

# The Montague Reporter

Year 24 – No. 22

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\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

## Tiny Water District Dealing With PFAS

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Trace amounts of the toxic class of chemicals known as PFAS have been found in Montague Center’s water supply, and work is underway to understand and address the issue.

At Monday night’s annual meet-

ing of the Montague Center water district, the commissioners shared details about the ongoing remediation study, class action lawsuits, and the long-term financial future of the small water district. Water for 156 households in the village center comes from one shallow well

see **WATER** page A4

## Boyden Wins Erving Seat; Wendell Vote Goes Smoothly

By REPORTER STAFF

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The towns of Erving and Wendell held their annual elections on Monday, and Jacquelyn Boyden, the town’s longtime principal assessor, won a seat on the Erving selectboard in the sole competitive race in either town.

Boyden beat Gerald Sykes by a margin of 80 votes to 55, with three blank ballots, according to preliminary figures released by town clerk Richard Newton. Newton said 10% of registered voters participated. Erving voters also agreed, 98 to 34, to change the town treasurer from an elected to an appointed position.

Boyden told the *Reporter* that having just retired as principal assessor in March, and seeing an open seat vacated by Jim Loynd, she “thought well, this might be the time.”

“I’m honored and humbled that the people elected me to this position,” she added, “and I will do it to the best of my ability.”

Newton reported that Laura Bezio had accepted a write-in seat on the planning board, and turned one down on the recreation commission. Write-in ties for constable and one of two school committee seats resulted in failures to elect those positions.

In Wendell, incumbents were re-elected to 10 positions, including Paul Doud on the selectboard. Town clerk Anna Wetherby said the 109 ballots represented 13.9% of registered voters, an “average” turnout, and that “[t]he election ran smoothly, with expected results.” Seats on the board of health, planning board, and school committee remain unfilled.

Town officials in Leverett were elected from the floor of town meeting on Saturday.

Gill and Montague will hold their elections on Monday, May 18 and Tuesday, May 19, including a joint election for members of the Gill-Montague school committee.

## Town Meeting Votes Overwhelmingly to Fund New Downtown Library



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The decision now shifts to a townwide ballot on June 24.

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – Last Saturday a well-attended Montague annual town meeting assembled at Turners Falls High School approved borrowing to fund a new public library in downtown Turners Falls, expected to cost the town \$12.4 million after state reimbursement. The motion, which required a two-thirds vote, passed by an unexpectedly large majority of 81 to 3. The

measure will now go to a townwide “debt exclusion” vote, which requires a simple majority.

The all-day meeting approved all 33 articles on the warrant and rejected all attempts to amend them, in most cases by unanimous votes. These included the town operating budget and those of the Clean Water Facility, and the airport; assessments from the Gill-Montague Regional and Franklin County Technical

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## Gill Approves School Roof

By KATE SAVAGE

On Monday, 106 Gill residents squeezed into Town Hall for the first half of the annual town meeting. Amid lively discussion, the group approved borrowing \$3.8 million to put a new roof on the elementary school and make accessibility upgrades. They also changed zoning bylaws to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and create

a one-year moratorium on data centers and “building-integrated” energy storage systems (BESS).

“There’s no question the roof has reached the end of its functional life,” said architect Jeremy Toole in a presentation to the group.

The school roof replacement committee recommended installing a metal standing-seam roof and making insulation upgrades. While

see **GILL** page A4



SAVAGE PHOTO

If the debt exclusion passes on the May 18, the new elementary school roof will cost Gill’s taxpayers more than the new library would cost Montague’s.

## Leverett Springs for Sawmill

By GEORGE BRACE

Voters at Leverett’s town meeting on Saturday approved a \$9.5 million town budget and the majority of 37 articles with relatively little debate. The exception was an article seeking community preservation funds to repair the Slarrow sawmill. Voters also approved money for a “drivable trail” that may resolve a divisive issue over access to conservation land – and a popular blueberry patch.

The meeting began with a land acknowledgement and the introduction of new senior events coordinator Johanna Hall. The annual

report was dedicated to recently-retired deputy fire chief Amy Rice, and the meeting itself to longtime resident Brooke Thomas, in recognition of his contributions including serving on the energy committee and his work for the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

There were no contested elections and most positions were filled by incumbents, including Tom Hankinson for another term on the selectboard. Two positions with no announced candidates were filled from the meeting floor of town after campaigns lasting less than one minute each.

see **LEVERETT** page A5

## MIRACLE ON THE QUABBIN



SARAH ROBERTSON PHOTOS

Workers from the Tennessee-based AMF Aviation hauled a single-engine Cessna airplane out of a New Salem pond connected to the Quabbin Reservoir on Sunday. The plane had crashed Friday evening, and its sole occupant, the pilot, was reportedly rescued and treated for injuries. A helicopter and scuba divers were necessary to recover the plane from the pond.

## High School Sports: Softball Heats Up



DAVID HOJTT PHOTO

Turners Falls hurler Autumn Thornton delivers the beat in the bottom of the seventh at Veterans Field last Friday.

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Last Friday, May 1, the Franklin Tech Eagles mercied the Mohawk Warriors at home while across the river, the Turners Falls Thunder used a powerful sixth inning to defeat the Greenfield Green Wave.

Both softball teams have struggled this season, with Turners batting .500 and Tech currently at 3–10. They may not reach the heights they attained last year, but on May Day, they both proved they can still play dominant ball.

**FCTS 12 – Mohawk 2**

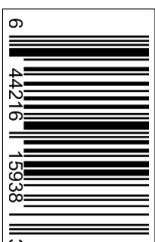
In the Tech game, Mohawk went down in order in the top of the first inning, but in the bottom of the inning the Eagles let loose, piling on 10 runs.

It all began with an error. The ball was bobbled, and leadoff batter Lindsey Taylor landed safely on first

see **SPORTS** page A8

### The Community Newspaper They Always Warned You About

End of Its Functional Life.....A1	Dullest Spring Pastel Stage.....B1
Especially Harsh at Dim Hours.....A2	Intensify Their Offerings.....B2
Alone on an Island.....A3	Slander Involving Himself.....B3
Experience a Runaway Meltdown.....A4	A Pretty Successful Day.....B4
Extremely Complicated and Granular.....A5	Advantage of Having Forethought.....B5
Entirely Destitute of Water.....A6	Hedgewitch, Fishway, Skull Mason.....B6
Ongoing Bat Intrusion.....A7	Ghostface, Butternakes, Pokemon Club.....B7
Barely Beat the Throw.....A8	Recovered From a Florida Riverbed.....B8



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August 2002

## Letters to the Editors



### Stop the Flashing

We are very lucky in Turners Falls to have a rich downtown with art, well-loved wood and brick buildings, renowned handmade signage, and walkable streets. That is what draws so many to this area.

That is also why I was perplexed when I saw a very unpleasant bright screen get permanently placed into the middle of a residential street in my neighborhood.

The sign in front of Our Lady of Peace Church on Seventh Street sits in stark contrast to the stately building with a beloved statue from the Farren Hospital. It flashes in a variety of colors and images every 15 seconds, which is especially harsh at dim hours around sunset or on any cloudy day. Although it thankfully turns off at 8 p.m., in the dead of winter it feels like a neighbor has a giant TV turned on into the middle of the night.

The sign has had numerous complaints from neighbors, and is in violation of local bylaws created for traffic safety and well-being. It drenches neighborhood homes and the surrounding street with fluorescent light.

These signs are designed to grab attention and therefore are pretty hard to ignore, even if you're trying.

It was stated at the special permit meeting for the sign that the intent of the sign was to advertise the community meal program, but in reality that is only a very small fraction of its content. It is an assortment of ads, religious puns, holiday greetings, date and time, etc. Neighbors were also assured the sign would dim with the weather, turn off at night, and be held to the bylaws, which include not flashing any more than once a minute.

If they are allowed to keep this



A community build to craft custom window inserts – or “winserts” – was held in the Montague town hall annex on April 25. In this illustration Anita Locksmith, Tenile Rhiney, and Cheryl Yates work to attach transparent plastic around one frame, with winsert coordinator Bick Corsa and other participants in the background. The winserts, which can cut heat loss up to 50%, are free of charge to income-eligible residents of Montague, thanks to support from the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 program. Interested residents can apply on the town website. Another build will be held in June, and new volunteers are welcome to join. Contact [winserts@montague-ma.gov](mailto:winserts@montague-ma.gov) with questions.

screen, what other businesses and organizations will ask for one? What other homes and streets will be impacted?

Next Wednesday, May 13, the church is appealing the enforcement of the bylaws to the Zoning Board. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall and on Zoom. If you feel impacted, or have concerns about more of these things popping up, I would encourage you to attend.

Stephanie Stroud  
Turners Falls

### Turtle Power

Each spring, we New Englanders shed our jackets, throw open the door, and look both ways before crossing the street for our warmer walks. Some of our neighbors who've spent the winter deep in the mud also emerge, but do not look both ways before crossing the road. They just walk, slowly. Very slowly.

Aquatic and land turtles' annual migratory journey to lay eggs on sandy dry land, away from their wetlands or woodlands, isn't a long trip, but it's dangerous. Slow and steady

doesn't win the race for turtles when they need to cross roadways.

We'd like to thank Maureen Pollock at Montague's Department of Planning and Conservation for responding to our call about ways to help. And thanks to the collaboration that went into making turtle crossing signs and raising awareness.

The exciting collaboration started two years ago. The town's Planning Department, RiverCulture Program, Sheffield Elementary School, and the MassDCR Great Falls Discovery Center worked together to create colorful, kid-designed signs. Last year the signs went up at a known turtle crossing area in Montague City. This year, they've expanded to Montague Center.

From the town website, here's how you can help a turtle cross the road:

- Be alert and cautious of passing cars.
- When safe, gently pick up the turtle with both hands (avoid snapping turtles) and move it in the direction it is headed.
- Place the turtle a few feet off the road, in the direction it was heading.
- Do not assume they are headed toward water. Avoid relocating them far from their habitat.

For more information about turtles and the town's efforts, see [www.montague-ma.gov/n/451/](http://www.montague-ma.gov/n/451/).

E. Seelye  
Turners Falls

Julie Kumble and Judith Lorei  
Montague Center

### Fact Checking: Libraries' Economic Impact

Last week's four letters in favor of a new library made many good arguments. My skepticism was aroused, though, when two letters argued that “studies show” either a \$4 to \$7 return or a \$9 return in “value” for every dollar spent. One author suggested that the investment would be amply repaid with increased business and new residents, ultimately lowering the overall tax burden.

Neither letter cited any specific studies, so I decided to see what I could find. I looked at over a dozen peer-reviewed studies that try to quantify the economic value of library construction, and am happy to provide a list to anyone interested.

One meta-analysis by Aabø (2007) did show large-scale public library investments fairly consistently return between four and five times the “value to citizens,” and that this number was largest in small communities. This value, however, was estimated by calculating the cost of citizens having to buy individual books, DVDs, etc. they otherwise would have borrowed, meeting space they otherwise would have rented, and other services rendered.

These things definitely have value for individual users, but not of the sort of broader value the letter-writers implied.

There is a local “multiplier effect” for every state dollar spent on public works, as a certain percentage gets respent in local businesses. However, this effect is likely to last only as long as construction continues, and is reduced by hiring contractors and sourcing material from farther afield. It's very difficult to know what that multiplier is, or if library spending would be any more or less than any other construction project, though some temporary boon may come to businesses from taking available state money.

The most recent and thorough study I could find was by Gilpin et al. (2024). They found an increase in student reading test scores – and none in math – but the increase was very marginal (between .01 and .04 standard deviations) and seemed to be entirely due to increases in school districts that had high levels of per-student spending. If Montague reduces its current school spending, we may not even see this

tiny increase.

In addition, this study and others found library construction projects don't change housing values, at least not in the first decade or so, undermining the contention that a new library would serve as a beacon to new residents. Furthermore, several studies found that new libraries did not cause any local increase in wages or median income.

I could not find any research on correlation with new housing construction.

Based on my limited, amateur research, it is doubtful that library investment has the sorts of economic impacts Mr. Steinberg and the EIDC tout. Without rising housing values, increases in income, or new housing construction, where is this new tax base?

Personally though, I am heartened that new libraries do not cause housing values to rise, which would be likely simply to displace poorer and older residents. And though we might want libraries to be a guarantee against economic recession, that seems like wishful thinking. That will require more wide-scale invest-

ment across the region, including in education and affordable housing.

What nearly every study does show, however, is that new library construction boosts *library usage* – though these users tend to be wealthier and better-educated. People spend more time in community spaces, they borrow more books, and they attend more civic events. These are good things in themselves.

Library construction may result in much harder-to-measure economic benefits or unforeseen rewards in the next generation, but it also might bring us closer together in the meantime, even if it is unlikely to make the town measurably wealthier in the shorter term.

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# TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Putting together the **1894** section last week was a lot of fun, and I hope it's being enjoyed. I learned the lesson with **1893** that I shouldn't expect much feedback in the first week.

These are each a little over 30,000 words long, and no one asked for them. For reference, that's about the length of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Of Mice and Men*, or *Kafka's Metamorphosis*. The two taken together are in the 60,000-word range, up there with *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and *Carrie* by Stephen King.

And it's about this place! And it's all real. We have extra copies of both years if you missed one.

This paper seems to be getting into a lot of water and fire department-y news, while the eyes of the world are turned toward the libraries and the schools, and here's some more.

**Turners Falls water department** clerk-and-collector Suzanne Leh writes: "The mailing of the May water bills has been delayed due to a new billing software conversion. Property owners should expect to receive their water usage bills by May 15th. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition."

**Comings and goings downtown:** Two Ghosts is open now, Wednesdays through Fridays noon to 8 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. I stopped by to drink a coffee and left with a \$5 Urochromes record. I recommend checking it out.

Kharna Salon have announced they're moving out of Turners this July, just over the ridge to 63 French King Highway in Greenfield, the

plaza with the laundromat. I'm looking forward to seeing who moves into their spot on the Ave.

Rumors that Gary's Coins is closing down are wrong – I called Mr. Konvelski this week and he confirmed this. He just sold a lot of stuff, I guess.



CARRIE STONE PHOTO

Carrie Stone, who sent in this photo, writes: "These tulips at the Montague Common Hall (under the Montague Historical Society signpost) were all from your fundraiser sale, donated and planted in the fall by volunteers!"

Cool! Our bulb fundraiser went well for us, and there are more flowers all over the place now.

On a related topic... Mary Kay Mattiace reached out for **help watering the very attractive garden** she has installed on the "island" at the corner of Montague City Road and Greenfield Road. If you ever come or go via the General Pierce Bridge, you've likely seen her handiwork.

"I am able to continue to keep the plantings maintained and current as needed," she writes, "though carrying water from my kitchen sink to my vehicle to the island is becoming not-so-doable; dry conditions have made the task albeit overwhelming."

Many hands make light work. Mary Kay suggests that if *four* other people were to step forward, they could each cover a month, June to September. "I'll continue with the bookend months," she adds. Call or text (319) 389-8500 if you're interested or want more info...

We're in for rain now, but it has been fire weather, dry and windy. Reader Adam Kohl spotted a **wildfire on Tuesday on Route 63** near Lake Pleasant and called it in. The Montague Center fire department's Facebook page shows crews putting it out, saving a nearby house. Be careful!

This one is big: the **Turners Falls Fishway** opens for viewing this weekend, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spring is not complete without watching at least one tired lamprey slowly fight the current.

And pro tip: the Fishway opening weekend is always a good way to remember Mother's Day.

People organizing a **Greenfield Tenants Union** invite anyone who rents in Greenfield to a meeting next Monday, May 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the library in that city.

A flyer states their objectives: "support each other and share resources," "negotiate collectively," "advocate for fair rents and better conditions," and "build a stronger, more connected community." Refreshments will be provided.

Last Saturday the rain cleared up in time for the first ever **Homecourt Classic**, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and block party at Unity Park, and it went well, organizer Luke DeRoy reports.

In fact, it's looking busy over there almost every weekend this spring. Next Saturday the 16th there are two events near the start of the bike path – the annual **Brick House 5K** race first, which has been bumped a little earlier in the morning so it doesn't cross paths with the dedication ceremony for the three new signs at the river.

May 16 is the **350th anniversary of the massacre** by the English of hundreds of non-combatant indigenous people they found encamped across the river at the falls. (Can you imagine living in an era in which colonists respond to attacks on their settlements with a massively disproportionate, even cataclysmic escalation of violence, ethnically cleansing a broad buffer zone around their territory? Me neither. We're past that.)

The dedication of the signs, the first permanent acknowledgement of the event in well over a century, will take place at 10:30 a.m., and then most of the rest of the commemoration will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center. At 3:30 p.m. people will walk across the bridge to the only other installation interpreting the event, the Captain Turner monument, which is under new ownership. We'll have more details in next week's edition.

Two weeks after *that*, May 30, is the eighth annual **Música Franklin Fun Fest** at Unity Park, with live music and tons of activities for kids.

And save the date for June 13 – the tenth anniversary bash for **Unity Skatepark!** There'll be food, bands, and according to Mr. DeRoy another round of the basketball tournament too.

I can't believe it's been *ten years* since the skatepark opened. We need another win like that.

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

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AT LARGE

## Northfielders Won Over to School Budget

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – Two weeks before Northfield's annual town meeting, officials held an information session at the elementary school on Main Street. Less than 50 people attended, including the school committee, town administrator, EMS personnel, and at least one selectboard member.

Intentional or not, the meeting's primary purpose was to explain why the finance committee had voted unanimously not to recommend the Pioneer Valley Regional School's requested assessment of \$4,948,127 for fiscal year 2027, and why the selectboard had agreed with the committee, voting three-to-one with one abstention.

Superintendent Patricia Kinsella

was alone on an island amidst citizens who'd come to support the finance committee's decision. Without the extra \$212,394 increase, she said, the school would need to consider cutting pre-school, class electives, athletics, and other extra curricular activities.

It didn't matter, said the committee. The school's enrollment is dwindling and property owners are tired of seeing their taxes go up – this from a committee that last year recommended spending \$233,000 for two new bathrooms in town hall.

In four years at Pioneer, Kinsella has paid down debts that weren't her doing, strengthened administrative staff, and implemented significant capital improvements.

Kinsella didn't win the battle that night, but the war would be on her

home turf inside the Pioneer Valley Regional School auditorium where at town meeting on May 4 she rallied support from teachers, parents, and former and current students.

One by one they approached the stage and addressed the packed auditorium. "When we talk about cutting preschool, we are deciding about the most critical stage of [a child's] development," said a preschool mother.

"I'm so proud for my kids to go here," said another. "Every senior student last year got into a college." "A budget is a moral document," argued a resident.

"We cannot hold children hostage to a problem that was created by adults," said another.

When it was clear which way the wind was blowing, selectboard

chair Bee Jacque said she had voted to abstain. Sarah Kerns, who in 24 hours would be defeated in her bid for re-election, had been the only member to vote in favor of the assessment. She reasoned that the school budget was in line with other school budgets statewide.

When the article was put to a voice vote, the yeas reverberated throughout the building.

Article 7, to "raise and appropriate a sum for education expenses," was approved in total. Now if they could get to work on those two new bathrooms for town hall, everyone would be sitting pretty.

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

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**GILL** from page A1

an asphalt roof would be \$700,000 cheaper to install, it would require more maintenance and need to be replaced in 25 years, making the long-term cost much higher.

"We wanted to maximize our return on investment," said roof committee member Rob Marcalow.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has agreed to reimburse around \$2.5 million of the project's costs. Gill received the funding after seven years of rejections. "If this boat passes, it's hard to say when the next opportunity would be to get that kind of investment from the state," said Toole.

Gill's costs will be between \$830,700 and \$1,285,600, depending on unexpected contingencies. This will add to the property tax for homeowners. If all contingency funds are required, the loan would add around \$200 to the tax assessment of the average single-family home. This would taper down to \$124 by year 15.

Participants expressed worry about ballooning costs, runaway inflation, and economic instability.

"People are strapped," said resident Terry Rice. "Things are really bad."

The repair costs also trigger a requirement for the town to make accessibility upgrades to the building. "The good news is the MSBA program from the state essentially will be paying for all of that," said Toole. Improvements include making several bathrooms and doorways wheelchair-accessible and making the front drop-off area safer for pedestrians.

One resident, who gave his

full name as "Steve the Hippie," said he raised a disabled daughter. "I'm shocked that you have to discuss whether or not making it ADA-compliant is important," he said. "It's the most important part of the whole deal."

Anne Wiley said she and her husband moved to Gill when their daughter was five because of the elementary school's reputation. "We looked all over Franklin County, and we chose Gill," she said. "And so I'd like future families - with disabled children, with little children that need resources - I'd like them to have what my daughter had."

After an hour of discussion, moderator Isaac Bingham called for a vote. The motion needed a two-thirds majority to pass. Ninety-four participants voted for the roof replacement loan and five voted against.

There is still one more hurdle for the project: the roof will only be replaced if voters approve a debt exclusion in the town election on May 18. The question on the ballot asks if the town may exclude this loan from provisions of Proposition 2½, the state law which limits increases in property taxes.

#### Zoning Changes

Town meeting voted unanimously to place a one-year moratorium on data centers, as well as "building-integrated" energy storage systems (BESS) with energy capacity greater than 50 kilowatt-hours.

Planning board member Tim Storrow said this would give the planning board time to get community input and create a more cohesive plan for regulating the facilities. "Times are changing," he said. "We're pedaling

hard to try to keep up."

Jeff Blomstedt, who serves on both the planning board and the board of health, explained the concerns with BESS. If a battery facility of that scale were to experience a "runaway meltdown," he said, it would require 50,000 gallons of water to put out the fire, and toxic substances would be released into the air and soil. He said the state had so far failed to deliver on recommended regulations for the facilities.

"The attorney general's office will not approve this bylaw," warned town attorney Donna MacNicol. She said the laws treat BESS facilities as solar power systems and protect them from bans.

"Nevertheless," said Blomstedt, "for us to pass this is yet another flag that says the people of Massachusetts don't think this is right."

The motion included a "severability" clause, so that even if the BESS moratorium is struck down, the data center moratorium should be able to continue. It also noted that systems over 100 megawatt-hours in capacity would automatically fall under state regulation.

Residents voted unanimously to allow ADUs in town, in order to align with new state laws seeking to increase housing. Gill's new zoning bylaws allow ADUs to be added without special permits. They can be up to 1,200 square feet, except in Riverside, where they must be under 900 square feet. They must be within 100 feet of the principal dwelling, though Storrow said property owners can petition the planning board if they need flexibility on siting. They cannot be used for short-term rentals such as AirBNB.

The meeting also voted to update the town's floodplain regulations to bring them into compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements.

The second "half" of the annual town meeting, which will discuss the omnibus town budget, will take place on Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m.

#### Selectboard Meeting

Before the town meeting, the selectboard met to approve the purchase of new firefighter gear and prepare for the commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre.

Fire chief William Kimball came with his annual request for new protective clothing and firehose to replace outdated equipment. The board approved \$8,330 for three full new suits and \$6,630 for 1,000 feet of firehose. The funds will come from the fire department's operating budget.

A commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre will be held next Saturday, May 16. In the afternoon, a group will walk across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to the monument to the English commander, Captain William Turner, which was recently deeded over to the Nolembeka Project.

The selectboard moved to close the street between the bridge and the monument during the procession.

The board awarded Artscape Landscaping with a contract for 2026 lawn mowing and cleanup services, and appointed Nona LaGranade as an election worker, Aimee Williams as tax collector, and Holly Grosvenor to the historical commission.



**WATER** from page A1

housed in a small building off Main Street, located between two farm fields, a bog, and the Montague Center fire department headquarters.

Water commissioner Vishnu Hoff told the Reporter that he has been researching PFAS issues intensely since joining the commission last year.

"Our water department really does want to resolve this," Hoff said. "There isn't an attempt to obscure the problem, but really to try to remediate it as much as possible."

For more than a half century, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were widely used in consumer goods such as nonstick pans, water-proof clothing, makeup, paper receipts, fire-fighting foam, pesticides, and shampoo bottles. Unregulated for decades, these "forever chemicals" entered waste streams and waterways, bio-accumulating in our food and bodies. Exposure to these chemicals is now known to cause a myriad of negative health impacts including cancer, immunodeficiency, and reproductive harm.

"It's so hard to control, especially when it is a historically unregulated substance," Hoff said. "The exposures that people have in their day-to-day life and have no idea about are really disturbing."

According to data from the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), water sampled from the Montague Center well in June 2021 detected a combined 2.8 parts per trillion (ppt) of the six most common PFAS chemicals, collectively referred to as PFAS6. Subsequent tests showed a gradual increase in the concentration of PFAS6 until July 2024, when a peak of 6.11 ppt was detected. The most recently published MassDEP data from July 2025 showed a reduced level of 3.73 ppt.

"When you hear something like this it's a little unsettling, but I'm glad I went to the meeting, where I learned that the district is engaged in a process to deal with it," Montague Center resident Mark Lattanzi, one of nine people at the meeting, told the Reporter. "I had a water

filter already.... It allegedly filters this out, so coincidentally we feel okay."

Montague Center's PFAS levels have remained well below MassDEP's drinking water "maximum contaminant level" of 20 ppt. Over 170 public water supplies in Massachusetts have exceeded this threshold, including the Swift River School in Wendell and Four Star Farms in Northfield, both of which have since installed filtration systems. The Northfield Mount Hermon boarding school in Gill also detected high levels of PFAS and opted to drill two new wells in 2022 to remediate the problem.

"While there are local hotspots, water moves, so one community's problem will eventually become another community's problem," said Hoff.

Last August the Montague Center water district received a \$100,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to study the extent of its PFAS issue. The district signed a contract in February with the engineering firm Tighe & Bond to conduct hydrological analyses of the area, test water samples, and propose a solution. Options include installing a new filtration system, drilling a new well, and connecting Montague Center with the much larger Turners Falls water district.

No PFAS has been detected in the Turners Falls water supply since testing for it began in 2020. The district, which serves most of the town of Montague, draws from the large Tolan Farm aquifer under the Montague Plains, which is hydrologically connected with the Montague Center well.

"I would eventually like to see us get connected to the Turners Falls [water] supply, because it comes from a deep aquifer, and there may be more resources available in a larger district to maintain and improve our water district there," Lattanzi said.

The Montague Center district has also struggled with low water pressure. Under drought conditions or periods of high demand, the village sometimes relies on a 4-inch backup pipe

supplying water from the Turners Falls district. As part of the engineering study, Tighe & Bond will flush the hydrants in Montague Center next week, during which time the village will rely on the backup pipe.

Hoff said public meetings to discuss the study may be scheduled in August or September, and the full results are expected by October.

In the current fiscal year, the Montague Center district has taken in \$71,629.50 in billing and is spending \$62,815.70.

"The budgets we're working with are very low, so obviously for big problems like [PFAS], grants will be necessary," Hoff said. Connecting to the Turners Falls supply would require installing new infrastructure and a wider pipe, likely costing several million dollars.

Class action lawsuits have been brought against the major manufacturers of PFAS to help recoup the costs of remediation, and Montague Center found itself involved in one by accident. A piece of mail intended to notify a water district in Montague, South Carolina, of a PFAS-related lawsuit was sent to Montague, Massachusetts, by mistake.

The Montague Center commissioners contacted a lawyer, who straightened out the geographical mix-up but then offered to include Montague Center in the ongoing suit as well. So far, the district has received a \$50,149 settlement from the 3M Company, which is being kept separate from its checking and savings accounts.

Of the nine people attending Monday's annual meeting, more than half work for the water district. The commissioners discussed the need to establish a stabilization fund to prepare for large potential fixes unrelated to PFAS, and it was decided to raise the water rate from \$9.50 to \$10 per thousand gallons.

"It seems like a good investment," Lattanzi said. "We all use this water every day."

Additional reporting was provided by Will Quale.



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**LEVERETT** from page A1

Claudia Phillips volunteered for an open position on the board of health, and after planning board member Gary Gruber declined to return to the seat, saying it was time for “young blood,” Charlotte Ezrol self-nominated, joining Tim Shores and Richard Nathhorst on that board.

A vacant school committee position saw no volunteers, and will be filled by the selectboard.

Hankinson gave an overview of the proposed \$8.45 million FY'27 town budget, a 4.4% increase over the current year, saying that most departments followed town hall's guidance and sought no more than a 3.2% increase. Leverett Elementary School's non-payroll budget was up 3.5%, though when employee costs were added in, the final budget of \$2.4 million was up 5.2%, which Hankinson attributed to health insurance increases. Leverett's \$1.94 million assessment from the Amherst-Pelham school district represented a 6.4% increase, and passed without debate.

Hankinson said the budget would result in a property tax rate of \$16.48 per \$1000, a \$0.78 increase.

Police sergeant Stephen Gould explained that a rise in police salaries was for the purpose of retaining officers. Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy said there is “active poaching” of officers from neighboring towns, and commented that “we're not in the paper for anything negative about our police officers,” to applause.

Council on Aging member Tom Wolff appealed for additional funds to bring the senior events coordinator position from 15 to 19 hours per week, but fin com member Liz Kiebel said it was a difficult budget year, and no personnel increases were included though many departments asked for them.

The town budget passed with no changes.

**Stabilization & Preservation**

The meeting passed articles authorizing \$75,000 for a tractor to be used at the elementary school and by the highway department, \$38,000 toward a road grader, and \$600,000 for a tanker truck.

The tanker would replace the fire department's Engine 2 and serve as a backup engine. Fire chief Mike Visniewski said it would enable Leverett to perform “quick dumps” and join other towns in providing water through a shuttle circuit.

An article sought by the nonprofit Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill (FONLS) for structural stabilization of the Slarrow sawmill, using \$391,372 in community preservation funds, was met with criticism by a number of residents.

FONLS board member Linda Jablonski said the mill is one of a few remaining in the country built before the Revolutionary War, and the only one of 15 that once existed on the Sawmill River. The group plans to host a museum, she said, and provide space for civic functions. An engineering assessment had determined the foundation was unsound.

Other speakers noted that the mill is an iconic landmark, appearing on the town seal, and that the structural problems were not discovered until after the group had received a \$678,000 National Park Service grant to rehabilitate the mill, but that money was committed to other purposes.

Resident Andrea Morris spoke against the funding, arguing that

the town had declined to buy the property and should not spend 30% of its preservation funds on a “colonist monument” owned by a “private entity.”

Fin com member Nancy Grossman was among several who suggested the money might be better spent on affordable housing, and said she wanted to see more “delimitation of how public” the facility would be, and a “rock-solid” agreement on the funds' usage.

Planning board member Richard Nathhorst said he supported funding the repairs, but was “less than sanguine” about the FONLS's projections that they could fund the enterprise partly through “yoga classes and et cetera.” He raised questions about the status of the dam, which is also in need of repair, saying that if it fails the mill will “be out on Montague plain.”

FONLS member Susan Lynton said the group owns half the dam and the other half is owned by “no one,” and that FONLS is seeking grants and other funds to repair it. She said the group had raised over \$1.1 million thus far, and was confident about its ability to raise more.

In the end, the article passed by the day's only ballot vote, 74 to 61.

Residents also approved \$100,000 in community preservation funds for the design and construction of an accessway to the Gordon King conservation area across town-owned land from Woodards Corner.

Last year a lawsuit was filed against the town by the Evans-Marlowe family seeking to bar the public from using a disputed right-of-way across their property, which has provided the easiest access to the land – and its popular blueberry patch – for decades. At a packed special town meeting last fall, a proposal by the selectboard to take the right-of-way by eminent domain was defeated.

Proponents of the trail cited a need for town vehicles to have access to maintain the land lest it “turn into a jungle,” as one attendee put it, and to provide access for residents with mobility challenges.

Robin Lawrence, the lone private abutter, spoke against the article, saying the trail would have adverse environmental impacts and more time should be taken to find a solution.

Hankinson read a statement of support for the article from the Evans-Marlowe family, and said lawyers on both sides supported the measure and that it was his understanding that passage of the article would resolve the suit.

**Field Building**

Residents voted for the town to retain ownership of the Field library for at least two years, during which time parties including the Leverett Historical Commission can pursue grants and explore uses that could support the building financially.

Several commended the *ad hoc* committee which conducted studies and held forums to come up with options for its use. “Give 'em another couple years,” said Eva Gibavic.

Voters unanimously approved an article allowing the town to pursue the creation of a municipal light plant, a step toward setting up a solar power “microgrid” between the public safety complex, library, and highway building. Planning board member Tim Shores said the initiative would reduce the town's operating costs and increase capacity for re-

newable energy. He invited residents with related experience to participate in the planning.

Planning board member Richard Nathhorst, the driving force behind the initiative, said it was similar to the town's broadband project, and would allow Leverett to bypass “prohibitively expensive” upgrades and manage its electricity more efficiently. He cited a study saying the project may not cost taxpayers anything, and said it could improve the town's position if faced with large-scale solar proposals.

Numerous zoning bylaw changes were approved. A change to the kennel bylaw was a “re-do” from last year's town meeting due to a procedural error, bylaws concerning “accessory dwelling units” were updated to match state regulations, and the maximum height for small solar installations that may proceed without a site plan review was raised from nine to 20 feet.

**Petitions**

Three articles were presented by citizens' petition, with one passing.

A request to adopt the private Camp Road, on the shore of Leverett Pond, as a public road was vigorously discussed. Camp Road resident Chris Hamill said this would provide more equitable town services, such as plowing, to the residents, improve emergency services, and guarantee public access to conservation trailheads, and might contribute to housing availability.

The article was defeated, with fin com members citing a lack of information on potential costs to the town, and the possibility work would be required for the road to meet state standards. Others commented that it might create a “slippery slope,” and that the residents knew what they were getting into

Tip of the week ...

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when they bought their properties.

Steve Nagy, who petitioned an article to use \$200,000 from the town's free cash account to lower property taxes, criticized the fin com's management of reserve funds.

Fin com chair Phil Carter argued that it is “always a bad idea to use free cash to pay operating expenses,” and other members pointed out that large capital expenses were coming up and the reserves were needed. Selectboard member Jed Proujansky said a lack of reserves had contributed to the recent financial trouble at the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust.

The article was defeated.

Voters approved a measure allowing 25 m.p.h. speed limits in “thickly settled” areas. There was general agreement that speeding is a problem, but some residents questioned the efficacy of reducing the

limit. Brian Emond, the petitioner, presented statistics saying it would make a difference.

The measure did not obligate the town to change any posted limits, but in Gibavic's words would provide “another tool in the toolbox.” Another resident suggested that reducing limits may reduce traffic through town by changing mapping programs' choice of suggested routes.

This article was the last item of business in the seven-hour meeting, and was interrupted by a request for a quorum call. The first number that came up was 75 – exactly the number needed – but moderator Larry Farber pointed out that he was a voting resident and two others who looked as if they were about to leave were asked to stay, resulting in a count of 78.

The article was passed, and the meeting adjourned.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

# Goalposts Accused of Moving

By **GEORGE BRACE**

Leverett's selectboard was back to work Tuesday after a marathon annual town meeting on Saturday, hosting the Council on Aging (COA) to discuss how the group can demonstrate a need to increase the hours of its events coordinator, among other business.

COA vice-chair Jya Plavin said that the volunteer group had difficulty providing the quantitative evidence requested by the personnel board to justify increasing the coordinator's weekly hours from 15 to 19. Some of the requested documentation, she said, was “extremely complicated” and “granular.” She asked if the same standards applied to larger departments.

Plavin said Johanna Hall, the coordinator, tracks her work “meticulously,” but the amount of information requested by the personnel board may not be achievable. She said the COA may not be able to demonstrate that Hall's work is moving the needle in a specific way, but can tell the story of what she is doing. She also said it felt like the goalposts were moving.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson, who chairs the personnel board, said the requests were “aspirational,” but that the board has a responsibility to see evidence a request is justified. He suggested that qualitative, narrative evidence may be given more weight in the future, and that updating the selectboard periodically on its activities would likely help the COA's cause.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy agreed, and pointed out that it was a particularly hard budget year, and no requests for additional personnel hours were granted.

Board member Jed Proujansky said the fin com needs numbers to work with, and suggested documenting where the work stands today and measuring change over a year. He added that the COA was “one of the most underrated groups in town,” but could do more to “sell itself.”

COA members asked if they could use grant mon-

ey already on hand to fund some additional hours on a temporary basis, and the selectboard informed them of the procedure to follow.

COA co-chair Linda Hoer announced that the sixth grade class at Leverett Elementary has invited seniors back for another get-together, this time a tea-party at which students can share the slang they use and hear from seniors what slang terms were popular when they were in sixth grade.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford said the honorary “gold cane” had not yet been passed on to Leverett's current oldest resident, as the previous two candidates were unavailable, one having died and the other having moved away.

**Other Business**

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that work on Dudleyville Road has been going “gangbusters,” and the first phase should be completed in the next week or two. McGinnis said she looked into how to authorize the use of \$140,000 left of the \$1 million grant to fund planning for the second phase.

Stafford said she thought the traprock “looks terrible,” and “ruins the vibe of a country road.”

“Give it a couple of years and you won't see it,” Richard Nathhorst replied.

The selectboard held a pole hearing and approved the installation of a single utility pole needed to provide power to a house being built on Hemenway Road.

The board decided to apply for One Stop grants to “re-vision” the town center and for the second phase of the Dudleyville Road work. Nathhorst said the town center project would be “enthusiastically received,” as he is asked about sidewalks all the time.

The board appointed Jesse Phillips as a firefighter, and Tom Ewing and Tilman Wolf to the capital planning committee.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 5, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### General Pierce Is On the List

At Monday's Montague selectboard meeting, member Rich Kuklewicz gave a brief report about a meeting he had attended about upcoming state highway projects. He said the General Pierce Bridge, considered by officials in both towns to be in dangerous condition, was "on the list," with repairs slated to begin in 2019 or 2020.

Apparently, Greenfield's fire chief noted that the bridge is a public safety risk for ambulances and fire trucks, and a MassDOT

official said that such concerns, expressed by individual fire and police chiefs, might help move projects up the list.

### Leverett Relaxes Solar Bylaws

Leverett voters gathered at the Elementary School last Saturday to eat donuts, drink coffee, revel in the good works of the town's public servants, and hash out town bylaws and budgets for the coming year.

The meeting's centerpiece was Article 15, which loosened the town's zoning bylaws for solar power installations. After a full hour and a half of discussion, the question was finally called, and the new solar bylaws passed 99 to 5, with two abstentions.

## 20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 4, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### Her Own Sound of Music

The halls were alive with the sound of music as Elisabeth von Trapp graced the stage at the Second Annual Gill-Montague Education Fund Gala at the Turners Falls High School theater, on Saturday, April 29. Along with cello accompanist Erich Kory, the singer/songwriter performed both original and familiar songs for a near-capacity audience.

Von Trapp is the granddaughter of Maria von Trapp, whose story was told in *The Sound of Music*.

"I'm sure the audience was drawn by the promise of her famous name, only to be awed by the haunting beauty of her voice and musical arrangements," said Gala producer Joyce Phillips.

### Erving Chooses Paper Ballot

Using a secret ballot, 85 Erving voters at Wednesday's annual town meeting voted to override the finance committee's recommendations and fully fund the school department's request for primary and secondary spending for the coming fiscal year. The vote was conducted, for the first time in town memory, using a paper ballot.

## 140 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 5, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

### Turners Falls and Vicinity

The villagers may well exclaim to-day, "ah! Well for us all."

John Pfersich takes Frank Woodman's place as night watchman in the kindling wood factory, at Riverside.

As was expected the water pipes were broken on the sewer trench, and the village is entirely destitute of water now.

Harrigan's Double Hibernia company appears at Colle's opera house, to-morrow evening.

The Solons at Boston are figuring out the new senatorial districts, and in their first draft have made slashing work with county lines. For a wonder the Franklin district is unchanged, except that Athol and Royalston, in Worcester county, are added to it, also Plainfield and Cummington in Hampshire County. Hampden

county is made to figure in three districts, and the Hampshire district has the city of Holyoke tacked up on it which makes it wish it had never been born.

Mrs. E.A. Hall of Greenfield desires an experienced cook, a German preferred.

There are eight families now living at Lake Pleasant and more are expected soon.

Arbor day was observed by C.S. Davis, principal of the Oakman school, Rev. T.A. Batson and Russell Pease by planting trees around the Oakman and Central street schoolhouses.

Frequent complaints have been made at this office that the Turners Falls Reporter did not get to the Montague office until Friday or Saturday of each week. The post office officials have been investigating the matter, and the postmaster at Montague writes that the paper always gets there Thursday noon, and that no complaints are made at his office. It is extremely odd.



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO

The three signs installed last week on the Turners Falls side of the river contain a range of information, art, and perspectives on Native settlements at the falls before King Philip's War, the 1676 massacre and battle, and the recent archaeological study tracing the colonial troops' retreat route. An "unveiling" ceremony will be held next Saturday morning.

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Lame-Duck Chair Awarded Special Pin; Culture Czar Granted Sweeping Powers

By JEFF SINGLETON

"This is Monday, May 4 – May the Fourth be with you," retiring Montague selectboard chair Matt Lord said as he opened this week's meeting. The board reviewed the results of the all-day annual town meeting held two days earlier and determined it needed to revise the wording of a debt exclusion question for a new central library, which it had previously placed on a June 24 ballot.

The board also approved the use of public property for a range of summer events, and set the summer schedule for its own meetings.

The short meeting had an unusual opening when two residents – both on the selectboard – spoke during the "public comment" time reserved for topics not on the agenda.

Rich Kuklewicz said he had seen signs warning motorists of "turtle crossings" on Montague City Road, and asked RiverCulture director and assistant town planner Suzanne LoManto to comment. LoManto said the youth-designed signs, which were first placed on the road last year, were "so popular" that they had been requested again by residents of the village, and that new signs had been placed in Montague Center.

"We're very pro-turtle at the planning department," she said.

Marina Goldman then noted that this was Lord's last in-person meeting, and that she, Kuklewicz, and town administrator Walter Ramsey wanted to give him a "Team Montague" button, "that you can wear every night when you come on and watch us on Zoom." The buttons came from the Royal Shakespeare Company in London, which has helped produce plays by the Bard at the Shea Theater.

"Ah, I get that," said Lord. "I appreciate that."

### Continuous Improvement

Ramsey began the discussion of

the town meeting by saying he had several "takeaways" which would influence how the town prepares for next year's meeting. These included making changes in how the Franklin County Technical School assessment is calculated, monitoring the public works equipment account "to make sure that is working as proposed," and working with the capital improvements committee to develop a plan for police vehicles.

Kuklewicz suggested combining the purchase of vehicles for other departments "as a package." Goldman suggested looking more closely at fuel-efficient vehicles.

Regarding the meeting's vote to approve the borrowing for a new public library, the board needs to approve updated language for the June 24 ballot question that would allow for the exclusion of the debt from the levy limit set under Proposition 2½. That measure will be on next Monday's agenda.

### Three Signs

The board approved an agreement with FirstLight Power to install three historic interpretive signs, memorializing the indigenous settlements at the falls and the battle during King Philip's War, on its property next to the bike path. The signs, Ramsey said, were developed with input from several tribal preservation officers as well as archeologists who worked on the recent federal-grant-funded study of the battle.

He noted that the approval was "retroactive," as the signs had already been installed due to the availability of a contractor. A ceremony to "unveil" the signs will be held next Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m. in conjunction with events that day, the 350th anniversary of the massacre and battle, at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Goldman noted that this will be the same day as a road race sponsored by the Brick House, which will also use the bike path.

### Other Business

The board voted to approve licenses for a Memorial Day event on May 24, a "porch festival" on May 30, and the start of the Mug Race on August 15, all at the Montague Center Common, as well as a puppet show on the morning of July 31 at Peskeompskut Park.

LoManto requested "blanket permission" to approve the use of public property for downtown sidewalk sales on the first Friday of each month this summer. She argued that this would give business owners more flexibility, as she would not need to go before the board for approval for each business each month.

"Sometimes things happen last-minute, or a few days ahead of time," LoManto said. "I can imagine a particularly gorgeous Saturday or Sunday when the businesses say 'We want to have a sidewalk sale,' but there's not enough time for me to create the paperwork to sit in front of you for that week."

The selectboard approved the request, which will be in force for five months. LoManto and downtown business coordinator Christian LaPlante will enforce the sidewalk use regulations.

The summer meeting schedule, which reduces the number of gatherings to every two weeks unless there is an emergency, was approved. It begins June 1 and continues for three months, taking into account holidays. Lord abstained from the vote. "It's not my schedule," he explained.

The board appointed Hayden Stebbins to the tree advisory committee on the recommendation of committee chair William Coddington. Stebbins is a forester who had a masters degree from the Yale School of the Environment. "I hear Yale's got a pretty legit forestry program," noted Lord.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, May 11.



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# Candidates Offer Their Views

BY MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The two candidates on the May 19 ballot for an open seat on the Montague selectboard, Nate Card (Schiffbauer) and John Snyder, met Tuesday night at the town hall to introduce themselves to voters and share their views. The event, hosted by Montague Community Television and the Montague Democratic Committee, was broadcast live and can be found online at [vimeo.com/mctvchannel17/videos](https://vimeo.com/mctvchannel17/videos).

The two candidates fielded questions from the moderators about the town's strengths and challenges, state and federal regulations, the proposed new library, the changing climate, residents' complaints, and what they have been doing thus far to campaign. Audience members quizzed them on healthcare costs, conditions on federal grants, attracting new businesses, local and

federal law enforcement, emergency medical services, and how they would support citizen participation and build community.

Snyder and Card, who moved to the area in 2019 and 2023 respectively and live on Chestnut Hill and in downtown Turners Falls, are both new to Montague town government, and said they had submitted nomination papers because they were compelled to serve and heard no one else had. Both made it clear they looked forward to learning on the job.

The election will be held Tuesday, May 19 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Precincts 1 and 5 will vote at the Montague Center fire station and Gill-Montague senior center, and the rest of the town at Franklin County Technical School. The only other competitive race on the townwide ballot is for library trustees, in which four candidates are vying for three three-year seats.

**MONTAGUE** from page A1

school districts; articles funding bundles of capital projects; and a revision of the town's personnel bylaws.

The meeting was chaired by Elizabeth Irving, elected as temporary moderator at the start of the proceedings.

The library discussion followed an article to allocate \$16,500 for "targeted roof repairs" on the aging Carnegie Library, which the new building would replace, and to address "ongoing bat intrusion" into the building. The article, which library director Caitlin Kelley called a "softball," passed unanimously after she noted that the library was considering constructing bat houses "so they would have some place to go after being evicted, albeit with somewhat less reading material."

Meeting member Sam Lovejoy of Precinct 1 asked about the funding source for this article, which, like a number of others on the warrant, was primarily covered by unspent funds from earlier town meetings. "Are there a million more of these, or how do you discover them?" he asked.

Town accountant Angelica Desroches explained that last fall she reviewed special articles from previous years and found that "many of them had been sitting there for four or five years," so she used them as sources for new articles this year.

"I wanted to have the taxpayers use those resources now," she said to loud applause.

The meeting moved on to the long-awaited discussion of the new main library in Turners Falls, slated for construction at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street. Article 22 was expected to encounter significant opposition, following frequent complaints on social media; members had been handed leaflets in opposition by several residents as they entered the meeting.

But as the discussion progressed, after a presentation by Kelley and

library trustees chair Will Quale, the dominoes fell in favor of the article.

Edite Cunha of Precinct 5 said she was "disabled, also old" and lives down the street from the Carnegie Library. She had originally been against the new library proposal, she said, because she valued the historic Carnegie, but in recent years she has had limited access to it due to her disability. She also said that as a low-income homeowner, the tax increase – estimated at \$159 per year for the median single-family homeowner – would be a "really great investment in our community."

"The library's not going to get cheaper," said Ron Michonski of Precinct 3. "Half of it's getting paid for by a grant. The land it's being put on is free. Like they said, if we don't do it now, chances are you'd be lucky if in 10 or 15 years you'd be able to get the library."

A number of speakers said they were skeptical of the project, but wanted to send it to voters to decide at the scheduled June 24 referendum. Former town meeting moderator and Precinct 3 member Ray Godin said he would vote for the article in order to put the project on the June ballot. He asked if that vote would also require a two-thirds majority.

Town counsel Greg Corbo replied that the ballot vote is by majority, though technically, the selectboard sends the debt exclusion question to voters, and a two-thirds majority of them had done so. If a town meeting does not approve the borrowing, he said, voters can still approve a debt exclusion and the selectboard can then send it back to a special town meeting.

However, a state grant of \$11.3 million toward the \$23.7 construction cost will expire after June 30 if the town match is not committed, making a second town meeting unlikely.

Several speakers opposed the measure, the most vocal of whom was Precinct 5 and former finance

committee member John Hanold. Hanold said he recognized that the Carnegie is inadequate and that having space "to do all these new programs would be a great advantage to the town," but felt that "the expense, and added size, is beyond what I can justify to myself."

Hanold said two other costly expected projects, the construction of a new technical school and upgrades to the sewer system, are "more necessary than an expanded library."

In the end, Hanold and two others were the only members to vote against the project, which passed 81 to 3 with a handful of abstentions. The selectboard is expected to place the debt exclusion on the scheduled June 24 ballot, though it must correct the wording.

The other 31 articles on the warrant passed, most unanimously, and all amendments were voted down. A number, however, which bundled different but related projects and were funded by unspent money from previous town meetings, generated some negative commentary.

One was Article 12, which funded a new evidence refrigerator, repairs to HVAC controls, and two new cruisers for the police department, in part with an unexpended 2022 allocation. After police chief Jason Haskins detailed the current condition of existing cruisers and argued that the appearance of viable vehicles outside the station was misleading, several members objected.

Matt Atwood of Precinct 2 said he would vote against the proposal. "I don't see a heavy need," he said, "and this is a huge way of saving money." He then questioned why the town needs a police dog, which Haskins had argued required a specialized cruiser.

"I'd like us to believe that the public would like us to solve crimes as they do occur," Haskins said. "[The dog] is honestly a phenomenal tool that we have at our disposal to help us solve crime."

An amendment by Maddox Sprengel of Precinct 4 to cut the appropriation for the cruisers in half as a "compromise" was voted down, though 23 members voted in favor. The article then passed, but with a substantial "no" vote.

"Thank you for your work on democracy," said Irving.

Hanold questioned Article 10, which reallocated \$163,000 in unspent funds – primarily from the town's cannabis impact revenue – for an after-school program and instructional materials at the Gill-Montague schools. The former fin com member did not criticize the programs or their cost, nor the use of cannabis money to fund educa-

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## PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold the following public hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026** to review the Notice of Intent NOI #2026-04, filed by the Town of Montague for the Former Strathmore Mill Abatement, Demolition, and Restoration Project at **20 and 8 Canal Road**, Turners Falls within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and within the Riverfront Area of the Connecticut River. A hybrid meeting will be held at the Montague Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls, MA.

Remote meeting login information and the filing are available for review at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

## MONTAGUE ZBA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 13th, 2026** VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA at the request of **REV. STANLEY J. AKSAMIT** who has filed an appeal of the enforcement order issued by the Montague Building Commissioner, under sections 3.2.4 of the Zoning Bylaws, located at **90 Seventh Street (Parcel 06-0-074), in the Neighborhood Business (NB) District**. The filing is available for review at Town Hall.

In-person meeting details and remote meeting login information can be found at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

Joshua Lively, Chairman  
Montague Zoning Board of Appeals

## MONTAGUE ZBA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 20th, 2026** VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to review a Special Permit Request from **Robert Wasielewski** for a front setback reduction from the required 15 ft to 8 ft, in order to construct a deck under Sections 5.5.1 and 5.5.3(b) and 9.2 of the Zoning Bylaws located at **8 Unity Street (Parcel: 07-0-017), in the Residential 1 (RS-1) District**. The filing is available for review at Town Hall.

In-person meeting details and remote meeting login information can be found at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

Joshua Lively, Chairman  
Montague Zoning Board of Appeals



ANDREW IRVING PHOTO

Revellers surround the maypole at Sunday's May Day celebration in Montague Center.

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# Regionalization Group Takes Aim At 'Misinformation'

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board, which is sending agreements for a new five- or six-town school district to voters in Gill, Montague, Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick this fall, reviewed its outreach plans on Wednesday.

“How are we going to rectify misinformation?” Leyden representative Michele Giarusso asked, citing “scare tactics” by opponents of the regionalization proposal.

Parents in the towns, Northfield representative Pat Shearer said, should decide what they want, but should be given accurate information first. “What they’ve gotten is what’s come home from school with some of the kids,” she complained.

Chair Alan Genovese said the Pioneer Valley district website was “notorious for having information out there that’s misleading, or not accurate.” He urged members to forward incorrect information to him and vice chair Greg Snedeker so they can draft official responses.

Snedeker said Pioneer officials told Northfield town meeting this week that the district’s enrollment is “projected to increase.” He argued, in detail, that this was extrapolated from a pandemic-era baby boom that has already ended. “It’s grossly inaccurate,” he said.

Shearer said her mother was on the committee that regionalized Bernardston with the other Pioneer towns in the 1950s, which “took two or three votes.” “If we have a stumble,” she said, “don’t give up.”

The board plans to meet May 19 and 26, and as many as three Tuesdays in June.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Turners Falls High School senior Janelle Massey hit a grand slam over the outfield fence, adding four runs for the visiting Thunder at Veterans Field in Greenfield last Friday. The final score: Turners Falls 9, Greenfield 4.

## SPORTS from page A1

base. She proceeded to steal second and was advanced to third on a Brayleigh Burgh fielders’ choice. Charley Knight then hit a grounder to score Taylor, Sandra Johnson reached first on a base hit, and Breanna Kempf batted in Knight.

And then a Lyla Mickiewicz single and an error sent two more runs home.

Alison George, next up, was hit by a pitch, and Skylei Lapan placed a grounder. The fielders checked Mickiewicz at third base, preventing the score, but this allowed Lapan to take first to load the bases. Then Samantha Duncan sent Johnson home, keeping them loaded up for Taylor. She cracked a long double, sending two more runners home and giving Tech a 7-0 lead.

A shot to first gave Tech their second out, but they weren’t done yet. Three more runs crossed the plate before Mohawk could get the third out.

Tech added to their lead in the third, but a pretty scary event took place during that inning. With two outs, George hit a long single, and

then Lapan scorched a sharp grounder down the first base line. The ball hit coach “Bubbles” Blanchard, and he went down to the turf. It took a while for him to recover enough to get to his feet. He was eventually replaced at first, and as he was making his way back to the dugout, one of the girls called out, “We’ll carry you Bubbles!” which turned his grimace into a slight smile.

After play resumed, Duncan batted in both George and Lapan to increase the lead to 12.

Mohawk scored twice in the fourth, but were unable to cut into the lead, and the game was called via the mercy rule. This Thursday, the Eagles travel to Greenfield to take on the Green Wave.

### TFHS 9 – Greenfield 4

An hour after the Tech game concluded, the Turners Falls Blue Thunder came to bat against Greenfield. It had cooled down by game time, and the Turners girls kept warm by singing and dancing in the dugout.

I sat directly behind the backstop, with the Greenfield fans to my

left and the Turners faithful to my right. During the game I had several conversations with Mr. Lemay, the father of a Greenfield coach, the grandfather of two of the players, and a 1977 Greenfield High School graduate. He gave me some insight on the school’s softball program, but we also reminisced about past Turkey Day games, as well as the hockey and track teams back in the day.

Turners came out swinging in the first inning, but Green responded well. The first two batters hit the ball solidly but an outfield fly and a 6-3 ground out gave Turners two quick outs. Maddie Haight then placed a grounder and barely beat the throw to first base. She stole second, and Janelle Massey smashed a triple to give Blue a 1-zip lead.

In the second, Greenfield got runners on second and third, but a double play ended the threat.

Powertown added to their lead in the third inning off timely hits and Green miscues. Madisyn Dietz led off with a Texas League single, Autumn Thorton placed a ground single, and Haight advanced the runners to second and third base

on a fielders’ choice. Three strikes gave Turners their second out, but then two wild pitches sent two more runs home, and after two and a half innings Blue was up 3-0.

Greenfield got a run in their third inning and scored twice more in the fifth, tying the game at 3-3, but in the sixth the Thunder took control decisively.

After a leadoff strikeout, Abbey Moffett was beamed by a pitch, Ameliya Galbraith and Addison Talbot got base hits, and Moffett scored on a wild pitch. A caught foul brought the out count to two, and then Thorton was intentionally walked to load the bases. Haight hit a single to score a run and the bases remained loaded for Massey.

Massey proceeded to crack the ball over the fence for a grand slam, giving Turners a 9-3 lead. Greenfield scored again in the bottom of the sixth, but the damage was limited to one run, and the Turners took the game by five.

Turners will host Hopkins Academy this Thursday, and then travel to Westfield High School on Saturday.



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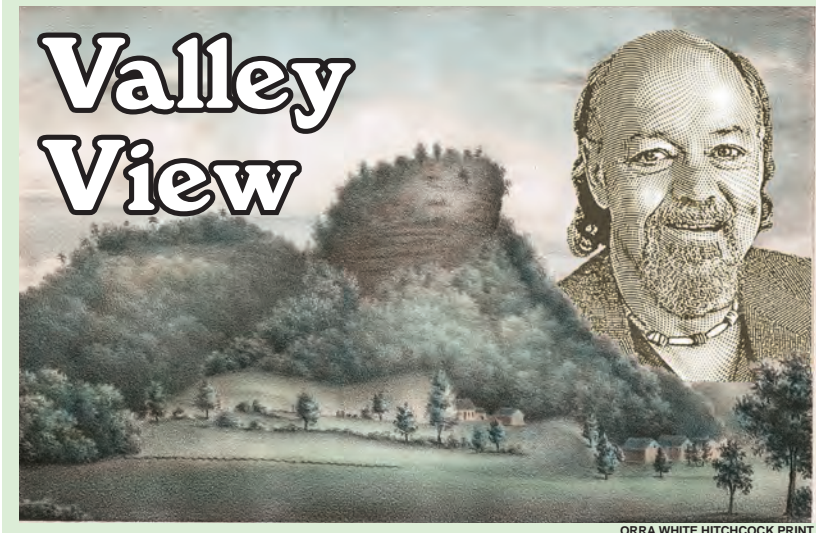
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# Valley View

Graves From the Bone Age

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – My mid-April journey to Burlington, Vermont covered some 175 miles, with patchwork evergreens dominating picturesque mountain landscapes backgrounded by muted deciduous stands in their dullest spring pastel stage.

A straight shot up Interstates 91 and 89, both legs of my nearly three-hour trip were sweetened by CDs from the likes of Steve Earle (*Transcendental Blues*), David Grisman (*Bluegrass Reunion*) and Mississippi John Hurt (*Today*) to break the monotony of a solo mission.

I traveled to the North Country city on the shores of Lake Champlain to attend the Saturday session of the Eagle Hill Institute's three-day Natural History Conference, held April 17 to 19.

The site for this year's 16th annual program was South Burlington's Doubletree at Hilton. Promoted as "the study and stewardship of the natural environment in the northeastern US and eastern Canada," the conference attracted more than 608 naturalists of all stripes, among them my archaeologist friend Mike Gramly. I joined him for a Friday overnight to attend my second such conference, the other in Springfield before the COVID hysteria.

The Eagle Hill Institute is a teaching and learning center, situated on an isolated coastal peninsula in the upper Down East town of Steuben, Maine. Currently engaged in an ambitious \$5 million fundraising campaign aimed at state-of-the-art facility upgrades, Eagle Hill is similar in focus to our own Rowe Conference Center.

Gramly was in Burlington to deliver a 20-minute presentation Saturday afternoon titled "Absolutely Dated Associations of Human Beings and Extinct or Extirpated Mega-Fauna in Northeastern North America 2014-2026," summarizing his own groundbreaking mastodon discoveries that have

upended conventional wisdom. I was there to take it in, along with other offerings of my choosing.

Upon settling into our motel room after supper, I previewed a jam-packed Saturday presentation lineup to plot my next day's agenda. As it turned out, there was no need to labor. Five enticing morning presentations, under a "Poetry, Prose and Process" heading, were scheduled to precede Gramly's 2:35 p.m. gig in the same Room F. How about that! Made to order for a retired outdoor writer. I could settle into one seat for the day.

The five pre-lunch presentations, scheduled between 10:35 and 12:15, included "Poetry and Nature: Another Way to Research," by Scudder Parker; "Flyways, Snipe and Other Poems," by Hayley Koldin; "Eco Essays: Big Ideas from Little Things in Nature," by Brian Pfeifer; "Probing the Here and the Now with Poets in the Field," by Tammis Coffin; and "Crossing Sacred Land," by Rick Van de Poll.

Four of them turned out to be poetry readings and instruction, followed by short question-and-answer sessions. The fifth was basically a prose-writing how-to, followed by a Q&A for aspiring nature writers ready to dip their paddles into prosaic whitewater.

I found the prose presentation *passé* for such a progressive gathering – reminiscent of the Associated Press 101 programs I recall from regional overnight workshops I attended in the 1980s. Back then, newspapers like the one that employed me for 40 years could still afford to send staff to such craft-improvement workshops. Not here to critique that session, I won't elaborate further.

Back to Gramly.

Nearing 80, Richard Michael Gramly is an active archaeologist, author, and speaker, not to mention a former college professor and museum curator. No stranger to conference-room and auditorium lecterns, this time he zeroed in on his

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Above: Ed Gregory writes: "We look south through Wilson's department store first-floor interior – the jewelry department – to the Main Street exit. The fence and walkway flank a gaping rectangular cut in the floor that exposes utility components. The former Greenfield department store is being renovated to accommodate a 'new' Green Fields Market on the first floor, along with potential office space and apartments for the two upper floors. Demolition work is slated for targeted sections of the exterior west side of the building. Aesthetic upgrades for the surrounding property are incorporated. The two-year project commenced in 2026."

## ELDERCONNECT Planning Ahead for Our Final Rest

By LEE WICKS

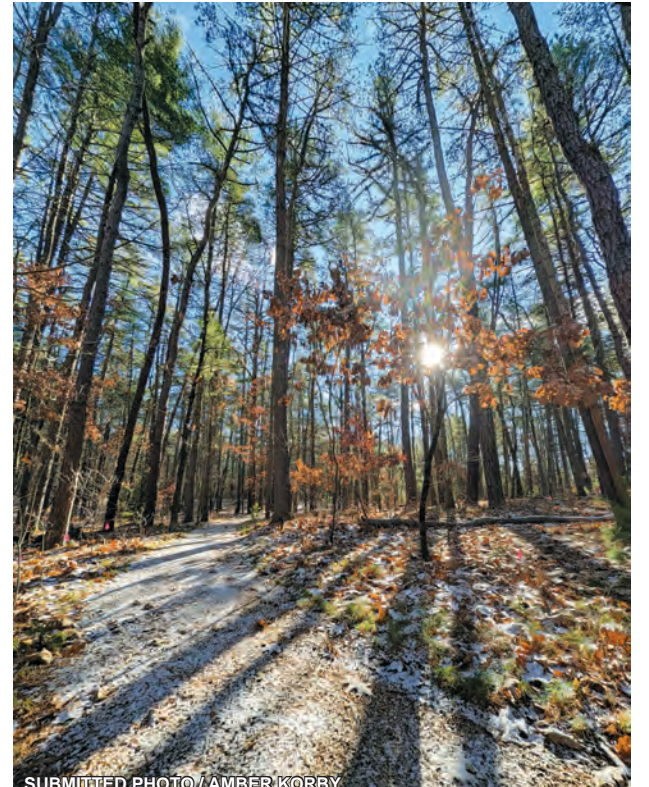
**MONTAGUE** – People who do not plan for their funerals or communicate their wishes leave loved ones scrambling to put something together at a time of grief, wondering what the deceased wanted, searching for documents, and not knowing what it will all cost. I don't want that to happen, so along with other important documents, my husband and I are looking at choices and local resources for burial, and we'll have instructions ready along with our wills and other important papers.

It's not an easy conversation, but I felt better after learning about choices available right here in Montague.

After browsing the websites of nearby funeral homes and talking to Amber Korby, Montague's cemetery sexton, and Judith Lorei, chair of the cemetery commission, I learned there are plenty of good options.

Cremation, conventional interment with embalming and a casket, and green burial are all possible. Some funeral homes offer pre-paid packages; all of them will sit down with a family and help plan. Local death doulas offer compassion and guidance. Funerals can be as simple as a ceremony at home, as elaborate as church weddings, or something in between.

see **ELDERCONNECT** page B5



SUBMITTED PHOTO / AMBER KORBY

Sunlight peeks through the trees at Montague's Highland Woods green burial section.



## Tending to the Garden

By MPRESS BENNU



FRONT OF THE LINE PHOTO

Isaac and Angela Mass have improved the accessibility of the Greenfield Garden Cinemas lobby, among many other changes.

**GREENFIELD** – This is the third article for *Front of the Line*, where we bring local businesses and community members to the forefront to highlight their positive works within western Massachusetts. For the month of May we are highlighting Isaac Mass, the co-owner of Greenfield Garden Cinemas along with his wife, Angela Mass.

Isaac stated he was inspired to start his business because he loves movies and he wanted to ensure cinema remains an important piece of the arts scene in Franklin County.

Asked about some of his key achievements of which he is most proud, Isaac stated, "I focus on accessibility as a benefit, and not an obstacle." He said they have completely remodeled the lobby, making it wheelchair-accessible for customers and employees; added sensory-sensitive shows and offer noise-canceling headphones for customers; make audio-assist and closed-captioned devices available for every show,

see **FRONT** page B2

# Pets of the Week



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### FRONT from page B1

and even added open-captioned screenings Wednesdays.

The cinema has partnered with Theater Ears to make first run shows available in Spanish, and makes films affordable with many free shows and \$5 Tuesdays.

Isaac stated, when mentioning its impact to the local community, that cinema is the form of art most accessible to everyday people. The cinema has about 100,000 visits a year, he said, and it allows people who may not have seen anything outside Franklin County to experience a world of different cultures.

Despite the positive side of cinema, he did mention certain struggles he has had to overcome along the way. He stated that the cinema was one of the local businesses most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA) and writers' strikes. Between July 14 and November 9, 2023, over 150,000 actors joined the strike, focusing on wage increases, streaming data transparency, and regulating digital replicas and AI.

Isaac stated that the cinema survived by being responsive to its communities' personal tastes and providing incentive programming where they would intensify their offerings.

As you can see, Isaac is deeply passionate about supporting this area with community-facing opportunities through cinema. Another side of this, which he mentioned is his favorite thing to do, is partnering with local businesses in creative ways. For example, in March they had a display from Matt Cavanaugh Photography at the same time they were showing *The Bride*, directed by Maggie Gyllenhaal with Jessie Buckley and Christian Bale.

He also mentioned a heartfelt moment that has stood out during his journey. There was a time he was asked to provide a private rental to a family in which a man had filmed a mini-documentary about the history of his grandmother's diamond ring, as a precursor to a wedding proposal. Needless to say, she said yes! Moments like these are what makes Greenfield Garden Cinemas stand out, not just in quality films, but also in showing sincere care for the community members who support them in one form or another.

It is a local, independent, veteran-and-woman family-owned business, so if you ever want to see a particu-



FRONT OF THE LINE PHOTO

"Community can only happen if we bring people together," says Greenfield Garden Cinemas co-owner Isaac Mass.

lar movie, you can just stop by and ask for Isaac or Angela Mass. There have been instances where a certain movie was not planned to show, but because customers requested it they ended up booking it.

"Without community we would not exist," Isaac told me. "So, we exercise tolerance. When someone doesn't like a movie we are showing and is protesting outside, we bring them popcorn. We know that movies are provocative, they are designed to inspire and enrage. People have strong reactions to all kinds of movies, and we give people space to have those feelings and express them.

"Nothing makes me happier than listening to a filled auditorium with different people with different backgrounds laughing, gasping, or weeping together. Because community can only happen if we bring people together, and at Greenfield Garden Cinemas that is what we do."

He went on to say that he listens to his customers, his employees, and his business partners, because he believes differences are made by an entire community, not by one person.

An example he gives of this is when Tim Bohonowicz gave him his first job in cinema and trained him as an assistant manager of Greenfield Cinemas on the Mohawk Trail, owned at the time by Hoyts, which

is now Regal. Tim now works for him part-time at the theater, Isaac said, and leads with love: "Tim is a great part of our team."

In closing, I asked Isaac about his goals for the next few years. He said they have improved operations by adding a full bar, upgrading to 3D capability and installing heated reclining seats in three of the seven theaters, so now they are looking at upgrading some of the screens and projectors. He mentioned that he just returned from CinemaCon earlier this month to begin that search process.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the community members of Franklin County," he said, "because if it were not for them, we would not be able to do what we do. We are filled with gratitude and humbled by the opportunity to serve each and every one of them. After all, the Greenfield Garden Cinema is where dreams grow."

Greenfield Gardens Cinemas is located at 351 Main Street in Greenfield. For more information, see [www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net).

In our next edition of *Front of the Line* we will highlight Ayanna Crawford, a public relations and media professional based out of Springfield, as well as the president and CEO of AC Consulting and Media and the Take the Mic youth program.



## Senior Center Activities MAY 11 THROUGH 15

### 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 5/11

- 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
- 11 a.m. Chair Exercise
- 12 p.m. Pot Luck
- 1:30 p.m. CoA Meeting
- 3 p.m. Beginner Yoga

#### Tuesday 5/12

- 9 a.m. Chair Yoga
- 12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
- 3 p.m. Tai Chi
- 4:30 p.m. Office Hours with Select Board Member Marina Goldman

#### Wednesday 5/13

- Foot Clinic by Appointment
- 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Thursday 5/14

- 10 a.m. Pitch
- 1 p.m. Susan B. Anthony Performance

#### Friday 5/15

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

### ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

#### Monday 5/11

- 9 a.m. Good for U
- 10 a.m. Seated Fitness
- 12 p.m. Pitch

### 1 p.m. Yoga

- Tuesday 5/12
- 9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 11 a.m. Social Stringer
- 1 p.m. Friends Meeting

#### Wednesday 5/13

- 9 a.m. Interval Training
- 10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
- 10 a.m. Drumatix at Erving Elementary School

#### Thursday 5/14

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

#### Friday 5/15

- 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 May 19. Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month 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 Leverett-Connects listserv.

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is June 3. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

### CONCERT REVIEW

## Música Franklin and Michi Wiancko

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – On April 16 there was a concert at the First United Methodist in Greenfield by the Música Franklin Youth Group and Michi Wiancko, a violin player.

What I first saw of the singing of Música Franklin during the performance was interesting, to say the least. They tossed stuffed teddy bears in the air as they sang. It was a unique sight to behold.

Other fiddlers played during this performance, and they sounded as good as the singing. Most sang without microphones, though two were used in the hands of two singers. Another thing was that the singers made hand and arm gestures. That wasn't bad to see.

Michi Wiancko was what I would call the main fiddle player of the evening. Before she played she received a lovely introduction that mentioned some of her background. She herself, before playing, gave a bit of advice to the youth group, and talked about what she likes to play on her violin.

The first piece sounded like a classical one. She seemed to play masterfully, according to my ears. She didn't just use the bow to play the violin. The audience gave her a grand applause. She told people one song was called "Love Sorrow," as that was what she heard in the song. I didn't really notice anything like that, but despite the title, the audience enjoyed that one too.

Wiancko, like the youth singers, did some interesting things during her performance. At one point a keyboard player accompanied her. The two of them sounded nice together, and practically magical. I think you would agree with the "magical" part. I think she was trying to make the piece sound that way, because she asked the kids to put words to the piece, and those words were "the magical forest," which shows the kids agree that she had done that in people's eyes. This was my favorite part of the show.

She continued to do this – putting certain words to the music – through her performance. Other people enjoyed her as much as I did, and as much as the youth of Música Franklin seemed to.

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# Great Falls Middle School & Turners Falls High School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

## – Grade 6 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Antony Castro-Siano, Lucia Diaz, Zeke Diaz, Lucas Edson, Phoenyx Inzer, Owen Martineau, Chase Robinson, Annika Sadler, Shaylynn Slauenwhite

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Madison D'Amici, Jaxon Daniels, Liam Fox, Kimberlynn Mason-Emond, Alexis Preissler, Michael Rosa

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Eli Brocklesby, Zayden LeClaire-Babits, Anthony Nuckols

## – Grade 7 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Ryker Bray, Lucian Carlo, Darcie Chagnon, Rowan Deery, Grace Giguere, Konrad Henry, Aaron Neupane, Edward Pfisterer, Lilith Sumner, Malcolm Tyler, William Tyler, Owen Williams, Travis Williams

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Bryson Gauthier, Carter Greene, Zechariah Hammonds, Sigurd Hyatt, Blake Minckler, Maximus Myers, Ryan Newton, Madison Phillips, Ariel Sliva, Spencer Towne

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Louis Burek, Kenzie Flaxington, Anthony Warren

## – Grade 8 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Kaleb Briggs, Mikayla Cormie, Andrew Eichorn, Jaylah Fisher, Jazelle Gonzalez, Josephine Hayman, Ava Laffey, Jo Licata, Amber Marcy, Nethanel Martin, Anna McCarthy, Genevieve Otero, Izzabella Otto, Daisha Ovalle Perez, Gabriel Palazzo, Gracie Jo Philip, Eleni Reipold, Janessa Sadler, Rhiannon Smith, Maria Solano

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Kaelynn Dudek, Braedyn Firth, Isabella Griffith, Emma Jardine, Silas Lively, Cooper Malone, Alexis Parker, Liam Pielock, Kyle Porter, Mya Ramos, James Sanchez, Ella Shaw-Jarvis, Johnathan Sicard, Westin Tela, Parker Walters

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Kirill Alexeyenko, Jesi Berry, Julian Bowden-Smith, Lylah Brocklesby, Lydia Cadran, Tyler Girard, Lailah Jenks, Fiona Ribeiro

## – Grade 9 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Nicholas Damkoehler, Jace Fisher, Ella Larouche, Zuleimy Morales Morales, Tyler Newton, Brielle Perez, Myaa Reed, Viviana Rosa

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Kaiya Adams, Kaylee Adamski, Chloey Bucinskas, Davis Burnett, Camden Cogswell, Xavier Correa, Connor Glennon, Devin Gray, Isabella Hansen, Colby Hebert, Liam Kerivan, Amelia Laramie-LaClaire, Ari Lizotte, Asiah Parker, Zializze Perez-Gonzalez, Melyn Ramirez Martin, Raelynn Riveccio, Emely Sanchez Abarua, Jordan Welcome, Bethany Whitney

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Jenna-Lee Brown, Gracie O'Neil, Allison Raymond

## – Grade 10 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Sato Bazemore, Cameryn Carner, Jaclyn Galvez Martin, Madison Haight, Addison Lively, Ashton Marshall, Abigail Moffatt, Daniel Morales Gonzalez, Echo Myers, Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero, Lynx Petracchia, Nicole Porter, Scarlett Pouliot, Jakhia Williams, Athena Willor, Olivia Wolbach

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Freilyn Abarua Corona, Sergey Alexeyenko, Ella Argy, Jameson Better, Braeden Charboneau, Kourtney Cummings, Ameliya Galbraith, Jazzlyn Gonzalez, William Hutchison, Kylee Jenks, Trevor Lyons, Chase Maynard, Dakota Mimitz, Vinicio Palazzo, Genesis Pereira, Aiyana Simmons, Emmett Spriggs, Troy Thomas, Edward Walsh, Chloe Wonsey, Camden Zagame

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Shelby Beck, Vivienne Clark, Autumn DiMare, Summer Engleman, Marshall Pike, Gabriella Trinqu

## – Grade 11 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Makayla Carney, Keira Feeley, Gianna Marigliano, Layla Mathieu, Brianna Preston, Paige Simmons, Brayden Slauenwhite, Addison Talbot, Marketa Vachula-Curtis

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Mary Adams, Porter Dubow, Derek Jean, Julian Kaiser, Ophelia Little, Yashiro Pape-Donatone, Andrew Rodriguez, Angel Ruiz Scott, Noah Shipley-Aja, Brayden Sloan

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Johnny Bartolon, John Burt, Jaydon Gary, Rachel Juarbe, Ivy Lopez

## – Grade 12 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
 Jackson Cogswell, Ella DeLorenzo, Ethan Eichorn, Rojelio Galvez Mendez, Clara Guidaboni, Cameron Johnson, Michaela Klempner-Siano, Allister Kolakoski, Shayly Martin Ovalle, Jacob Norwood, Elizabeth Polatin, Kainen Stevens, Tobias Wilson-Hill

**SECOND HONORS**  
 Michael Berdugo, Lily DeLorenzo, Madysin Dietz, Ethan Eichorn, Elsee Galvez Martin, Brody Girard, Ciana James, Curtis Kretchmar, Cole Marshall, Janelle Massey, Evelyn Moore, Kevin Perez Cueto, Jessica Therrier, Angelina Tidlund, Christopher Ulloa Abarua

**THIRD HONORS**  
 Noah Kolodziej, Michael Waite

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Sharing a Stall; Somewhere to Be; Messin' With Texas; Selling Beer Cheaper; 17 Tons of Copper; Copycat

### Monday, 4/20

11:27 a.m. 911 caller from Leverett reports that her horses got loose last night; requesting to leave contact number on file in case anyone calls about them. Caller is not sure how far the horses will travel because they are not familiar with the area. Summer is a brown, white, and black horse; Grace is a tan horse wearing a blue coat.

11:43 a.m. Caller from Turnpike Road requesting animal control officer regarding a mangy-looking fox lying in his yard; advises this fox has been coming around his property the past few days. Animal control officer (ACO) advised; states he will contact caller.

12:58 p.m. Passing motorist reporting mangy-looking fox walking in circles in the area of Turnpike Road and Dell Street. Fox then entered a yard on Turnpike Road. ACO advised.

4:46 p.m. 911 caller reports that a female just pushed a male in front of the caller's vehicle on Montague City Road in Greenfield. The male was not injured, and the vehicle did not make contact with him. Greenfield PD responding; Montague PD officers advised to check the Montague side of the bridge. Greenfield dispatch advises their units are out with the parties on their side; all set at this time.

### Tuesday, 4/21

7:13 a.m. Caller from L Street states that his car has been vandalized again. Officer advised. Report taken.

4:53 p.m. Caller reporting a large brush fire on Lake Pleasant Road. Transferred to Shelburne Control; officers advised.

7:45 p.m. Officer checking on two people in a port-potty at Unity Park after being flagged down by a passerby.

### Wednesday, 4/22

2:50 p.m. Trespass notice received for male at Turners Falls High School.

3:02 p.m. 911 report of car vs. telephone pole at Avenue A and Seventh Street. Unknown injuries. Second caller reporting officer already on scene. Officers requesting EMS and tow for both vehicles. All occupants transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Both vehicles towed.

4:28 p.m. Turners Falls Fire Department (TFFD) toning out box alarm for a two-car accident at the intersection of Turnpike and Turners Falls roads. Officer requesting tows for both vehicles. All units clear.

6:10 p.m. Caller reports

that a vehicle has been parked on Cemetery Road since this morning and no one has come or gone from it. Officer advises a female is sleeping in the vehicle and states she is living out of it. She will move the vehicle in a little bit.

### Thursday, 4/23

8:24 a.m. Caller from K Street states he is being evicted and the landlord and his son are threatening the caller and his partner; also described slander involving himself and his partner on the Turners Falls Facebook page. Advised caller this would be on record, and to seek a harassment protection order through the Greenfield district court. Advised caller to call back if direct threats are made.

3:48 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road reports that part of his property is condemned and children are playing there; would like them removed. During previous calls, caller had been advised that per the board of health, being on the property is fine, but being in the dwellings is not allowed. Officer spoke with caller, who states his attorney has told him to call every time they are on the property. Issue documented.

4:11 p.m. 911 caller reporting out-of-control brush fire in the Federal Street area. Transferred to Shelburne Control; officers advised.

5:02 p.m. Officer conducting a motor vehicle stop on Greenfield Road. E-911 caller transferred from Control advising erratic operation. Call dropped prior to discussing. Same caller on business line requesting officer breathalyze vehicle operator, as they passed her in a no-passing zone and were swerving in and out of the lines. Officer advises no signs of impairment; driver states he was speeding because he had somewhere to be.

6:36 p.m. 911 caller reports brush fire in Federal Street area has rekindled. Transferred to Shelburne Control; officers advised.

### Friday, 4/24

7:09 a.m. Walk-in would like to speak to an officer about boarding up a condemned property on Mormon Hollow Road. Officer speaking to male in lobby. Party is going to the property and wanted us to know, as there have been problems in the past. He has been advised.

6:02 p.m. Caller works for a company in El Paso, Texas; her company had

ordered a courier to pick up a load from a business in Turners Falls. She states the order was picked up, and she found out the courier is not real. Officer spoke to caller, who requested how to go about getting video footage from the involved business. Advised caller business office is closed and she should call Monday. Caller was concerned, as they gave a delivery time of 4 p.m. and then it moved to 7 p.m. Caller is at El Paso PD and will have them take an initial report.

### Saturday, 4/25

5:06 a.m. Caller states he was driving home and saw what appears to be an accident scene at the Unity Street end of Chestnut Street. Caller states there is a car bumper in the road and oil spilled, along with multiple trees down in a front yard. Officer out with possible vehicle; male party sleeping in car. Officer requesting attempt to locate someone at involved address. Nothing found in house for that address.

10:27 a.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive reports that overnight someone stole 10 to 15 gallons of gas out of his vehicle. States it was full when he went to bed, and now the gas light is on. Officer spoke to caller, who states that other vehicles, mowers, and gas cans on the property were untouched. No gas on the ground. Investigated.

11:41 a.m. 911 caller from K Street reporting smoke in living room; cannot see fire or flames, but can see and smell smoke. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Five people in home exiting residence. Officer on scene; nothing showing. TFFD remaining on scene to investigate.

4:08 p.m. Passerby states that she was going to shop at Food City, but when she went to get out of her vehicle, she observed a male party in a black hoodie with one hand in his pocket, acting in an odd manner. This caused her to not want to exit her vehicle and to shop elsewhere instead. Party located at Avenue A and Fourth Street. Same reports having severe back pain. No criminal activity found.

5:30 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road wanted on record that he had to stop to back his vehicle into his driveway, and the car behind him was beeping and giving him the finger. Vehicle then returned to throw trash in his yard and flip him off again. He decided to follow them, keeping his distance, un-

til they got to Montague Center, where he turned around and returned home. Report taken.

6:06 p.m. A 34-year-old Millers Falls woman was arrested on a default warrant. 7:35 p.m. Caller requesting call back from officer. Officer spoke to caller, who thinks that a private club is buying beer in New Hampshire and selling it cheaper in Massachusetts; wants them held responsible. Caller states he will print and drop off pictures.

10:24 p.m. Caller requesting officer to check the Patch for loud music. Unfounded.

### Sunday, 4/26

11:37 a.m. Report of unwanted parties on Eleventh Street. Report taken.

2:41 p.m. Caller from K Street states that the landlord's ex-wife and her husband just showed up on bicycles and started harassing him while he was sitting outside. Caller just wants this on record for court purposes; already has a report going with Montague PD.

10:31 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street concerned about a backyard fire where the flames are really high. Officer checked area; flames were under control.

### Tuesday, 4/28

10:03 a.m. Caller from Davis Street would like to speak with an officer about an ongoing issue with a neighbor. Advised to keep documenting incidents and to go to court to obtain a harassment prevention order.

12:11 p.m. 911 caller reporting minor motor vehicle accident with a mail truck on Turners Falls Road. No injuries or fluids. Report taken.

12:14 p.m. Caller checking to see if police could respond to Judd Wire to get any more camera footage of a previously-reported larceny of 34,000 pounds of copper wire. Report taken.

2:06 p.m. Caller reporting two males at Peskeompskut Park with open containers, both wearing baseball caps backwards. Unfounded.

2:24 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that he was unloading his 9mm handgun in his kitchen and it went off and shot through a kitchen cabinet. No injuries. Report taken.

6:10 p.m. Report of disturbance between family members on Old Greenfield Road. Advised caller of restraining order options and counseled at length about ways to avoid confrontations with the other involved party. Ongoing situation where both parties have been advised of their court options

see MPD next page

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**MPD** from previous pg multiple times.  
 7:57 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road reports parties are on the property near the area that has been condemned; calling to have this put on record as instructed. Per board of health, they are allowed to be on the property.  
 8:56 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that people are having an out-of-control bonfire in the backyard and sparks are flying everywhere. Shelburne Control and MPD officer advised.  
**Wednesday, 4/29**  
 1:42 p.m. 911 caller reporting large gas spill near the pumps at Nouria. Transferred to Shelburne Control.  
 8:09 p.m. Caller reporting that parties are on a Mormon Hollow Road property near the area that has been condemned. Second caller, the landowner, reporting same. Report taken.  
**Thursday, 4/30**  
 12:16 p.m. Repeat

caller states her company is having a pickup done at Judd Wire and the driver is about to leave, but she knows this is a scam and needs assistance. Referred to an officer.  
 4:43 p.m. Caller from West Chestnut Hill Road states that his vehicle was struck in his yard; would like to file an accident report. Report taken.  
**Friday, 5/1**  
 10:38 a.m. Caller reporting ongoing issue with her neighbor since August. Has filed multiple reports. States lately her neighbor is parking her car too close to the caller's. Also reports her neighbor is now copying what she is doing. For example: the caller vacuumed her stairs, and the next day the neighbor bought a vacuum. The caller washed her trash bins, and the next day the neighbor also washed her trash bins. Officer advised. Caller has reported the incident

to the Housing Authority and requests that it also be put on record with the police department as another instance of harassment. Report taken.  
 9:55 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street states that the neighbors stole wood from her yard for their fire pit; they are now calling her names, and she feels threatened. Quiet upon officers' arrival. Both parties spoken to; agreed to stay civil with each other for the rest of the night.  
**Saturday, 5/2**  
 5:35 p.m. Caller reporting activity, noise, and people on a condemned Mormon Hollow Road property that has been the subject of several recent calls. Investigated.  
 6:33 p.m. Caller reports there are five dirtbikes racing around and kicking up dirt on the Plains near Hatchery Road; caller is trying to walk their dog. Investigated.

# FACES & PLACES...

Photo essayist Joe R. Parzych reported on Sunday from the scene of the 21st Annual Antique Truck Show, which moved this year from the Yankee Candle headquarters in Deerfield to the Cummington Fairgrounds.



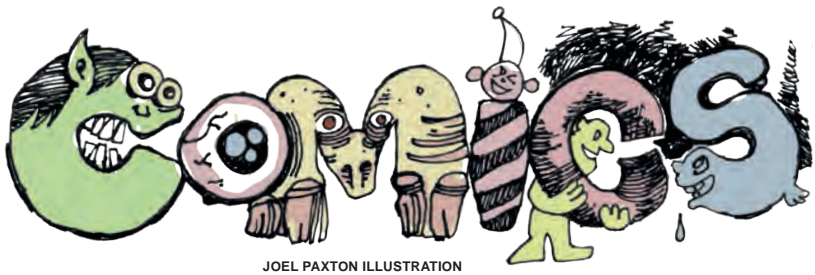
JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS



"It's a great view of awesome trucks," he wrote. "There was food and everything, and also music, but it was bigger than ever and more fun. Local Burger and Farmer's Daughter Apple Fritters were on hand. It was really good food... I saw some people from Gill up there I had not seen in a while. It was a very successful day."



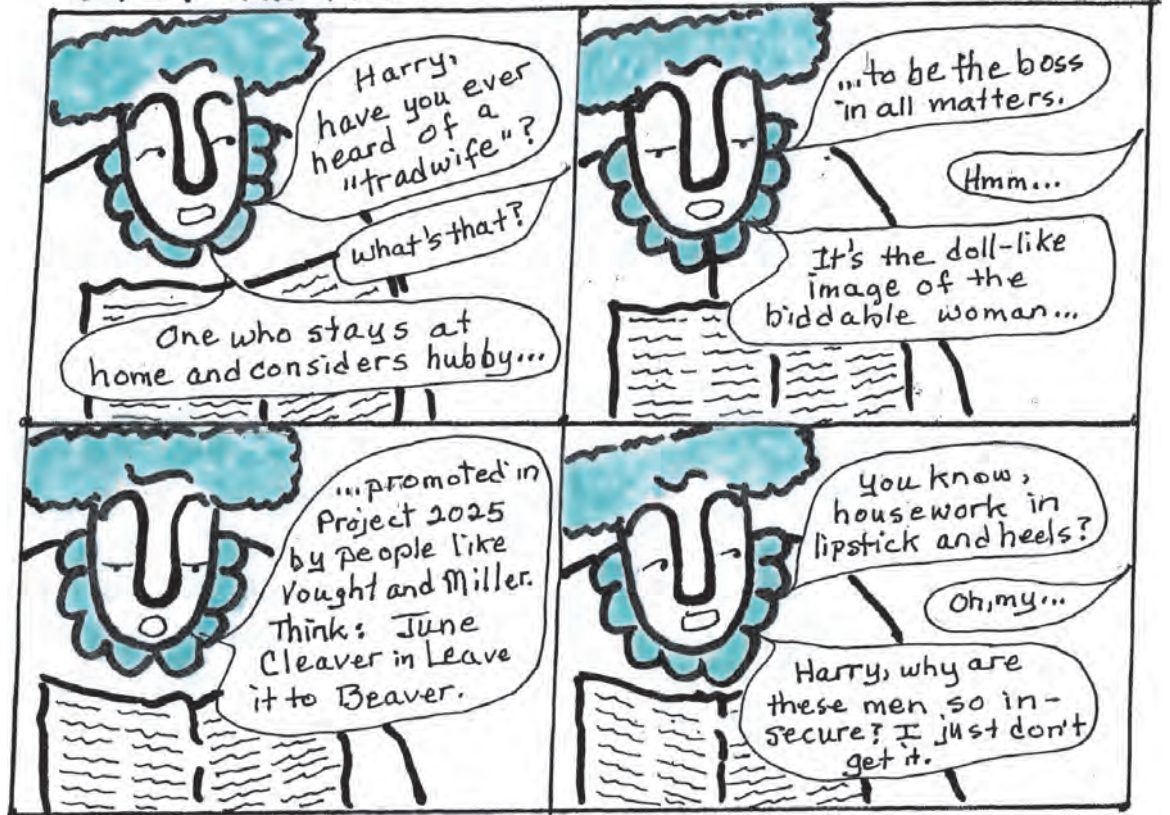
Joe added that he sent in these photos in honor of Fred Chase II of Gill, former president of the Antique Truck Club of America, who died in 2025. "He would smile, looking down from heaven, to see how the truck show has grown, and people helping each other, having fun, and learning," Joe wrote. "I highly recommend this place."



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

## OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



SUE BLAUNER ILLUSTRATION

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

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**ELDER** from page B1

Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls offers conventional lawn burial as well as a green burial section, Highland Woods, where people are interred as they have been for centuries in a plain pine box, biodegradable shroud, or wicker basket without any embalming fluids. It's a beautiful woodland section with meandering paths that appeals to me for its simplicity. I find it comforting to think of spending eternity in Montague, perhaps alongside friends and neighbors.

Green burial is compatible with my desire to tread gently on the environment and keep things simple, and aligns with my husband's Jewish traditions, in which people are interred without chemical embalming in a simple shroud or box.

However, thinking about this made me realize that I had no idea what to do once we choose a final resting place. I've attended funerals, but never planned one.

Is a green burial different? Can one still use the services of a funeral home? Will the simplicity of a green burial end up being more complicated for the surviving spouse or children? I decided others might be as clueless as I am, and reached out to Amber and Judith to find out how to best prepare.

Amber coordinates burials for Highland, the town's active cemetery. She's the one to contact if you want to tour the cemetery or purchase a plot in either section. Call (413) 775-3328 or email [cemeterysexton@montague-ma.gov](mailto:cemeterysexton@montague-ma.gov). The cost of a plot is \$700 for residents and \$1,000 for non-residents, with a \$150 fee paid at the time of the burial.

**MR:** After a tour, can people choose their spot for interment?

**AK:** When mapping out new

grave plots, we consider where the trees are and make sure we have drivable pathways for the mini-excavator that is used to dig the graves. When you purchase a deed for these plots, you are deeded the right to be buried in the natural burial grounds, and not a specifically assigned plot like you would in a lawn section.

As each emergent need for burial arises, we utilize the graves sequentially, only making reservations for those that want to be paired. Once one of the paired people is buried, the next plot will be reserved.

**MR:** Who do I call first? What can be done in advance? Can I still work with a funeral home?

**AK:** Most of the sales we make at Highland Woods are to folks who are pre-planning. They will have the advantage of having forethought in participating in their own funerary making. Some have been known to pre-purchase their own coffins, storing them in basements or spare rooms, or using them as conversation-starting coffee tables or linen chests. Local willow casket crafts-woman Mary Lauren Fraser was recently featured in an NPR story.

**MR:** What if a death is sudden and all this planning is not yet in place?

**AK:** In instances of sudden passing, we are still able to offer green burials in a timely fashion. Highland Woods is open all year round for green burial. We have had the pleasure of working with a handful of trusted funeral homes in the valley and appreciate how adaptive they are in helping families achieve their desired experience, even if they haven't planned.

**MR:** How is a body transported to Highland?



SUBMITTED PHOTO / AMBER KOREY

A simple mounded grave at Highland Woods.

**AK:** Though we will work with families that want to exercise their legal rights to conduct transportation and funeral services, we strongly encourage people to work with a home funeral guide or death doula before taking this on. Their caring expertise helps shepherd the grieving family through the care of the deceased body, legal filings for burial, and the immediate sourcing of funerary items in a supportive way.

**MR:** What if someone needs more help to put all the details together?

**AK:** A funeral home will work with you in planning or at the time if you haven't planned. After the death pronouncement is issued, a funeral home would step in and provide body care assistance. Maybe the family wants the loved one to stay home for a day or two and then be collected. That is legally allowed, but the family should be aware of the proper considerations for body care that will likely be needed.

When the family is ready, the funeral home will collect the deceased from the place of death and

tend to the washing, dressing, and careful storage until the day of burial. In one instance, the family facilitated a home funeral and hired the funeral home to file the paperwork and transport from the home directly to the cemetery.

The website for the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western MA is [www.funeralconsumerswma.org](http://www.funeralconsumerswma.org). They offer information about your rights, options on final arrangements, helpful checklists and workbooks, and a directory of funeral homes.

**MR:** Are local funeral homes willing to work with families who have chosen green burial?

**AK:** Yes. Reaching out in advance and choosing one to work with will relieve this burden from the family.

**MR:** What are the minimum requirements for a green burial?

**AK:** In alignment with a low environmental impact, the minimum requirement for burial at Highland Woods, and most green burials, is a shroud and a shrouding board. The shroud is a full body wrapping of biodegradable cloth such as cotton, linen, silk, or canvas. These can be bought online, sourced locally from shroud makers like Dina Stander of Last Dance Shrouds ([www.lastdanceshrouds.com](http://www.lastdanceshrouds.com)), or procured from your own home, giving grandmother's handmade quilt the honor of the sacred eternal cocoon.

**MR:** What's a shrouding board?

**AK:** The shrouding board functions to support the body for transporting. It should be an untreated, soft wood, at least as wide as the decedent's shoulder width, and supportive from head to foot. Families and funeral homes looking to support local craft people can explore the offerings of the Funerary Artisans Collective. To learn more, go to [www.funeraryartisanscollective.org](http://www.funeraryartisanscollective.org).

**MR:** Walk me through the sequence of events for different kinds of death. How does this change the protocols?

**AK:** If the dying process is known and the person is in hospice, a medical professional, an attending nurse, or a medical examiner will be called to pronounce the death and file a death certificate. If you are using a funeral home, call them for transportation and other details.

If you are planning a home funeral and green burial and the body will not be embalmed, it should therefore be buried within a few days, and proper body care should be observed in the meantime. This is the time to wash or dress your loved one and keep the body cool and dry,

with opened windows in the winter and air conditioning and specialized ice packs in warmer months.

**MR:** What if I don't want to do all that?

**AK:** A funeral home will wash and prepare the body and transport it to the gravesite. Instead of a funeral, some people have a celebration of life after interment, giving distant friends time to travel and pay their respects.

**MR:** If I choose to arrange a home funeral, who can help?

**AK:** A death doula or home funeral guide can help a family through this process at home. Caring for a loved one in this way can bring deep and meaningful healing to the grieving process.

The requirements and considerations of a home funeral can be found online; one useful website is [www.peacefulpassageathome.com](http://www.peacefulpassageathome.com). If the family plans to transport the deceased from home to the cemetery, they need to make sure to file the transport and burial permit with the town clerk and bring that with them on the day of burial.

**MR:** Is this legal?

**AK:** Yes. For legal transportation and burial, the death certificate needs to be presented to the town clerk or sometimes the health department in the town in which the person died, even if they will be buried somewhere else. A family member can do this step in the case of a home funeral, or your preferred funeral home can take care of this.

**MR:** What if a loved one dies in the hospital?

**AK:** If you're using a funeral home, that will be a provided service. If you're not, legally, it's your right to collect the body if you have the proper transport/burial permit. It is always good to discuss your plan with the hospital ahead of time, if possible.

**MR:** Please explain the details of interment.

**AK:** The final step, the day of interment, is arranged by the family or funeral home calling the cemetery sexton – me – to set a burial date. I will arrange for our contractor to open the grave. They provide plowing and snowblowing service at the cemetery in the winter.

The current charge for opening the grave is \$725. The family is welcome to use the provided shovels to do some of their own interring. The contractor always comes to officially close the grave. The sexton attends the service, and will sit vigil if the family needs to leave before the grave is closed.

**MR:** Thank you Amber. It's a lot to absorb, and I am so glad to know we have good choices and people and institutions to help.

**AK & JL:** Thank you for the opportunity to explain all this. Highland Woods is a labor of love for the cemetery commission, and we're honored to offer our community this option for their final resting place.

We have now sold more than half of the anticipated 150 plots. Compared to less than a dozen lawn plots sold in the same time frame, green burial appears to be a popular and welcome addition to the options families are looking for.



## OUT OF THE PARK MAY 2026

By JON DOBOSZ

**UNITY PARK** – Happy May everyone! We hope that the start of spring has put an extra step in your pace with the weather we've been having. Things have been busy as usual here at Parks & Rec. Tee Ball has just started, we've had some improvements to the Unity Park fieldhouse, the EGG-stravaganza was fantastic, and we're gearing up for the summer. Speaking of which, we'll be publishing our Summer Brochure in the next couple of weeks. But let's get a head start on some things...

First, we'll be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Unity Skatepark – yes, 10 years! – on Saturday, June 13 starting at 1 p.m. We will be partnering with RiverCulture and Nova Motorcycles in bringing music and food to the event.

There will also be a new Skateboard Memorial dedication to start things off, so be sure to mark your calendars for this wonderful event. We would also like to thank the Franklin County Tech School Welding Department for fabricating the memorial board. The rain

date for this event will be June 20.

We have also started registration for Summer Camp, which starts June 29. This year camp will be a seven-week affair, and will offer our typically unique array of field trips and other outings. We're putting a great staff together, so your kids will truly have a great summer with us.

Our summer camp is licensed through the MA Department of Public Health. Contact us ASAP before all spots are filled. Your kids won't want to miss it!



Do you like to watch movies outdoors? Well, the Movies in the Park series is returning to Peskeompskut Park for another summer! We'll be showing *How to Train Your Dragon* (2025) on

June 12, *Karate Kid* on July 10, and *PeeWee's Big Adventure* on August 7. A big thanks to our friends at RiverCulture for being a valuable partner.

Last but certainly not least, we want to remind everyone that now is a great time to register for our Annual Montague Soapbox Races! You have all summer to build your cart and get it ready to zoom down Unity Hill in Turners. The event is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, and is open for those aged 8 and up, with youth, teen, and adult divisions. For more information, log on to [www.montaguesoapboxraces.com](http://www.montaguesoapboxraces.com).

That's about it from here. If you want to stay on top of our programs and services, be sure to log on to [montagueparksrec.com](http://montagueparksrec.com), or view our Facebook page. You can also pick up copies of our summer brochure at the Unity Park fieldhouse, the Montague libraries, and at Montague town hall.

Other than that, enjoy the weather, stay active, and have a great spring!

Jon Dobosz, CPRP, CPO, is director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.

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# EVENTS

Shelburne Falls Theater  
POTHOLE PICTURES

May 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.

## IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE

A poetic love story set in Hong Kong, dizzy with romantic spirit.

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### THURSDAY, MAY 7

St. Kaz, Turners Falls:  
*Patch Burger Pop-up.*  
Burgers, fries, palm readings.  
5 to 8 p.m. No cover.

Brick House, Turners Falls:  
*Question and answer session*  
with Montague selectboard  
candidate Nate Card  
(Schiffbauer). 6 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers  
Falls: *Your Library, Your Voice.*  
Question-and-answer session  
on the proposed new main  
library. 6 p.m. Free.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket:  
*Bella's Bartok*, acoustic  
set. 7 p.m. By donation.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:  
*Sophisticated Lady,*  
*Cam Quinn, Eldest*  
*Daughter.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst:  
*The Wailers.* 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:  
*Hush Puppy, Mimi Fang.*  
9 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, MAY 8

Discovery Center, Turners  
Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story*  
*Hour: Fish.* Story, activities,  
crafts. Ages 3 to 6.  
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free.

ArtSpace, Greenfield:  
Reception for *Big Random*,  
exhibit of visual art by  
GCC students. 5 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall,  
Montague Center: *Square*  
*Dance with The Katydid's;*  
Sally Newton calling.  
Jammers welcome.  
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Wendell Meetinghouse,  
Wendell: *Goodness Shakes*,  
community dance.  
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Four Phantoms Brewery,  
Greenfield: *Periscope Jazz*  
*Collective.* 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Prescott Tavern, Hampshire  
College: *Bubble Scary, I Have*  
*No Mouth, Film and Gender,*  
*Primate, Death in Venice,*  
*Sapien Joyride.* Benefit for  
faculty/staff. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Coffeehouse,  
Turners Falls: *Lara Herscovitch*  
& *The Highway Philosophers.*  
7 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Bill*  
*Callahan, Noveller.* 7 p.m. \$.

Hidden Temple, Florence:  
*Cale, Mare Berger,*  
*Daniel Winger, James*  
*Scaramuzzino.* Evening  
of solo piano. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene:  
*Trinary System,*  
*paris\_monster.* 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell:  
*Lady Pop.* 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:  
*Will Bollinger.* 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater,  
Easthampton: *Grammerhorn*  
*Wren, Stunt Meridian,*  
*Snowglobe Almanac.* 8 p.m. \$.

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

Iron Horse, Northampton:  
*Owsley's Owls, Grateful*  
*Dead* tribute, playing 5/8/77  
and more. 10:30 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, MAY 9

Peskeompskut Park,  
Turners Falls: *Great Falls*  
*Farmers Market.* SNAP  
accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Unity Park, Turners Falls:  
*Fishway Opening.* Visit the  
viewing windows and learn  
about the annual migration  
of American shad, sea lamprey,  
and other anadromous fish.  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

heads by Susan Boss and Mark Brown.  
Through May, with a reception  
next Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m.

**Leverett Library, Leverett:**  
*Convergence*, pastel and acrylic  
paintings by the Friends Who Paint  
group, through June, with a reception  
this Saturday, May 9 at 12:30 p.m.

**ArtSpace, Greenfield:** *Big Random*,  
work by visual arts seminar students  
at GCC. May 8 through June 5, with  
a reception this Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Four Rivers*  
*School Art Show*, through May;  
*The Peace Birds Exhibit*, an artistic  
and community response to the events  
ongoing in Palestine, through July.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:**  
*Trevor Powers, Looky There*, risograph-  
printed photographs, plus artists'  
books and a free zine, through May.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:**  
*STEAM – Art & Science*, art that  
reflects aspects of science, technology,  
engineering, and math, through May 17.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Sue Curran*  
and *GK Khalsa*, collage and  
paintings, through May.

**Mill District Local Art, North Amherst:**  
Forty-plus artists show work on the theme  
of *Charmed*. Through June 25, with a  
reception this Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:**  
*Q Li Holmes*, recent paintings by the  
Ashfield artist; *Stay in the Day and Have*  
*the Long View*, mixed media by Dale  
Schwarz. Both exhibits through June.

## CALL FOR LISTINGS

**RiverCulture** is looking for cultural  
events taking place in Montague  
between May 23 and September 26 for  
its 2026 Summer Event Calendar. This  
annual calendar includes history talks,  
music, festivals, theater, art-related  
workshops, and outdoor recreation in  
the five villages. Send the date, location,  
time, cost, and a one-line description  
of your event by Monday, May 11 to  
riverculture@montague-ma.gov.



The wait is over! The Turners Falls Fishway reopens this weekend.

Wendell Historical Society,  
Wendell: *Open House.* See  
renovation progress and learn  
about future plans. Antique  
furniture and collectibles sale.  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

Main and Water, Shelburne  
Falls: *Bridge of Flowers*  
*Plant Sale.* Perennials,  
annuals, maple products,  
bake sale, soaps, more.  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$.

Discovery Center, Turners  
Falls: *Park Serve Day.*  
Help prepare the Center  
for the spring and summer  
seasons. Bring water and a  
snack. Ages 6 and up. Register  
at [www.tinyurl.com/parkserve](http://www.tinyurl.com/parkserve).  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners  
Falls: *Local History Librarian*  
*Support.* 12 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett:  
Reception for *Convergence*,  
pastel and acrylic paintings  
by the Friends Who Paint  
group. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:  
*Needle Felting Workshop*  
for teens and adults.  
Registration req'd. 1 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms,  
Northfield: *Rosie Porter.*  
4 p.m. No cover.

Four Phantoms Brewery,  
Greenfield: *Ragged Blue.*  
6:30 p.m. No cover.

Bellows Falls Opera House,  
Bellows Falls: *Dave Alvin &*  
*Jimmie Dale Gilmore.*  
6:30 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton:  
*Son Rompe Pera.* 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Goblet,*  
*Skull Mason, Kakos.* 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:  
*Something Wonderful Tonight,*  
Eric Clapton and George  
Harrison tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Shane*  
*Kerr, Hedgewitch, No Thank*  
*You, Will Bollinger.* 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Slow*  
*Fiction, Vundabar.* 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro:  
*Idiot Savant, Grouch,*  
*Magic User.* 8 p.m. \$.

Tin Can Alley Lounge,  
Southampton: *Tall Tease,*  
*Herald, Concussionists, Polish*  
*Toilet Convention.* 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams:  
*The Head and the*  
*Heart.* 8 p.m. \$\$. \$.

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

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# CALENDAR



## looking forward...

### SUNDAY, MAY 10

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Genealogy Help* with expert Phil Johnson. 1 p.m. Free.

Chard Pond, Sunderland: *Mother's Day Fern Walk*. Meet at Falls and Gunn Cross roads. 1 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Owen Manure, Paul Flaherty*. 5 p.m. By donation.

Silo House, Turners Falls: *Doomi Soomi, Ben Bennett, Rare Geese, Sam Boston & Emma Mistele*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Sessa, Kolumbo*. 7 p.m. \$.

### MONDAY, MAY 11

Wendell Senior Center, Wendell: *Memory Café*. "Social gathering for people living with changes to their memory or thinking and the people who care about them." 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free.

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Board Game Night*. Registration req'd. 5:15 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting, Crafts & Game Night*. 7 p.m. Free.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Michael and Carrie Kline* present "Songs & Stories of Appalachia and Rural America." 7:30 p.m. Free.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Paint a Light Switch*. Add a pop of color to your walls. Supplies and snacks provided. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Writers Read*, featuring *Fin Finley, Darlene Elias, John Sheirer*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Feminine Aggression, Fugue State, Sleep Destroyer, Cliffrose*. 8 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, MAY 14

Erving Senior Center, Erving: *Painting Class and Luncheon*. Paint Monet's *Bridge at Giverny* with artist Teri Magner. Materials provided. Lunch includes macaroni and cheese, Swedish meatballs, cupcakes, more. Call (413) 423-3649 to reserve a spot. 12 p.m. \$.

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

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Sheryl Faye*, historical performer, portraying Susan B. Anthony. 1 p.m. Free.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Jody Stewart, Lauren Marie Schmidt*, poetry reading with an open mic. 7 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Richard Shindell*. 7 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Jerome Sabbagh Quartet*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Kreator, Cold Steel, Carcass*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Tourists, North Adams: *Glenn Jones, Liam Grant*. 8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Josh Allen*. 9 p.m. No cover.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Buttersnakes, Josh Burkett, George Groth*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SATURDAY, MAY 16

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Brick House 5K*. Non-competitive, 1.3-mile course along the Canalside Rail Trail bike path. Prizes from local vendors. Register at [www.tinyurl.com/BrickHouse5K](http://www.tinyurl.com/BrickHouse5K). Fundraiser for the Brick House Community Resource Center. 9:30 a.m. \$.



"Everywhere's got a countryside," Rhode Island honky-tonker Charlie Marie argues. Find out for yourself: Marie headlines next Friday's *Twang Club* production at the Shea Theater. Rosie Porter and her band open.

### FRIDAY, MAY 15

Nova Arts, Keene: *Yasmin Williams, Delicate Steve, Emily A. Sprague, Big Blood, Dinger, Jack in the Green*. 4 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Sam Mulligan* album release, *Hot Rod, The Rocking Puppies*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Zeppitones*, Led Zeppelin tribute. 7 p.m. No cover.

THCC, Easthampton: *Necralant, Troll Milk, Hexrot*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Charlie Marie, Rosie Porter & Band, DJ Brewfoot*. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Space Bar*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *So Over It, Cliffrose, cputergrl*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Jeopardy, Olde Bard, Woundlicker*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *Sparks the Rescue, Signal the Escape, Broadwing*. 8 p.m. \$.

Canalside Bike Path, Turners Falls: *Commemoration Ceremony: Battle of Great Falls / Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut*. Remarks by representatives of the Nipmuck and Abenaki communities; ceremonial drumming by the Eastern Medicine Singers. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Natural Information Society, Kalie Vandever, Cole Pulice, Gregory Uhlmann, Undertow Brass Band*, more. 12 p.m. \$.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Day of Remembrance*. Commemoration of the Great Falls Massacre and King Philip's War, presented by the Nolumbeka Project. Presenters include the Eastern Medicine Singers, Strong Eagle 'Many Feathers' Daly, Liz Coldwind Santana-Kiser. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Swedish Dance*. Intro workshop, snacks, open dancing. Live music on five-string fiddle and nyckelharpa. All welcome. 1:30 p.m. \$.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Pokemon Club Launch Party*. 2 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Yankee Dixon Band, Ultra Violet, Ramshackle, Torie Jock & Damage Control*, more. 4 p.m. \$.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Hendersons Blues Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Steve Wynn, Creative Writing*. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic* with featured performers *3 Faces*. 6:15 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Best of the '70s*. 7 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Ashen Horde, Chained to the Dead, DBB, Goblet*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Viqueen, Loss Becomes, Held Captive*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Danny Pease and the Regulators, The Poms, Go Static, Slob Drop*. 7 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Ghostface Killah, Sammus*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SUNDAY, MAY 17

Greenfield Records, Greenfield: *Unagi, Dome Lettuce, DJ Toro Bravo, Trinker*. 12 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Woods, Saintsenecca, Thanya Iyer, Habitat, Nova One, Edsel Axle, Mary Elizabeth Remington*. 12 p.m. \$.

399 Main, Greenfield: Screening, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* (2025). Discussion follows. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, Shelburne Falls: *Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis*. Two routes, 2.5K or 5K. See [tinyurl.com/GreatStrides2026](http://tinyurl.com/GreatStrides2026) to register or donate. 1 p.m. \$.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Fiddle Orchestra of Western Mass, Annika Amstutz, Van Kaynor*. 1 p.m. \$.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Classics Book Club*. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*. 4 p.m. Free.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Brad Mehldau Trio*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

### TUESDAY, MAY 19

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: Documentary, *Earth's Greatest Enemy* (2025), on US military's environmental impacts. Directed by Abby Martin. 5 p.m. Free.

### SATURDAY, MAY 23

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Bird Walk* with local naturalist David Brown. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Meet at the center to carpool. 8:30 to 11 a.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Dirtwire, Pink Talking Fish, Leon Trout, King Saison, Outer Style, Neighbor*, many more. 12 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

Erving Senior Center, Erving: *Sheryl Faye*, historical performer, portraying Amelia Earhart. 6 p.m. Free.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Cold Spring Hollow, Brattleboro: *Editrix, Feminine Aggression, PTC, Mummies and Wolves*. 7 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Black Uhuru*. 8 p.m. \$.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Downtown Boys, Perennial*. 7 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Earl Sweatshirt, MIKE, Surf Gang*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SUNDAY, JULY 5

Palladium, Worcester: *Hatebreed, Devourment, Snuffed on Sight, Balmora, Face Yourself*. 4:30 p.m. \$\$.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Mikaela Davis*. 7 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, JULY 24

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Gillian Welch & David Rawlings*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

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

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Judy Collins, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Rosanne Cash, Amanda Shires*. 2:30 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *The Beach Boys*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 recent discoveries and the scientific dating of cutting-edge bone, ivory, tooth, and antler artifacts he's identified from five sites where he performed at least limited field work.

Gramly's lecture fell into the conference's "Paleontology and Paleocology of Northeastern North America" category. It attracted the largest audience, by far, of the eight presentations I attended. Some of the materials he discussed came from his own 2014 "Bowser Road" excavation in Middletown, New York. Others were discovered over the past couple of years, at the Lower Blue Licks Battlefield site in Kentucky. The rest came from assemblages of previously unidentified or misidentified artifacts and portable art specimens that were uncovered decades ago, stored away and recently reassessed by Gramly.

Anyone familiar with Gramly knows he's a straight shooter, not one to pull punches. He didn't disappoint this time around. He was his normal outspoken self, sharing his many newest interpretations pertaining to late Pleistocene human interactions with mastodons, woolly mammoths, and whatever other megafaunal surprises have come to light at the 12,000- to 15,000-plus-year-old boneyards he's dug and reviewed.

Once a committed excavator of Paleoindian archaeological sites such as the so-called Sugarloaf or DEDIC Site on Mount Sugarloaf's southwestern skirt, along the Deerfield-Whately line, Gramly has moved on to the spiritual realm of ritualistic artifacts related to proboscidean worship.

He does not, and did not at the conference, hesitate to explain that



Archaeologist Richard Michael Gramly displays a mastodon rib worked by ancient hands into a spear-throwing tool.

shaman-supervised hunting parties of young men killing dangerous mastodons were not seeking meat. They were, instead, participating in performative, ceremonial, ritualistic, rite-of-manhood hunts performed every seven to 10 years. Because primitive man wasted nothing, of course the meat was processed, and so were bones, tusks, teeth, skin, sinews and you name it during an organized, post-kill salvage operation.

After more than 40 years of intensive, coast-to-coast field work digging for Clovis stone tools and weapons, Gramly has become unimpressed with such artifacts. Now, when presented with fresh lithic assemblages, even highly valued fluted spearpoints, his kneejerk response is, "Is that all you've got?" He's soared past that to bigger, better, older, and in his mind more important, ritualistic objects not made of stone and honoring massive proboscidean prey.

Probably his most important discoveries are two ceremonial sled burials of what he believes were

female shaman. Both went to their graves in sleds with ceremonial ivory runners made from split proboscidean tusk. One of them, which no one wants to talk about, came from the Hiscock site. The other had been stored away and previously unidentified in a carelessly organized, century-old Kentucky museum collection Gramly reevaluated at the insistence of his friend Denny Vesper.

And how about the diadem (headband) fragments Gramly found, identified, and reassembled from Lower Blue Licks? They were made of the peeled outer layer of mastodon or woolly mammoth tusk dating back more than 30,000 years before present, but collected from a site half their age. The still-unanswered question remains: Was this decorative headgear made in North America from an ancient salvaged tusk, or was it an incredible, ancient, ritualistic, hand-me-down that had crossed the Bering Strait from northeastern Siberia?

Either way, it is an extraordinary artifact, not to mention a remarkable piece of Gramly detective work. Though many other experts had laid eyes on the scattered pieces, not one of them recognized the diadem. Chalk it up to Gramly's Old World archaeological experience, which familiarized him with Europe's Upper Paleolithic Gravettian culture, 33,000 to 21,000 years before present.

There are too many additional fascinating discoveries to mention in this limited space or, for that matter, in his 20-minute Vermont presentation. Thankfully, every fresh detail is personally fed to me by Gramly during our weekly telephone conversations and his occasional overnight visits.

To be on the receiving end of these groundbreaking discoveries, I consider myself privileged – as, I suspect, did the folks in northern Vermont who attended his lecture and got to handle the three-foot Giant Ground Sloth ulna – a front leg or elbow bone – he had brought along to show how the thus-far-unidentified implement, recovered from a Florida riverbed, had been partially cut through by human hands and snapped off.

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



## CLEAN SWEEP BULKY WASTE RECYCLING DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 16  
9 A.M. TO NOON

ERVING HIGHWAY GARAGE/DPW, 16 Public Works Boulevard (off Rt. 2)  
WHATELY TRANSFER STATION, 73 Christian Lane (off Route 5/10)  
MOHAWK TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL, 26 Ashfield Rd, Shelburne Falls (Route 112)

- No pre-registration necessary.
- Items will be recycled whenever possible.
- There is a disposal charge on most items. • Cash only.

### WHAT TO BRING:

TIRES • ELECTRONICS • TELEVISIONS • CARPET • TVs  
COMPUTERS • MICROWAVES • FURNITURE • SCRAP METAL  
BBQ GRILL TANKS • CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS  
APPLIANCES (REMOVE DOORS FROM FRIDGES & FREEZERS)

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: Yard Waste • Brush  
Tree Stumps • Asbestos • Paint • Fluorescent Bulbs  
Auto Batteries • Oil Tanks • Hazardous Materials

Before sending unwanted items for disposal or recycling, consider reuse. Call local thrift stores to see if they can accept your items, or post on a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook page, Freecycle, or NextDoor.

Mattresses, box springs, textiles and books are not accepted: see website or call for Franklin County recycling locations.

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

## FREE REGIONAL REPAIR EVENT

Hosted by the Franklin County Solid Waste District and the Franklin County Tech School

Saturday, May 30 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tech School, 82 Industrial Blvd. Turners Falls

Students, instructors, and local fixers will be on hand. Every effort will be made to repair your item(s). Antiques and heirlooms cannot be fixed at this event.

### BRING:

- Lamps and household electrical items
- Items needing to be glued
- Knife sharpening (limit 3 per household)
- Garden tool sharpening (limit 2 per household)
- Mending (sewing): darning; wool repair

### ALSO!

- Blood pressure checks
- Sadie's Bikes will offer repairs that do not require parts. For example, adjust brakes, oil chain, etc. They will also provide instruction on repairs.

MORE FIXING STATIONS MAY BE ADDED :)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES:

Contact the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438, [fcswm@crockers.com](mailto:fcswm@crockers.com) or visit [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org)

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