ed] clarification on the vote on February 23.” She said this vote had been taken in response to a request from the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts which she called “confusing and misleading at best,” and which did not actually state the definition.

When she looked it up after the meeting, Goldman said, she found that “the two-sentence definition seemed fine, but we did not actually read this definition out loud as part of the motion.”

However, she said, the IHRA definition is typically circulated with 11 examples of antisemitism, which “confused [her] even further as they seem to conflate criticism of Israel and its government policies with antisemitism.”

Goldman said that antisemitism is on the rise and is a “real problem,” but also listed several Jewish organizations that have rejected the criteria list associated with the IHRA definition.

She also noted that Israel and the United States had started bombing Iran just five days after the board passed its motion.

“I think we can find a strategic way to take this conversation out of town hall and into a useful and productive community forum,” she said, making a motion to rescind the earlier vote. This motion passed 2-0, with board member Rich Kulewicz not in attendance.

### Other Business

Lord congratulated Ramsey for his appointment to the policy committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA). Ramsey noted that the MMA needs to review “a whole bunch of ballot initiatives” that are slated for the November election.

The board approved the use of Peskeomskut Park for Monday evening rehearsals and concerts by the Montague Community Band from April 27 through August 3.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on March 17, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### Month-Long Sewer Overflow

In recent years, Montague’s water pollution control facility on Greenfield Road has reduced the flow of sewage into the river, and is now generating significant income by dewatering solid waste from other towns.

But this winter, through an accumulation of small problems, a bigger mistake appears to have happened. According to a report, the system appeared to have been overflowing for parts of 26 days in January and three days in February, a total of 647 hours. During that time, approximately 1.4 million gallons of combined runoff and sewage had flowed into the Connecticut River, a stone’s throw from the treatment plant.

The facility is allowed to send some runoff into the river during rainy days. However, it was a very dry January, with no rain recorded on 21 of the 29 days the system overflowed. How serious a violation this is will be determined by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

### Wendell Depot Road to Close

The Wendell highway department contracted Stantec Engineering to design a replacement for the deteriorating bridge that carries Wendell Depot Road over Whetstone brook. On March 9, Stantec construction services manager Rene LaBranche told the Wendell selectboard that he hoped the work would require the road to be closed for just three weeks in July, from the start of demolition to opening of the new bridge. He expected the cost to be close to \$360,000.

## 20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on March 16, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### Officials Defend VY Performance

Tension crackled in the auditorium at Pioneer Valley Regional School Monday night as 150 local residents turned out to hear a presentation by operators of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Entergy VY has received permission to boost power production at the boiling-water reactor to 120% of its original design capacity.

The hearing was the first held

by Entergy in Massachusetts, where seven towns lie within the 33-year-old reactor’s ten-mile emergency planning zone.

Issues raised by the community included the lack of independent inspection of the plant, possible radiation poisoning from contaminated steam, lack of available insurance for nuclear disasters, and insufficient emergency planning for the community.

“I’ve never been informed about how we are going to respond to an evacuation,” said Dana Levine, a Massachusetts state police officer for 18 years. My goal is to protect people. I’m at a loss.”

## 140 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on March 17, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

### Turners Falls and Vicinity

The blue birds and robins have come to grow up with the place.

F.I. Webster and E.I. Cassidy have been appointed by the Selectmen, Sewer Sinking Fund Commissioners.

St. Patrick’s day, and several men are round town all day with good chances of finding the snakes the Saint drove off the sod.

The grocery people are having a little fun among themselves by furnishing certain lines of goods at less than they cost at wholesale. The whole county ought to come to Turners Falls to trade now.

The supply pumps of the village gave out one night last week, and the village was without water the whole of the following day. The next night a plug blew out on L street causing the village to be again

without water for nearly a day.

Treasurer Austin DeWolf intends to set apart a portion of the new building of the water-power company as a sort of museum, in which can be preserved a collection of foot-prints and fossils; which are found in such abundance in the region and has already secured a nucleus for such a collection. It would prove of great value to students who annually visit the surrounding ledges.

“If you have a good business, advertise and keep it; if not, advertise and get it,” is the wise council, of one who speaks from experience.

It is reported that there is a movement on foot among some wealthy men who have attended the Spiritualist camp meetings looking to the purchase of the Lake Pleasant property with a view to fitting it up as a place for summer residences and resorts.

Mrs. Zeigler, of Second street, on Saturday fell down stairs and broke a rib.



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ERVING from page A1

not include funding for a full-time information technology (IT) manager, many department heads have requested more IT support, and the selectboard had been discussing the position for months.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith, who currently also serves as the town's part-time IT manager, was not present at the meeting.

The board and fin com plan to review and revise the FY'27 budget at their next meeting on Monday, March 23.

Bryan Smith reported that several grant-funded projects had incurred outstanding expenses that the town will have to cover in FY'27. An asset management project funded by a state Department of Environmental Protection grant had \$990 in incorrect charges.

Because of rules changes, \$68,490 the town believed it was

spending under the COVID-era CARES Act will not be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Bryan Smith said the denial "didn't seem to make sense."

"Maybe that's the last COVID woe we have to deal with," selectboard member James Loynd commented.

The town administrator said he would provide a draft of the annual town meeting warrant, with revised budget figures, at the March 23 meeting.

#### Other Business

Selectboard member William Bembury, Loynd, and highway superintendent Glenn McCrory reviewed job descriptions for proposed facilities maintenance manager and IT director positions. The board plans to review the drafts further at the March 23 meeting.

Theresa Dodge, chair of the mu-

seum committee, commented on a draft museum bylaw, which will be voted on at the annual town meeting in May. She asked the selectboard to add language about securing funding from municipal funds, fundraising, and grants.

Dodge reported that the town historical museum at the Pearl B. Care building has limited storage space, and that some of the collected artifacts may not be relevant to Erving. She wondered whether some artifacts related to the Montague side of Millers Falls and to the former Orange High School, which students from Erving formerly attended, were necessary.

Bryan Smith recommended that the committee develop policies, separate from the proposed bylaw, about deciding which artifacts to keep.

The selectboard will review the draft bylaw further on March 23.



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## The Week in Sports: A Final Game for All-Star Ballers

By MATT ROBINSON

**HATFIELD** – On Friday the Thirteenth, two boys from Turners Falls High School and three girls from Franklin County Tech participated in the 2026 Hampshire-Franklin IAABO Board 28 All Star basketball games, played in the Sherry Webb gym at Smith Academy to benefit the William Casey Scholarship.

The seniors from both schools played on the "East" teams in their matchups, both of which lost to the "West" squads – the Boys 75 to 65, and the Girls 50 to 35.

It was interesting how many people I recognized at the games. Most of the basketball refs

were in attendance – Gary Mullins, the Turners boys' coach, and Joe Gamache, the Tech girls' coach, were both there, as well as David Hastings, a 1981 graduate of Turners and the current coach of the Frontier Regional girls' team.

Kevin Hollister of the Tech school sang both anthems to wrap up his 15th season of singing before basketball games.

#### West 75 – East 65

The boys' game tipped off first, with Jackson Cogswell and Kainen Stevens representing Turners. Because there were 15 all-stars on each roster, neither boy saw much playing time. Halfway through each quarter a media timeout was called, and 10 new players took

to the court while 10 players exited.

The mood in the gym was pretty comical. The announcer joked about the lack of foul calls, and when a shooter threw two airballs from the foul line, he said, "I guess he's a little rusty," to the delight of the spectators.

When Stevens committed a foul, the announcer quipped, "Just three total fouls in an all-star game," which led to more laughter.

The play on the court was not exactly a team effort. Players were showboating, going for dunks, and taking three-point shots every chance they could.

When the Turners boys finally appeared, they changed the narrative. Cogswell launched a long pass to Stevens, who put

it in the hoop. Cogswell also scored the final points of the first half. Although neither player scored many points, they got their share of assists and rebounds.

After the game, the announcer called Coach Hastings to center court. Hastings received an award for his 200 total wins, while also acknowledging that Frontier would be playing for the state championship on Saturday.

When I congratulated him on his success at getting into the championship game, he gave a typical understatement answer: "Yes, the girls are playing pretty good..."

#### West 50 – East 35

The girls' game had a slightly different atmosphere. Media timeouts were still held midway through each quarter, but the West coach, Theresa Tsipenyuk of Pioneer Valley Regional, didn't comply with the five-in, five-out rule. Throughout the game, she sent in one or two players as the situation dictated, and by the fourth quarter her team was playing like a well-oiled machine, passing the ball around until someone was open and hitting shots way outside the arc.

The Franklin Tech players – Samatha Duncan, Madyson Lynde, and Lindsey Taylor, who were playing for the East – played well together, but didn't see much total playing time, as they were all in the second line of players and could only play for four minutes before being benched.

But all in all, it was a fun night. The players, most of whom were playing the final basketball game of their high school careers, were smiling throughout the contests, and no one seemed concerned whether they won or lost.

#### Another All-Star

Turners Falls recently lost one of our own: Sandy J. Pickunka Bailey, who passed away on February 23.

In 1986, Sandy married Mark Bailey, a 1979 graduate of Turners Falls High School. After working at Phoenix Mutual, she spent 20 years working at TFHS, mentoring students, families, faculty, and administrators.

Rest in peace, Mrs. Bailey. You are already missed by many.



Left: Turners Falls's Kainen Stevens looks to pass the ball to teammate Jackson Cogswell during the All-Star Games at Smith Academy in Hatfield last Friday.



Right: Samantha Duncan of Franklin Tech drives up court. Tech's Lindsey Taylor, Madyson Lynde, and Duncan were selected to participate in this year's games.

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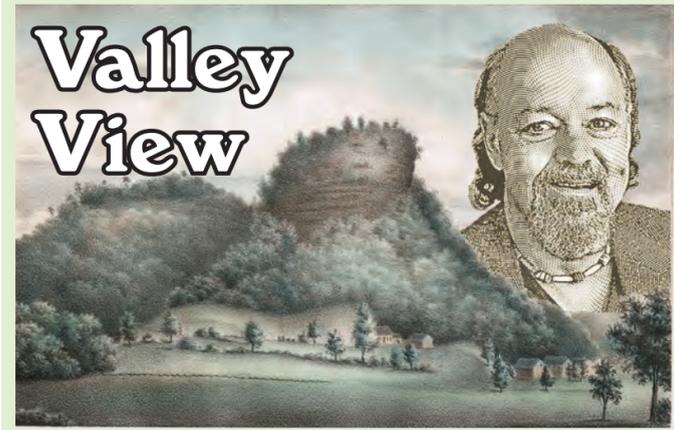
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MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MARCH 19, 2026

Above: A tremendous amount of river ice was piled up this week above the Turners Falls dam.



## Hit Upside the Head

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – A brilliant early-March day. Tuesday afternoon. Hot sun. Thermometer near 70 in the shade. Grandsons Jordan, 20, and Arie, 16, in town for a quick visit from their Williamstown, Vermont home.

Oh my! How time flies. Seems like yesterday when my wife and I were meeting their mother or her parents at a midpoint rendezvous site in a McDonald's parking lot within earshot of the Interstate 91/Interstate 89 interchange in White River Junction. Now Jordan is driving his own compact SUV to us; his brother, soon to be a licensed driver himself, riding shotgun.

The boys were in town for a little visit after a long, cold winter. Figuring a Big Y takeout meal would work, we ordered a family-size fish and chips, an order of sea scallops, and a party pizza. A perfect pregame buffet for the nationally televised Celtics road loss to the San Antonio Spurs and budding superstar Victor Wembanyama – an agile 7-foot-5 freak of nature with otherworldly hardcourt skills. A close contest throughout, the Celtics may have prevailed had not Jaylen Brown been ejected for arguing a second-quarter non-call of what he thought was a pushing foul driving him out of bounds.

My salient memory from the boys' visit is the way they tracked up-to-the-minute sports news on their iPhones while glued to the NBA game. Observing them thumbing their way from one online site to another and reporting what they were learning reminded me once again of how fast the world is passing me by as I age out in retirement.

Hey, get this: I don't even carry a cell phone, if you can imagine that. I've owned a total of one, which plugged into a cradle on my car's console for a brief period of my working life. That lasted maybe a year before I gave it, along with my wife's car, to my younger son. Stubborn, I guess. Locked in my old ways. Still, to this day, I

have never sent or received a text. I'm just not OK with carrying a 24/7 tracking device. What can I say? Just me. Some would call it ridiculous.

But let us not forget that I'm an old news junkie who once bought two Boston newspapers a day, and often a NYC tabloid to boot when the time was right. That was during the first two-thirds of a 40-year newspaper career with direct access to national and international newswires, not to mention the best Franklin County news feed in the valley.

From my desk at the front end of the newsroom I took calls, supervised staff, edited and formatted copy, and laid out the daily sports package. During idle moments awaiting late games and box scores, I'd wade through the Associated Press and *Washington Post/Los Angeles Times* newswires and preview the local news and obits for the next day's newspaper.

These days, people don't need to wait for the morning paper to get their news. It comes to them even quicker than I used to get it on the wire, arriving on devices resting in the palm of their hand while waiting in the supermarket checkout line or, heaven forbid, bobbing their thumbs, heads down, crossing city streets.

No wonder the modern world is phasing out print media. I could see it coming when my kids were blossoming into young men and had no desire, or need, to gather news from hardcopy. They preferred to chase it down on phones and tablets, desk and laptops, while absorbing books on Kindle. To them, even cable TV news was a secondary source.

My grandsons are even more advanced. I watched them track Miami Heat power forward Bam Adebayo's fraudulent 83-point game on their phones, beginning with the news he'd finished the first quarter with 31 points. As they followed courtside tweets from Miami, they simultaneously followed news from the World Baseball Classic, see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

## HISTORY

### The Maid and the Angry (Not Mad) Hatter

By PAM RICHARDSON

**WENDELL** – “*WHEREAS, Eliza Gardner Martin, a minor, has left my employ and service, and has eloped with Dexter Daniels, who has been a Journeyman in my shop for some time past, this is to caution and give notice to all persons, not to harbor, trust or in any way assist the said Eliza, thinking to receive any thing therefor of me – as I shall pay no debts of her contracting, or consider myself liable in any way or manner for any trouble or expense she may hereafter create or make.*”

*GEORGE W. GARY Wendell, June 11, 1830 Greenfield Gazette & Franklin Herald*

Two hundred years ago, newspaper readers were accustomed to seeing such notices advising people to be on the lookout for missing indentured servants and apprentices, or wives who had left their husbands' "bed and board." The intent of these notices was both to find the fugitive and to absolve the complainant of any debt incurred by the escapee.

In some places, such classified ads were regularly posted by slave owners in search of runaway slaves, and they often promised a

reward for the return of the renegade man or woman.

George Gary's ad is notable for its description of Eliza Martin as a "minor." A perhaps little-known aspect of 17th- and 18th-century New England is that the courts "bound out" thousands of poor, illegitimate, or orphaned children from almshouses to families of means for domestic, agricultural, and trade work; these children were expected to work in return for basic care and education until they reached adulthood.

The intent of this system was to relieve communities of the financial burden of caring for the poor, to ensure a stable society, and to meet labor needs, but sadly many of these children suffered abuse at the hands of their caretakers.

Thinking that Eliza might have been one of these so-called "pauper apprentices," I started my dive into this story with a look at the life of George W. Gary. After his birth in 1797 in Wendell, there is no record of him until May 22, 1823, when "George W. Gary, hatter" purchased an acre of land abutting the north end of Wendell's Center Cemetery for \$175. Two years later, he bought a second acre next to the first one. Presumably, this is where Gary not only resided, but also plied his trade.

He appeared in the *Greenfield Gazette* three years after that, on



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This bleached beaver-fur hat, on display at Old Deerfield, was made in Maine by a Massachusetts-trained hatter sometime between 1825 and 1835, and may have been similar to hats crafted at the time in Wendell.

June 3, 1828, when it was reported that "A hatter's shop and barn belonging to George W. Gary of Wendell was consumed by fire last week. A horse in the barn was also burnt."

The manufacture of hats was a big business in 19th-century Massachusetts, and in Wendell, the making of palm-leaf hats was a strong cottage industry. In 1845, for example, 120 Wendell women would make a total of 35,521 palm-leaf hats, each woman receiving about 9 cents per hat.

No information has come down see **HISTORY** page B2

## RECIPES

### BEANS: POPULAR, YET UNDERRATED

By CLAIRE HOPLEY



HOPLEY PHOTO

Two legumes – cannellini beans and green peas – feature in this dish alongside Italian sausage. Read on for a recipe.

**LEVERETT** – All nutritionists tell us to eat more legumes – a.k.a. beans and peas. But if you are like me, you rarely follow through on this, and that's a bit odd.

A bit odd because Massachusetts was once called "the home of the bean and the cod." These were staple foods – beans were eaten as a breakfast porridge, and with meat and fish at dinner. Most commonly, a big pot of beans baked with molasses and salt pork was made on Saturdays so everyone could go to church on Sunday, and then, duty done, come home to a ready-made meal.

Other regions also have historic bean dishes. In the deep South, red beans and rice were so fundamental that New Orleans jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong signed himself "Red beans and ricely yours."

In China, Japan, and some other Asian countries, tofu and soy sauce, both basic foods, are made from fermented soybeans. In India bean dishes are called *dhal* and come with most meals.

And in Africa and Europe, almost every country has bean favorites. There's *pasta e fagiole* and tuna and cannellini salad from Italy; pretty *flageolets* with lamb from France; giant beans in tomato sauce from

see **RECIPES** page B8

# Pet of the Week



## ‘Pi’

Meet Pi, a one-year-old male domestic shorthair cat who arrived at Dakin as a stray. They don't know much about his past, but Pi loves meeting new people, especially if humans pat his beautiful ginger coat. Pi is super friendly and talkative, and an absolute snuggler.

All cat adoption fees include spaying or neutering; rabies and distemper vaccines; a FeLV/FIV blood test; a microchip implanted and registered; treatment of fleas, ticks, and

ear mites; a veterinary exam and health certificate at Dakin; and a free exam within 30 days after adoption with participating vets.

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

## Senior Center Activities MARCH 23 THROUGH 27

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, please call 863-9357.

### Monday 3/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

3 p.m. Beginner Yoga

### Tuesday 3/24

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

4 p.m. Spanish Class

### Wednesday 3/25

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

### Thursday 3/26

1 p.m. Pitch

### Friday 3/27

8 a.m. Tax Return Preparation  
by Appointment

No classes today.

### 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 3/23

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

### Tuesday 3/24

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

### Wednesday 3/25

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

### Thursday 3/26

9 a.m. Barre Fusion  
10 a.m. Pilates Flow  
12 p.m. Lucky Leprechaun  
Lunch

### Friday 3/27

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

### 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 April 21. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us), or check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv.

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is April 1. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

## HISTORY from page B1

to us as to the specifics of George Gary's hat business, but popular early 19th-century styles included felt hats, top hats, beaver fur hats, and bowlers.

After the loss of his shop to fire he must have rebuilt fairly quickly, because by 1830 there were – in addition to Gary and his new wife, Salome – six males ages 20 to 29, four males ages 30 to 39, and two females ages 15 to 19 living at Gary's address. The men must have been either journeymen or apprentices to the hat trade, and the two young women were no doubt employed as domestic help.

Dexter Daniels was one of the journeymen, and Eliza Martin was one of the maids.

But shortly after the publication of Gary's notice about Eliza and Dexter, in a surprising turn of events, the following strongly-worded rebuttal appeared in the *Gazette*.

### To the Public:

*An advertisement of a slanderous character evidently intending to injure me, and to give a wrong impression appeared in the last Gazette, signed by G.W. Gary. The deliberate falsehood of this man's statement (if man he may be called), and the malicious intimations it contains, will appear from the following facts. I have been for some considerable time heretofore in the employ of said Gary as a journeyman, and said Eliza Gardner Martin has for some years lived in his family doing house work as a hired maid. She is between eighteen and nineteen years of age; in no way whatever obligated to said Gary, nor he in any way responsible for her support, or in any manner whatever, and of course had a right to leave him when she pleased. Mr. G. has a large family and the principal part of the housework was done by her; and finding it too hard for her, she requested me, as I was going away from said Gary's, to find her a place where the work would be easier. She has no relations or friends in this part of the country to whom she could apply – having been taken when quite young, from the city of New York by a sister of Mr. G. (who is not now in the U. States) and does not know whether her parents are living or not. She sustains a good moral character, and I did not hesitate to recommend her to a respectable family in Conway where she now is. It was well known to said Gary that she intended leaving his service and that I was to carry her away when I went; but she being very capable and industrious, and profitable for him to hire, wished to retain her and threatened to advertise her if she went away, thinking to intimidate her and make her stay. I thought it but justice to myself and to the character of a respectable female, thus publicly attacked, and in a land of strangers, to make this defence against a dastardly attempt to injure her and me. From this statement, the public will form their own opinion of the credit due to this man and of his malicious disposition.*

June 29, 1830  
DEXTER DANIELS

Given the high word count – and thus, probably, the high price – of this ad, Dexter Daniels must have been strongly motivated to clear his and Eliza's names from any suggestion of wrong-doing.

The first immediately evident fact is that Eliza was not a pauper apprentice; she had been hired by Gary who was not “in any way responsible for her support,” and “she had a right to leave him when she pleased.”

It might be inferred from Dexter's strong defense of Eliza that he was, as Gary claimed, romantically involved with Eliza. However, research shows that two months after Dexter's indignant response to Gary's ad, he married a woman named Maria Avery in Charlemont.

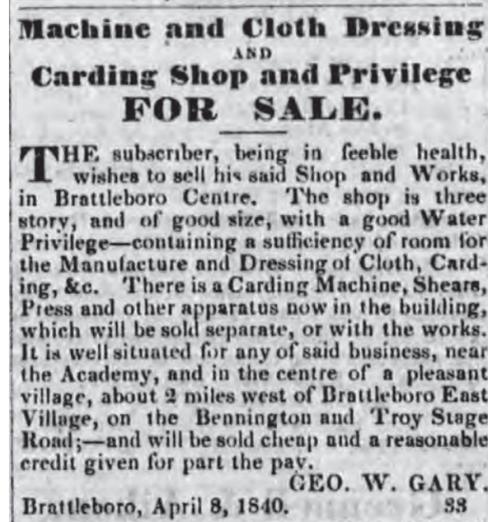
Dexter had a younger brother named Obed and, seven years after Dexter's wedding, Obed Daniels married Eliza Martin in Buckland. They joined the huge westward surge of people looking for cheap, fertile land, and by 1840 they were living in Peoria,

Illinois, where they spent the rest of their lives with no further scandal or even notice.

Of all the characters in this story, Eliza's background is the least clear. Information on her origins is scarce. One source says she was born in Brooklyn, New York to unknown parents on May 22, 1813, but a collection of family records at Arms Library in Shelburne Falls says she was born, that same day and to unknown parents, in Buckland.

With no record of her parents' names, it is possible that she was either orphaned or illegitimate. Whether or not George Gary had a sister who “took” Eliza from her home and then left the United States, as claimed by Dexter Daniels, is unverifiable. Why Eliza would have made up a story about being taken from her parents and home in New York when she may have actually been from Buckland is a mystery that probably can't now be solved.

From the available bits and pieces of information found in the attempt to reconstruct the lives of these characters, it seems that Eliza and Obed fared better than some of the others. They appear to have led a quiet life, raising five children on their Illinois farm. The only public mention of Obed occurred on August 12, 1873 when a local paper announced that “Obed Daniels, an old settler of Peoria, died yesterday.”



The sale of George W. Gary's West Brattleboro workplace, as announced in the *Vermont Phoenix* on April 17, 1840.

George Gary, the scoundrel in this story, sold his Wendell property in 1832, moving his family and shop to West Brattleboro, Vermont. Eight years later, “feeble health” forced him to put the business up for sale. He died, insolvent, in 1842 at age 47, and was buried in Brattleboro's Meeting House Hill Cemetery. His executor sold off all his personal property – beds, sofas, timepieces, crockery, farming tools, and a buggy wagon – to pay his debts.

Gary's widow Salome remarried in 1845, and again in 1855. Widowed three times, she herself died of the flu in 1895, at age 88, in Buckland.

The story's hero, Dexter Daniels, died of consumption (tuberculosis) in the summer of 1840, a few weeks after his infant son succumbed to the same disease. Dexter was only 40 years old. His widow, Maria, remarried, and then outlived her second husband by 50 years, dying at the age of 102.

And so ends this tale. As mentioned above, fugitive ads such as Gary's were once common, but what makes his unusual is Dexter Daniel's rebuke. In combination, these notices call to mind the dirty laundry-airing that occurs so often today on social media. Nosy historians of the future will no doubt have a field day!

Author's note: For more information on pauper apprentices, see *Ruth Wallis Herndon and John E. Murray, eds., Children Bound to Labor (Cornell University Press, 2009).*



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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

# Hold the Foam!!!! Free Recycling Events Will Collect Styrofoam

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – This spring, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is again collaborating with the towns of Leverett, Montague, Northfield and Warwick to hold special recycling collections for blocky “Styrofoam” packing material.

The free collection events will take place on three Saturdays in April, from 9 a.m. to noon: April 11, 18, and 25. These events are only open to residents of Leverett, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick.

These special collections will only accept white blocky packing material and coolers made of expanded polystyrene foam (EPS or PS #6), commonly known as “Styrofoam.” Volunteers at each collection site will review the materials residents bring, and may reject unacceptable items. Foam items must be clean and dry. Before bringing materials to the collection, residents will need to remove any tape, labels, cardboard, or wood.

These collections will not accept food-related “Styrofoam” items such as cups, plates, bowls, trays, egg cartons, or take-out containers.

Other items that will not be accepted are wet or dirty materials, #4 (LDPE) foam packaging material, foam insulation board (XPS), and packing peanuts. The UPS Store in Greenfield accepts clean, dry packing peanuts for reuse. Foam materials of any type are not accepted in household recycling programs.

The four towns’ transfer stations will host these special collections; a transfer station permit is not required, but the events are open only to town residents.

Pre-registration is not required, but space is limited and may run out; first come, first served.

The event locations are the Leverett Transfer Station, at 5 Cemetery Road in Leverett; the Montague Transfer Station, at 11 Sandy Lane in



*At a past Styrofoam recycling collection, volunteer Kate O'Kane staffed the collection box at the Montague transfer station.*

Turners Falls; the Northfield Transfer Station, at 31 Caldwell Road in Northfield; and the Warwick Transfer Station, on Garage Road in Warwick. The Montague collection is open to residents of Montague and its villages: Turners Falls, Lake Pleasant, Millers Falls, Montague Center, and Montague City.

This is the fifth annual Styrofoam collection. At previous events, the four towns together diverted 170 cubic yards of foam from the landfill. Materials collected at these collection events are recycled at Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Agawam. The foam is densified and ultimately recycled into picture frames, molding, or building insulation. MI-BOX Moving & Storage supports the project with discounted rates.

For more information, contact the District office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org) or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

## Driver Hopped Up On Monster; Dangling Foot Raises Alarm; Toast Burned; Food Stamps Stolen; Walls In Home Missing

**Monday, 3/9**

8:33 a.m. Officer assisting with a postal truck that has broken down at Avenue A and Third Street. Truck pushed out of way.

8:36 a.m. Officer requesting DPW treat intersection of Turnpike and Montague City roads due to ice. DPW notified.

1 p.m. Caller from West Main Street reports that downstairs neighbors are not cleaning up after their dog; advises there are feces in the yard and on the sidewalk. Caller advises that the owner of the property wanted him to report this. Advised caller to contact animal control officer and the board of health per the chief.

1:48 p.m. 911 caller states that a Nouria employee threatened him for no reason. During the call, the employee could be heard yelling at the caller. The caller left in his vehicle and drove to the police station to make a report. Officer spoke at length with caller; advised him of various options, and made him aware that another officer was currently at the store speaking with the clerk. Caller decided he did not want to pursue anything further at this time and was happy with the police response.

3:25 p.m. 911 caller from Park Street reports that her neighbor's truck was hit by a vehicle that left the scene. She wants to say it was a white SUV with tinted windows and an orange stripe. Did not get a plate. Referred to an officer.

5:58 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road. Officer observed operator drinking from a can in a koozie. Also observed two marked lanes violations. No signs of impairment; can was a Monster Energy Drink. Verbal

warning to operator for marked lanes violations.

8:56 p.m. Caller states he hit some objects on Turnpike Road and has two flat tires. Caller contacted AAA; vehicle off roadway and not a hazard. Debris removed from road.

**Tuesday, 3/10**

11:55 a.m. Caller from Central Street is concerned about the male and female on the first floor, who have been yelling and screaming at each other all morning. All quiet upon officers' arrival; no answer at door.

1:38 p.m. Trespass notice received for male on Fifth Street.

3:26 p.m. 911 caller from Central Street states there is a male party in her apartment who is refusing to leave. Caller will be leaving for a while so that they can finish work that the board of health is requiring to be done. Peace restored.

3:54 p.m. 911 caller reporting minor accident at South Prospect Street and Grout Circle. No injuries; party unable to get door open; unknown fluids. Shelburne Control given info to dispatch fire department. Second caller states there is an accident in front of his home, and requests officers ask involved parties to leave his vehicle alone. It appears someone involved is sitting on his bumper. Report taken.

6:32 p.m. EMS on scene at Nouria requesting PD for male party refusing transport. Not combative at this time. Party walked away and declined medical attention.

**Wednesday, 3/11**

11:15 p.m. 911 caller states he can see a possible fire in the area of the Patch. Officer advises people are having an outdoor fire at the address; will be talking to

them. Officer advises fire is contained and being put out now. FD on scene.

**Thursday, 3/12**

2:03 a.m. Commercial burglar alarm at Basically Bicycles; zone: phone line cut. Officer advises both doors to business are locked and nothing appears out of the ordinary. Spoke with business owner.

2:47 p.m. Female trespassed from a Millers Falls Road property.

2:53 p.m. Male trespassed from a Millers Falls Road property.

4:08 p.m. Caller reports she was walking her dog and in front of the Montague Center fire department, in the green metal container, there is a person inside with their bare foot dangling out of it. Firefighter on scene advises it's a training mannequin.

4:58 p.m. Caller reports he delivers papers and went into the senior center; the door was unlocked and all the lights were on, but no one is inside. Caller states he left and locked the door behind him. Officer advises all doors are secure.

6:46 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports that a male and female in the neighboring apartment have been screaming at each other all day. Parties refusing to open door; state they will be quiet.

**Friday, 3/13**

12:45 a.m. 911 caller states a fire alarm is sounding on Montague City Road; it does appear that there is smoke inside the residence, but can't tell if anyone is inside. Officer on scene advises homeowner states she burned some toast. Has windows open; requesting no fire response. Shelburne Control advised. TFFD is going to continue with an engine to confirm with the homeowner.

9:03 a.m. 911 caller reports that a male party is refusing to leave Family Dollar and is causing a disturbance. Male party left; units clear. Store manager given trespass order options.

10:11 a.m. Officer, K9, and a few students and faculty doing community outreach at Erving Elementary School.

2:19 p.m. Caller reports he has been tracking a tractor-trailer that was taken from a business six months ago. TT has now been parked at Hillside Plastics for two days. Caller states he needs to report the vehicle as stolen, as he never did. Advised caller he would need to report stolen vehicle to his business's local PD. Caller states he needs to report the stolen vehicle to MPD. Caller provided commercial plate number which

does not come back to anything. Officer spoke with caller and explained the process of reporting a stolen vehicle. Caller states he doesn't want to report the vehicle as stolen, if possible; just wants the trailer back. TT located with employee; they will reach out to caller.

5:44 p.m. Amherst PD requesting assistance; state a female has been stranded in their department for nine hours crying that she cannot make it home. Wondering if a unit can meet them halfway. Officer will meet Amherst PD at Depot Road on Route 63.

5:50 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop at Second Street and Avenue A. Male being sectioned for statements indicating intent to self-harm. BFMC notified. Officers transporting party.

9:04 p.m. 911 caller states that a Jeep of some sort is following them and has made every turn that they have; Jeep is turning its lights on and off and is swerving all over the road. Officers advised. Caller states that they turned on Ripley Road and the vehicle continued straight. Officers advised. Area checked; unable to locate.

10:51 p.m. 911 caller reporting possible fire on West Chestnut Hill Road; could be bonfire but is getting bigger and is in the woods. Referred to other agency.

**Saturday, 3/14**

12:03 p.m. Caller reports that she got her food stamps this morning and went to Food City, and the balance was stolen. Officer advised. Caller will reach out to DTA to obtain account statement. Report taken.

1:57 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street would like on record that a male ruined the stone wall in her backyard. States this is the second time it's happened. Does not want a call back or officer response at this time. Report taken.

3:14 p.m. 911 caller from Sunderland states that someone is in her home and the walls are missing. Transferred to Shelburne Control; also transferred to state police, as no Sunderland police are on duty.

6:57 p.m. Caller and owner of laundromat on East Main Street stating three or four kids are causing a disturbance in the laundromat; would like officers to respond. Officer advises kids gone on arrival.

**Sunday, 3/15**

9:16 p.m. Caller from Leverett reporting threatening/harassment. Officer advised caller to call state police as Leverett does not have an officer on duty at this time.



**TELEVISION**

## The Early History of Superhero TV Shows

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Before they started making movies featuring the characters from Marvel comics, there were a handful of TV shows with superheroes from those comics, and ones that were very original. These included a *Wonder Woman* series, featuring Linda Carter, and an *Incredible Hulk* series.

The stars of the *Incredible Hulk* TV series were Bill Bixby as Bruce Banner, and Lou Ferrigno as the Hulk. This somehow lasted five seasons, from the '70s into the '80s. I would not call this show's storylines very original. The most original one involved an old man who was also a Hulk, but had been cured.

The first season of *Wonder Woman* had her connected to World War II, like she was in the comics, but I've found the next two seasons that were set in the

'70s, the time the show was coming out, worked very well. The stories set in the '70s were very original, and are still enjoyable. It didn't affect the storytelling that *Wonder Woman* wasn't taking place during World War II – Lyle Waggoner, who had played a man she knew during the war, played his son in the second and third seasons.

*Night Man* was about a musician who got psychic powers from a lightning strike, and a special suit from an inventor he befriended. The stories were very original and unique. It lasted two seasons, during the '90s. I enjoyed this show very much, and watched it regularly whenever I found reruns on TV.

During the '80s, there was a show called *The Greatest American Hero* in which a teacher, played by William Katt, got a superhero suit from aliens. With the suit he could fly, see the fu-

ture, and turn invisible. He ended up befriending and working alongside an FBI agent, played by Robert Culp.

They managed to keep this show going for three seasons, and have it feel very original. It was also a comedy, because the teacher lost the instruction books to the suit and had to figure out how to use it through trial and error.

I would say that *The Greatest American Hero* was the most original show of these four, and *Night Man* was the second most original, followed by *Wonder Woman*.

*The Incredible Hulk* is a bit of a puzzle for me when it comes to being a good, or original, show. It managed to last five seasons despite some of the storylines not being very good. The most original storyline they did, the one that I mentioned involving another Hulk, aired as a two-part episode.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

the Vermont schoolboy basketball tournament – and who knows what else that they *didn't* want to share. They were totally immersed in the modern-day news cycle.

Watching them maneuver from site to site told me I'm *passé*, maybe even Neanderthal, for preferring print media, be it books, magazines, or documents. That pigeonholes me into the endangered-species category – a late-Pleistocene dinosaur watching the ice melt and my relevance vanish like a blacktop puddle after a summer rainstorm.

There's no denying or preventing it: print media is following the path of the horse and buggy. I'd guess that for every five longtime newspaper subscribers listed in the daily obituaries, there may be one new subscription to replace them. And that unsustainable ratio is doomed only to get worse. At least that's the way I see it, and I've been observing it for many years – first as a career newspaperman at a 200-year-old local paper hemorrhaging readers and advertising revenues at an alarming rate during the new millennium, and now as a retired freelancer on the outside looking in.

This reality really hit home for me two years ago, when, in May of 2024, I received a snail-mail notification from *Rolling Stone* magazine informing me that the June issue would be my last as a lifetime subscriber. I had purchased the lifetime deal nearly a half century earlier, decades before the New Journalism magazine's narcissistic publisher/founder Jann Wenner survived grave health concerns and sold out.

If memory serves me, the new sheriff in town offered "lifetime" subscribers like me a few options:

we could either accept a free, trimmed-down online edition, or pay an annual fee for the full publication online or in print. Resistant to the annoying options and in a protest mood, I immediately became a former *Rolling Stone* reader – a status that still holds but may soon change. Truth told, I do miss the magazine.

The magazines now delivered to my doorstep are the weekly *New Yorker*, which I previously viewed as a snooty Big Apple publication, and the cultish *Sun*, published in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I've read the *Sun* for many years and was, after discontinuing my *Rolling Stone* subscription, gifted the *New Yorker* by a neighbor with access to a promotional reduced rate for friends.

Meanwhile, I've already decided not to renew my *Orion* magazine subscription when it expires. It's been taken over by a new editorial staff that doesn't fit my tastes since editor-in-chief Chip Blake left in 2020. Under Blake, *Orion's* subtitle read *Nature, Culture, Place*. Now, new editors have removed the *Place* and gone to a more international focus that doesn't float my birchbark canoe. I'm a place-based reader and writer, focused on this place and on our Western Hemisphere.

As hard as it may be to swallow, my Baby-Boomer generation of print-media consumers is being rudely phased out. That realization was delivered loud and clear by my Generation Z grandsons, who unknowingly slapped me upside the head with it.

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments welcome at [gary@oldtavernfarm.com](mailto:gary@oldtavernfarm.com).



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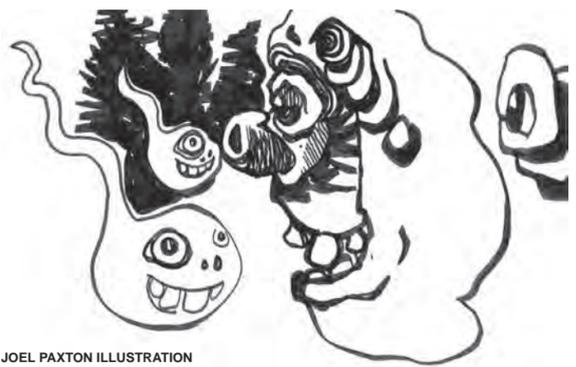
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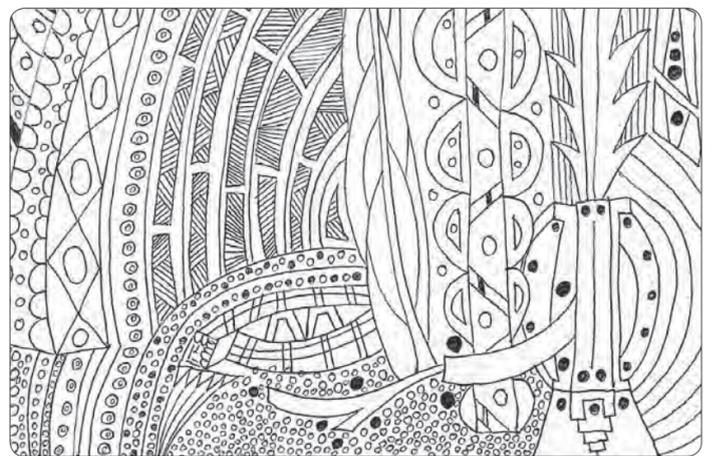
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# The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

## The Lovelights' Operetta Dreams

WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

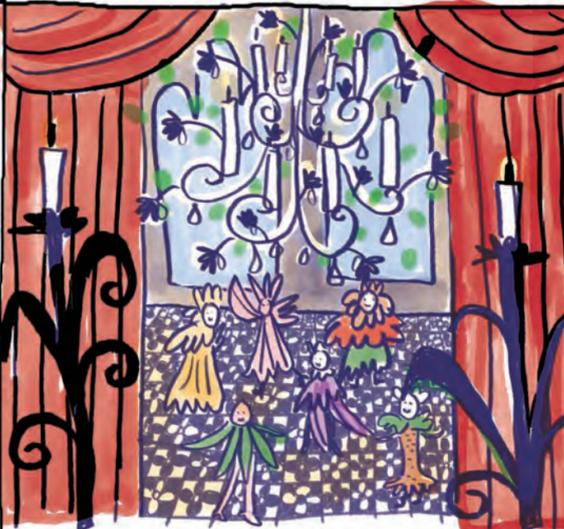


CHELLA AND VIOLA CAME HOME FROM THEIR TRIP TO THE BIG CITY WITH DANCING HEARTS, AND MINDS BURSTING WITH IDEAS! THE TRAIN RIDE BACK WAS ALMOST SILENT AS THEY SWOONED OVER THE MEMORY OF THE GRAND OPERETTA, ITS LAVISH SET AND DRAMATIC PLOT. EVERY SO OFTEN ONE WOULD TURN TO THE OTHER AND EXCLAIM OVER SOME DETAIL THAT THEY SUDDENLY RECALLED.

UPON RETURNING HOME, THEY SPENT EVERY SPARE MOMENT DISCUSSING HOW THEY MIGHT CREATE AN OPERETTA OF THEIR OWN, WHO MIGHT BE IN IT, AND WHAT TYPE OF STORY IT MIGHT TELL. OF COURSE, COUSIN CORDELIA SHOULD BE THE STAR. IF THEY COULD CONVINCE ONE OF THE MERMAIDS OR A FAIRY TO APPEAR, THEIR OPERETTA WOULD SURELY THRILL EVERY VIEWER. IT WOULD JUST BE THE TALK OF THE TOWN FOR WEEKS!



SUDDENLY CHELLA STOOD VERY STILL. "I THINK I HAVE IT." SHE SAID QUIETLY, "IT WILL BE CALLED THE VIOLETS' QUADRILLE AND IN IT, ALL THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN WILL COME TO LIFE AND TELL THE STORY OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF THE YEAR, THEIR ANNUAL BALL!"



"OH YES!" SAID VIOLA, "THE BALLROOM SCENE AT THE BIG CITY OPERA WAS THE BEST PART! OUR OPERETTA MUST ALSO HAVE A BALL! WITH GOWNS AND SPARKLES AND CANDELABRAS... BRILLIANT!"

VIOLA SUGGESTED THAT THEY COULD PRESENT THE PERFORMANCE AT THE ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE LIBRARIANS AT CABOT CAMP. CHELLA WAS JUMPING FOR JOY AT THE IDEA JUST AS MR HARBINGER ARRIVED.



"ARE YOU DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF PERFORMING AN OPERETTA AT CABOT CAMP? IT IS A LOVELY SPOT, BUT I WOULD BE CONCERNED THAT SOMEONE MIGHT FALL OFF THE CLIFFS THAT ARE THERE, OR IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT THE RIVER WOULD BE SO LOW THAT THERE WOULD ONLY BE A VIEW OF THE MUD."



"YES THAT'S POSSIBLE." SAID CHELLA WITH A SUDDEN FROWN. "OH, THE VIEW WILL BE FINE IF THE RIVER IS LOW AND NO ONE IS ANY MORE LIKELY TO FALL OFF THE CLIFF THAN ON ANY OTHER DAY VISITING THAT PARK, AS WHEN WE ARE DOING OUR OPERETTA." PROCLAIMED VIOLA. "YES BUT THE EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL MIGHT ADD TO THE RISK." SAID MR. HARBINGER. "OH THE EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL" SIGHED CHELLA HAPPILY, NOW IMMUNE TO MR.HARBINGERS FRIGHTENINGLY CAUTIOUS ADVICE.

"MR HARBINGER!" SHE EXCLAIMED, "YOU WOULD BE PERFECT FOR THE ROLE OF THE MUSHROOM."

"REALLY?" MR HARBINGER ASKED, SOUNDING QUITE THRILLED IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, "MY VOICE MIGHT CRACK I DON'T KNOW, OR I MIGHT STEAL THE SHOW AND EVERYONE WOULD BE JEALOUS OF ME, A LOT COULD GO WRONG BUT I WOULD LIKE TO DO IT. I DO BELIEVE I WILL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT. WHEN DO REHEARSALS BEGIN?"



"CAN WE WRITE THE WORDS, THE MUSIC, DESIGN THE SETS, AND FIND A CAST BY NEXT WEEK?" ASKED CHELLA. "OF COURSE!" SMILED VIOLA. TO BE CONTINUED....

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# EVENTS



submissions:  
events@montaguereporter.org

## THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Pub Sing*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Robbie Fulks*. 7 p.m. \$.

No Fun, Troy NY: *DJ Lucas, Papo2oo4 & Subjxt 5, Joey the Kid*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Voices Story Slam*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Safety Coffin, Slow Pony, JJ Slater, Derek Sensale*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: When Will It Be Spring?* Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, Northfield: *Spring Equinox Hike*. Register at [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield). 1 to 4 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Gulf of Mexico: First Amendment-Free Speech Stand-Up Fun Nite*, hosted by Karl Meyer and Paul Richmond. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Great Groove Theory, Reckoners*. 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wendell Warriors, Adam S.Z. and The Inner Fiyah*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Loculus Studios, Florence: *Noise Nomads, Hannah Rice / Juliet Paramour / Casey Adams trio*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Dream Eaters, Zara Bode*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Tim Eriksen & Peter Irvine*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Wolf Girlz, Match, Piss Sipper Lvl 6, Goblin Hunter*. 8 p.m. Free.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Trinary System, Bunnies, Sapling*. 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *justlee, Cullen, Mollgoth*. 9 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Start Again, Immune Fiction*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Student Jazz Coffeehouse with Ron Smith*. 9 a.m. Free.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Turners Falls: *Easter Bazaar*. Polish food, raffles, arts & crafts. Luncheon featuring kielbasa, pierogi, etc.; frozen pierogi for sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Local history talk on the *Northfield Mount Hermon Farm*, by Peter Weis. 10 a.m. Free.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, Northfield: *Build a Bluebird House*, workshop for ages 10 and older. Materials provided. Limited space, register at [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield). 10 a.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Community Open Writing Time*. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Trunk Show and Tea Service*. Ceramicist and tea enthusiast Sam Friedland will brew and serve tea. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

Music Connection, Turners Falls: Listening parties for new releases by *BTS* and *Melanie Martinez*. 12 and 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Reception for *The Art of Dorothy Masterson Bennett*. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Gallery reception for *Watercolors by Mary Elise Flynn*. 1 p.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: *Crafternoons: Hammered Flower Prints*. Materials provided. Call (978) 544-6334 to register. 1 p.m. Free.

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

Darlings, Easthampton: Reading, *Shea Mowat*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Wild Bill & Big Trouble*. 5 p.m. No cover.

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

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Henderson's Blues Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

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

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *East and West (1924)*, Yiddish silent film, with live accompaniment by *Alicia Svigals & Donald Sosin*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

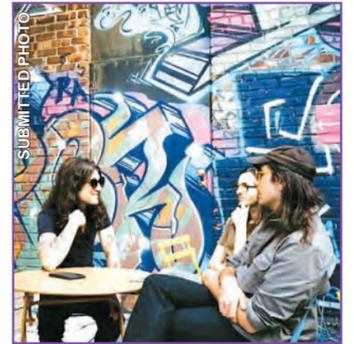
Warwick Town Hall, Warwick: *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 7 p.m. By donation.

THCC, Easthampton: *VRSA, Holy Bowl, Chiburi*. 7 p.m. \$.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Cameron Brown*, duo and quintet. Benefit for the Windham County Heat Fund. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Indë*. 7 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Shirese, Slowpoke Records, unnamed band*. 8 p.m. \$.



Garage-rock champs Shirese are up from Connecticut this Saturday for a show at Great Falls Harvest. Slowpoke Records and an unnamed second act provide local support.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Samples, Will Bradford, Sparxsea*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Jordana, the booyah! kids*. 8 p.m. \$.

Haze, Northampton: *Colin Jalbert, Allen Fingerlake, St. Intel*. 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Snowglobe Almanac, Trevor Robinson, Ezra Holloway, The Y Lie*. 8 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death, Lane, Lucky To Be Me, The Nutsing Charlies*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Left Hand Backwards, She Works Without Legs, TueTewsdays, Sleep Destroyer*. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Yaya Bey*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brook Batteau and the Party Emergency*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Sunday Word*, writers' workshop with Paul Richmond. 1 p.m. Free.

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

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## EXHIBITS

**Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:** *Jesse Connor: New Works*, oil paintings that echo the joy, humor, and mystery of the artist's experience, through March.

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Maps of River History*, artistic maps by geologist and cartographer Joe Kopera that reveal hidden topography of rivers and floodplains, through March 28.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:** *Neighborly*, an impromptu group show with sales going to support LUCE and RAICES, organizations supporting the immigrant community, through March. One-day trunk show this Saturday, March 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with ceramicist and tea enthusiast, Sam Friedland, who will brew and serve tea.

**Montague Center Library, Montague:** *Art of the Book*, art made from or about books, through March.

**Leverett Library, Leverett:** *The Art of Dorothy Masterson Bennett*, a former Leverett resident who passed in 2024 at 92 years old. Through April, with a reception this Saturday, March 21 at 12:30 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Find Your Voice, Speak Your Mind*, work by student artists at the Academy at Charlemont, through March. *Trees*, informational exhibit celebrating tree projects in Greenfield, through April.

**Artspace, Greenfield:** *52nd Annual Franklin County Teen Art Show*, through April 24.

**GCTV, Greenfield:** *Eve Christoff's Gallery of Work*, vibrant large-scale paintings celebrating the natural world and divine female energy, through March.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Kids Art Show*, work by youngsters up to 12 years old, through March.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Sixth Annual Photography Exhibit*, featuring prints by New England artists, through March.

**Hampden Gallery, UMass Amherst:** *Fragile Connections*, neon-lit sculpture and delicately engraved glass forms by scientific glass blower Sally Prasch. Through May 8, with a reception April 23.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Romanum*, Ron Maggio's mixed-media works inspired by Roman frescoes, through March.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Longing for Green*, member exhibit in a wide range of media, through March.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Student Art Exhibit*, works by fifth- and sixth-graders in the Mohawk Trail regional school district, through April.

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# CALENDAR



## looking forward...

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Montague Center Library, Montague: Documentary, *FAR OUT: Life On & After the Commune* (2024). 6 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Liz Durette, Mal Devisa, Marcia Bassett*, more. 8 p.m. \$.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Student Union Ballroom, UMass Amherst: Lecture, *N.K. Jemison*. Reservation necessary. 4:30 p.m. Free.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza*. Photo op; bake sale; egg hunt. Bring a basket. For children ages 4 to 12. Rain or shine. 1 p.m. Free.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Bombyx Center, Florence: *El Khat*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Life Abuse, Visceral Filth, PTC*. 8 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Caroline Davis, Matan Rubinstein*. 7 p.m. \$.

### TUESDAY, MAY 5

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore*. 7 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, MAY 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *They Are Gutting a Body of Water*. 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Nova Arts, Keene: *Marisa Anderson, Footings*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Spoon, The Beths, Kurt Vile & The Violators, Tunde Adebimpe, Pawpaw Rod, Ratboys, Folk Bitch Trio, Entran de L'Air*, many more. \$\$

### TUESDAY, JULY 14

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Cypress Hill*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Taj Mahal & The Phantom Blues Band*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Brandi Carlile*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rosemary Caine and Wilde Irish Shenanigans*. 3 p.m. \$.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Eventide Singers*. 3 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Songs of Johnny Cash*, featuring *Ward Hayden, Lonesome Brothers, Steve Sanderson, Christa Joy, Lisa Bastoni, Deep River Ramblers*. 3 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Cass McCombs, Jennifer Castle*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Cattlestack, Rhubarb Duo, Beauty Bag*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

The O's Music Bar, Sunderland: *Small Town Radio*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Soil Blocking Workshop*. Registration req'd. 5 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: Author talk, poet *Janet MacFadyen*. 6 p.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: *River Valley Quartet*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting, Crafting, and Game Night*. 7 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Beau Sasser & Friends*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Leverett Library, Leverett: Drop-in *Crafternoon*: draw your own pysanky egg. 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Poetry Discussion Group*, no pre-reading required. 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Matinee movie, *It Happened One Night* (1934). 4 p.m. Free.

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Here Comes the Pizzer*. Celebrate baseball Opening Day with poet Eric Poulin and musician Mark Schwaber. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *A Most Human Human, Harral Hamilton, justlee, Sleepy Spectre, Johnny Gifford*. 6 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Dying to Meet You*, presentation by the Montague Cemetery Commission. Learn about town cemeteries and how you can get involved. Light refreshments. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Play Reading Group*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* double feature, *Matewan* (1987) and *City of Hope* (1991). Special guests: writer/director/producer *John Sayles* and actor/producer *Maggie Renzi*. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Theater*. Joint benefit for the Valley Players and the Brick House. Contact [info@valleyplayers.org](mailto:info@valleyplayers.org) to sign up for a slot: two minutes for a speech, four minutes for a scene. 7 p.m. By donation.



John Sayles's 1987 labor-history masterpiece *Matewan* is the first of two Sayles dramas screening next Wednesday at the Shea Theater. Sayles and his partner, the actor Maggie Renzi, will be special guests.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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

Millers Falls Library, Montague: *Deep History of Millers Falls* with Professor Richard Little. 4 p.m. Free.

22 Third, Turners Falls: *Community Conversations*, meetup and discussion hosted by the Village Project. Meet your neighbors, learn about local events and services, break into small groups to brainstorm how to foster connection. 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Comedy Project Workshop: Now That's a Funny Story!* with *Nisse Greenburg*. Contact [andrea@thelavacenter.org](mailto:andrea@thelavacenter.org) to participate. 6 p.m. By donation.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Figure Drawing*. 6 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Neonach, Death Spiral, Totorobyn, Shane "Bray" Kerr, Derick Noetzil*. 7 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Zach Rowden, LXV, Blood Of A Poet, Blood Drops In Both*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Gaelic Storm, JigJam*. 8 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Anthony Pasquarosa, Jenifer Gelineau, David Shapiro, Deflator Mouse, Washatorium, History Teachers, Bev Ketch*, more. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Multimedia Night*. Poetry and multimedia presentations, light refreshments. 6 p.m. By donation.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Teen Night*. Pizza, games, crafts. 6 p.m. Free.

Various venues, Northampton: *Low Cut Connie, Rebirth Brass Band, Willi Carlisle, Olive Klug, Samirah Evans, Cloudbelly*, more. Full lineup at [backporchfest.com](http://backporchfest.com). 6 p.m. \$.



John Sayles's 1987 labor-history masterpiece *Matewan* is the first of two Sayles dramas screening next Wednesday at the Shea Theater. Sayles and his partner, the actor Maggie Renzi, will be special guests.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Drag Bingo*, fundraiser for the Peace Development Fund. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Monarchs & Masses, Shagohod, Astrophage*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Testament, Overkill, Destruction*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Salar Nader: The Afghan Music Project*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: *Better Than Ezra*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *High Noon, Lynyrd Skynyrd* tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Magic Mojo Band*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bertha: Grateful Drag*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *White Belts, Cora Monroe*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Haunted By Possums*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Various venues, Northampton: *Margaret Glaspy, Mark Erelli, Sean Rowe, Winterpills, Moon Shells, Gold Dust, Lonesome Brothers*, more. Full lineup at [backporchfest.com](http://backporchfest.com). 12 p.m. \$.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Favorite Storybook Character Day*. Dress up as your favorite character. 1 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Pioneer Valley Hospice & Palliative Care* staff offer information about "navigating end of life care with grace, comfort and respect." Light refreshments. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Silk Painting Workshop*. 1 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Brass Band Jam*. All ages. 1 to 3 p.m. No cover.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Heath Lewis*. 2 p.m. No cover.

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Chuck Clough*. 3 p.m. No cover.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Tournament of Mini-Games*, fundraiser for Franklin County Pride. 5 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Allysen Callery, Ben Hersey, Spectre Folk, Amber Wolfe, Fugue State, Rare Geese & Wednesday Knudsen, Angela Sawyer*, more. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Swing Dance with Butterfly Swing Band*. 7 p.m. \$.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Palladium, Worcester: *Drain, No Pressure, Haywire, Secret World*. 7 p.m. \$.

Tillis Hall, UMass Amherst: *Chief Adjauh*. 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Peter Rowan with Sam Grisman Project*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BASSTOV3N*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Various venues, Northampton: *James McMurtry, Tommy Prine, Eli Catlin, The Mammals*, many more. Full lineup at [backporchfest.com](http://backporchfest.com). 12 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Sunday Word*, writers' workshop with Paul Richmond. 1 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Moira Smiley*. Workshop, 3 p.m.; potluck, 5 p.m., concert, 6:30 p.m. \$.

First Congregational Church, Montague Center: *Support Our Immigrant Neighbors*. Reports from state senator Jo Comerford and the Franklin County People's Fund; songs by *Moira Smiley*; poetry reading and signing by *Martin Espada*; raffle; potluck supper. Benefit for the People's Fund. 4 to 6:30 p.m. \$.

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**RECIPES** from page B1

Greece; red lentil soup from North Africa; and from Mexico refried beans, black bean soup, and many more bean dishes.

There are three main reasons for beans' omnipresence. The first is implicit in that long list of bean dishes from so many countries: beans are native to both the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Chickpeas, lentils, and peas came from the Middle East and Europe, while green beans and most other beans came from Central and South America. European colonists brought their beans westward, then took American beans eastward, so people everywhere can now get all kinds easily.

The second reason for the popularity of beans is their nutritional profile. They pack in protein and carbohydrates as well as iron, antioxidants, and vitamins. If you ask the Internet which beans are the most nutritious, you get different

answers depending on which nutrient you prioritize: Asian soybeans and edamame win out for the most protein; American navy beans and European lentils are tops for fiber. Chickpeas, also called garbanzos, are the most nutritionally versatile, and for this reason they and lentils top a lot of best-choice lists.

Green peas feature, too. These beans-under-another-name originated in the Middle East but have become a standby in North American and European kitchens, and a staple on restaurant menus for kids. But in 17th-century Europe they were new, having been hybridized in Italy.

Then, as now, Italy was the go-to place for stylish stuff, and so peas were terribly, terribly fashionable, getting rave reviews in the French court, and later from Thomas Jefferson, who introduced them to America.

The final reason for beans' popularity is that they are easy. Those overnight beans that were once a

local staple needed lengthy soaking and simmering, but today most bean dishes are quick fixes, because you can use canned or jarred beans.

Of course, you can still use dried beans, as our ancestors did. They have the advantage of being the thriftiest form of beans. But they do need long soaking and usually lengthy cooking, and at the end taste little, if at all, different from canned beans. Equally handy are frozen beans, such as edamame and green peas.

Some bean dishes are so quick to make a formal recipe is hardly needed. That Italian salad of cannellini and tuna is an example. All you need is a drained can of cannellini (or substitute Great Northern), a drained can of tuna packed in olive oil, thyme or basil, and lemon juice to taste.

For a kid-pleasing pea salad, mix defrosted green peas with unflavored Greek yogurt and a little chopped mint.

For quick nachos, spread half a 4-ounce bag of tortilla chips on a plate and top with a cup of grated Monterey Jack. Microwave for a minute to melt the cheese, roughly mash a well-drained can of black beans with a cup of salsa, then pour it onto the melted cheese. Top this with the rest of the chips, then another cup of grated cheese. Microwave it again for about a minute.

Here are three more bean recipes.



## RED LENTIL SOUP

Tiny red lentils are actually orange. Buy them dried; they need no soaking, and cook quickly.

2 Tbsp. oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 large carrot, grated  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
¾ cup red lentils  
1 medium-large potato, diced (optional)  
5 or 6 cups vegetable stock  
1½ tsp. powdered cumin  
salt to taste  
2 or 3 dashes hot paprika  
juice of a lemon, or  
a few drops vinegar  
chopped mint (optional)



Heat the oil in a saucepan over moderate heat. Stir in the onion and carrot and let them cook slowly for about 8 minutes. Stir in the minced garlic and cook a minute longer.

Now add the red lentils, the potato cubes if you are using them, and the vegetable stock – or liquid from cooking vegetables, or just water.

Stir in the cumin, a little salt, and a couple of dashes of hot (not mild) paprika. Cover it and simmer for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Before serving, squeeze in half the lemon juice, then check the flavor. Add more of the juice, and extra salt, cumin, and paprika if you think they will improve the soup.

When serving, add a dash of paprika to each bowl, and a sprinkle of chopped mint if you would like.

Serves 4 to 5.

## ENFRIJOLADAS with MUSHROOMS

2 to 3 Tbsp. olive oil  
3 cups sliced mushrooms  
salt to taste  
1 Tbsp. lard (or oil)  
8 tortillas  
one 15-ounce can pinto beans  
1 tsp. cumin or to taste  
pinch of chili powder  
(or ½ tsp. hot paprika)  
cilantro for garnish



HOPLEY PHOTOS

In a small frying pan, heat the oil and tip in the sliced mushrooms. Season with salt. Fry over moderate heat for 5 minutes until they are golden, then set aside.

Tip the beans into a bowl and mash them, or process them with a stick blender, until smooth. Stir in half a cup of water and add salt, cumin, and chili to taste.

In a large frying pan, heat the lard or oil. Add the mashed beans and put the pan over a low heat.

Grease a small frying pan lightly. Heat over moderate heat and add a tortilla. Leave it for a minute, then transfer it to the pan of beans. Put a couple of tablespoons of the mushrooms over half of the tortilla and flip the other half over to make a half-moon shape. Spoon some of the bean purée on top.

Cook and fill all the tortillas

in this way. As the beans thicken up, loosen them into a sauce-like consistency with hot water as needed. Typically, you can fit four folded tortillas in the pan at a time.

When the first four have cooked for 3 or 4 minutes, transfer them to a heated dish and cook the other four. Serve topped with torn cilantro. Canned, frozen, or fresh corn kernels or rice are good accompaniments.

Serves 4.

## CANNELLINI BEANS and GREEN PEAS with ITALIAN SAUSAGE

1 to 2 Tbsp. olive oil  
4 Italian sausages, sweet or hot  
1 medium onion, chopped  
one 6-inch celery stick, chopped  
1 can cannellini beans  
1 can tomatoes  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
½ tsp. rosemary  
1 tsp. dried thyme  
salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce  
1 cup frozen peas



Heat a tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan. Prick the sausages with a fork and cook them in the oil for 4 or 5 minutes to brown them, then remove them from the pan

and add the chopped onion and

celery. Fry for 4 or 5 minutes until softened, adding the remaining tablespoon of oil if needed.

Now add the beans, including all the liquid, and the tomatoes, garlic, rosemary, and thyme. Season with salt, pepper, and Worcestershire sauce to taste.

Return the sausages to the pan and simmer for 10 minutes, adding a little water if it is needed to keep the mixture juicy. Finally stir in the peas and cook for another 4 or 5 minutes until they are heated through. Adjust the seasoning if necessary.

Serves 4.

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