

# The Montague Reporter

Year 24 – No. 30

JULY 9, 2026

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

## Food City Confirms Sale Under Negotiation

By **JEFF SINGLETON** and **MIKE JACKSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – “From my heart, I can tell you I feel very good about this,” Food City CEO Zak Sclar told the *Montague Reporter* on Wednesday. “The buyer deserves the full support of the community.”

Sclar said the Lewiston, Maine-based grocery store chain, which operates eight locations includ-

ing one in Turners Falls, is being purchased by Nishantkumar Patel, corroborating statements made last month by Patel (see “Food City Sale Underway, Apparently,” *MR* June 25, 2026).

Sclar’s family owned the company from 1985 until 2019, when he and his father decided to establish a trust for their employees, then lend the trust money to buy up the

see **FOOD CITY** page A5

## Congressman Pops By To Tout Food Program



JACKSON PHOTO

Rep. Jim McGovern made a pointed effort to engage young campers at Unity Park during Monday’s press event highlighting the Summer Eats program.

By **MIKE JACKSON**

**TURNERS FALLS** – By the time the Gill-Montague food services van pulled in to set up the daily lunch distribution at Unity Park, it was clearly not a regular Monday morning. The participants and junior counselors at the Montague parks and rec department’s camp came over to line up to grab sand-

wiches, as did a smattering of unaffiliated residents and their children, but seemingly dozens of additional people were milling about in front of the park fieldhouse excitedly.

Many wore matching t-shirts, and the most awake-looking of the bunch were accessorized with lanyards.

At the center of the hubbub was a vaguely familiar-looking older man

see **PROGRAM** page A5

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Trash Pickup Rates Balloon; Architect Rehired to Redo Roof

By **KATHLEEN NOLAN**

The Erving selectboard met on Monday, June 29 to handle a range of business, including trash stickers, speeding signs, and a number of capital improvements and purchases, and then reconvened the following evening for a dangerous dog hearing.

Highway supervisor Glenn McCrory presented an updated quote for the cost of leasing a wheeled excavator with a number of attachments. The most recent quote, from June 16, with mower head and as-

phalt cutter attachments, would cost approximately \$2,700 more per year than the \$49,420 approved at the annual town meeting in May.

McCrory suggested leasing the excavator and two other attachments at a cost under the appropriated amount, and then buying the mower head and asphalt cutter separately, using highway improvement funds.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith recommended consulting the capital planning committee about this plan, and the board decided to schedule a

see **ERVING** page A8

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Cannabis Outlet Also Changing Ownership

By **KATE SAVAGE**

Gill’s cannabis dispensary is on track to have a new owner. At their meeting last Monday, June 29, the Gill selectboard approved a new host community agreement (HCA) for the Leaf Joy store with Mello Cannabis, which runs a dispensary and grow operation in the northeastern corner of the state. The board also adopted a new wage compensation plan for town staff, and approved several equipment purchases for the fire department.

Mello CEO Matthew Richman said his company has been managing Leaf Joy since January, and has seen a 40% increase in business in that time. Richman said his goal is to increase sales at Gill’s dispensary to 200 to 300 customers a day.

“I like the fact that we can take all the tax revenue from the towns across the river and bring it into Gill,” Richman said.

He said the store would retain its existing staff, including general

see **GILL** page A4

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Conservation Commissioners Uneasy About Solar Litigation

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

Conservation agent Mary Thomas and conservation commission member Trevor Kearns came to the Wendell selectboard’s meeting on July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year, asking for authorization to use town legal counsel for an ongoing hearing with Wendell Solar, LLC.

Agriculture commission chair Linda Hickman, an abutter of the

SPLENDOR

## A Peek at a Secret Garden

By **BEN GAGNON**

**GILL** – Nestled in the forest above Route 2 in Gill, Deb Loomer has been working with family and friends for 48 years to create what have been dubbed the Whimsical Shaded Hillside Gardens. This Saturday, for the first time ever, the gardens will be open for public tours as part of the Garden Conservancy’s “Open Days” program, as will the Phoenix House Gardens in Greenfield, a 2½-acre labyrinth complete with a Japanese bridge.

As a physical education teacher at Turners Falls High School for 37 years and a volleyball coach for 16, Loomer is a familiar name to many in the area. While pursuing a physical education major at UMass Amherst she also took a course in landscape design from Walter Cudnohufsky, who would go on to found the prestigious Conway School of Landscape Design.

The paths through Loomer’s hillside garden lead through a myriad of flower beds, ground-hugging plants, engraved stone bowls, bird-baths, fountains, sculptures of lions, frogs, snails, and turtles, a variety of gewgaws, head-pots, quotations etched on wood and stone, shiny gazing balls, benches, and a gazebo.

The personal motivation to



GAGNON PHOTO

A statue at the top of Deb Loomer’s hillside gardens is prepared for rain.

create such a unique landscape came from childhood visits to her great-grandmother’s urban garden in Fairview, New Jersey, and her grandmother’s garden by Lake Hopatcong, the largest lake in New Jersey. The visits were an escape for young Deb, who grew up in an apartment building near the Hudson River in West New York, New Jersey.

see **GARDEN** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town Might Soon Become Sign-Covered Arboretum

By **JEFF SINGLETON**

Summer is upon us, and so the hot topic on the Montague selectboard’s agenda at its June 29 meeting was, well, permits and licenses. These included predictable seasonal events such as the traditional Fourth of July bonfire in Montague Center, the annual Native American festival in August, the heavy metal festival in early September, and the vintage car show later that month, but also a license transfer to prospective new owners of Food City (see article, Page A1), and an alcohol license for a wedding that had already taken place.

The lengthy meeting also included a presentation on new “wayfinding” signage proposed for downtown Turners Falls; another on a range of concerns about trees; and a report-back from a strategic planning session the board had held that morning.

The evening meeting began with selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz reading a statement he had prepared about the recent controversy over whether to build a new central

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

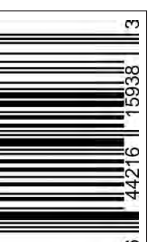


ALISTAIR MACMARTIN PHOTO

Wendellites gathered on the common on July 4 for a public reading of the Declaration of Independence and parts of the state constitution. “The Meetinghouse bell was also rung 250 times to celebrate the country’s anniversary,” Alistair MacMartin reports.

### Take a Breath, Take Ten Paces Back

Lions, Frogs, Snails, and Turtles.....A1	On the Lookout for Crumbs.....B1
A Welcomed, Surprising Suggestion.....A2	Just Needs a Cozy Spot to Nap.....B2
An Unnecessary Extravagance.....A3	Into This Quiet Corner.....B3
Not Greeted Warmly.....A4	Over Porcupines and Squirrels.....B4
Worse During the Summertime.....A5	Over the Flank of Bear Mountain.....B5
Looked Kind of Fun.....A6	Please Touch, Green Light, Desire Paths.....B6
Smells Badly of Late.....A7	Fantastic Planet, Radical Joy.....B7
With Smiley or Frowny Faces.....A8	Omit the Crowning Tangle.....B8



**SUMMER SCHEDULE:**  
**VOL. 24 #31: JULY 23**  
**VOL. 24 #32: AUGUST 6**  
**VOL. 24 #33: AUGUST 20**

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August 2002

## The Living Is Easy...

Summer is a pretty irregular time at our pretty irregular little community newspaper. The biweekly schedule in July and August is a huge boon to our small core staff... or, at least, the "off" weeks are. The "on" ones are trickier than normal.

It's not a time we're often trying to recruit or train new reporters and writers, but if that's something you're interested in and summer is a good time for you to plug in, please reach out! Shoot an email to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## Letters to the Editors Tanker Support

The Annual Meeting of the Montague Center Fire District held on June 25 was well attended, with residents voting to purchase a 3,000 gallon-tanker to replace an aging 1992 tanker. Thank you – the support was so very much appreciated.

The following morning, a letter appeared in this newspaper from CJ Lindberg of Montague suggesting that a plea could go out to the residents for donations toward this purchase.

This was certainly a welcomed, surprising suggestion. Before the vote was taken there was an idea floated out that a gift account is already set up for the Montague Center district, and any person so inclined may certainly make a donation toward the tanker. Mr. Lindberg, we like and appreciate your thinking!

The taxpayers may not be aware, but one resident within the last 10 years donated funds for the purchase of the brush truck. This truck has been a vital part of the responding fleet, serving both Montague Center and surrounding towns on mutual aid incidents.

Also of note, funds were recently used from that account to purchase handheld thermal imaging cameras, a tool that our firefighters rely on to see heat signatures in limited-visibility environments.

If folks do so want to contribute towards the purchase of the new tanker, they may make checks payable to Montague Center Fire District, PO Box 237, and earmark it to the "gift" account.

**Ann Fisk**  
Montague Center



Left to right: Staff members Olivia Wölbach and Ashlee Townsley with co-owner Molly Botnick in the kitchen of the popular Montague Center eatery Common Variety on a recent Sunday morning.

## Open Letter from the Montague SB: 'Thoughts on the Debt Exclusion'

On June 24, more than 38% of Montague's registered voters cast their ballots to decide whether to support building a new main library in Turners Falls. As you know, the vote passed by a margin of 56% yes to 44% no.

This was a heavily discussed, emotionally charged debate on both sides. That is understandable. A decision of this size affects all of us, as well as town services, and the future direction of our community.

Now that the voters have spoken, it is important that we move forward together in a cooperative and respectful manner.

To those who supported the project, we encourage you to continue the work you pledged to do: seek donations, grants, and other opportunities to help reduce the cost to taxpayers wherever possible.

Your continued effort will be important in showing the community that this project can be carried forward responsibly.

To those who opposed the project, we recognize and respect that your concerns were sincerely held. Questions about cost, affordability, priorities, and long-term impact were legitimate and deserve to remain part of the discussion as the project moves forward.

However, we are one community and whether we voted yes or no, we all share an interest in seeing this project managed carefully, transparently, and in a way that benefits Montague as a whole.

We ask everyone to put aside hard feelings, listen to one another, and work together. Healing after a close and emotional vote requires respect from both sides. It also requires a shared commitment to moving forward responsibly and constructively.

Moving forward, our hope is that we focus not on who won or lost, but on how we can come together to support our town, protect the interests of taxpayers, and help ensure that the result serves the community well for generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who participated, spoke up, asked questions, and voted. Civic participation is what strengthens our town. Let us continue that participation with the same passion, but with a renewed spirit of cooperation and unity.

**Rich Kuklewicz, Chair**  
**Marina Goldman, Vice Chair**  
**Nate Card, Clerk**  
Town of Montague Selectboard

## Charity Tourney a Big Success

The Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club recently held their annual Ed Sirum Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Thomas Memorial golf course in Montague. This year's charity was the Shriners Children's

Medical Clinic in Springfield, Mass. Franklin County businesses and individuals donated raffle prizes and hole sponsorships to help the Rod & Gun Club raise funds for the children's medical clinic, formerly known as Shriners Hospital for Children. The Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club raised \$1,600 for the clinic.

The check was hand-delivered to the Shriners' organization at a dinner held in Chicopee on the evening of June 24.

Carlton Choiniere and Joseph Coll of the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, along with Melha Shriner Jason Corey of Montague, presented the check to the Shriners.

Joseph Coll Wendell



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joseph Coll Wendell

## Chairs Missing

My wife and I are new arrivals to Turners Falls, and the dog park at the eastern end of Unity Park is one of our favorite spots. It says a lot about a community that such a place exists and is well-maintained.

One added "feature" we immediately noticed was a plastic Adirondack-style chair at the far end of the dog park. It was clear that it was popular, because folks kept moving it around to their favorite places. Unfortunately, it disappeared over the winter, probably during one of the storms that came through.

A couple of weeks ago, we placed a couple of white plastic chairs to take the old chair's place, hoping that more people would be able to enjoy the view and the sounds of the

river. Less than two days later, the chairs were gone.

These were a gift to the community, not a throw-away item. Whoever took them away is depriving countless visitors to that spot of the peace and contentment that the chairs offered.

We hope that the person or persons who took them away is reading this and will return them. That would be the right thing to do. Or perhaps someone else has one or two chairs they could place out there, in the hope that they will remain and be shared with the many people who come across them. Either way, it would be a blessing for the whole community.

Michael Dover  
Turners Falls

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# TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

I enjoyed our first summer week off...

That Friday, the day after our last edition, I saw Bill Frisell and co. play at the **Shea Theater**. While it wasn't my favorite time I've seen him, it was pretty ridiculously high-quality set to get to enjoy right downtown.

On Saturday morning I found myself out in Shelburne Falls and got to check out the gallery show at the Shelburne Arts Co-Op featuring "mixed-media work incorporating **colorshifting glass rhinestones**" by our very own distribution manager / illustrator / powerful wizard Nina Rossi, and was genuinely bedazzled. The show came down this week, unfortunately, but keep an eye out for it in other venues maybe? We'll let you know.

After that I wandered down to **Peske Park** to catch the "world music" bands playing there, and was again blown away – first by Greenfield's own Myrtle Street Klezmer, who've really leveled up, and then by cumbia-fusionists Guachinangos, who got the little crowd in the park quite hyped up and moving. Thanks to Weathervane Arts for booking that – keep up the good work.

That Sunday... Well, I apologize to anyone getting this news this way, but I attended a boisterous celebration of the life of one of the realest characters in this vicinity, our neighbor **John Anctil**, who died unexpectedly last month – no obituary, as far as I know, but he had on record an elaborate list of funerary wishes including a jazz band (quite swinging, Zara Bodé's crew) and a **dunk tank** and a whoooole lot of very good food.

I never got to know Anctil well, but he has had an out-sized impact in this town, and it was cool to meet a lot of people who've worked for his lighting, grip, and electric rental company FastLights over the years. My heartfelt condolences to everyone who was ever close with the man. It was an inspirational send-off.



JACKSON PHOTO

... I'm a little worried that is his **rooster** malingering in the Third Street lot. I couldn't catch it.

On Monday I caught up on **sleep**, on Tuesday I shared a **banana split** at Townline Ice Cream, on Wednesday I took about six months' worth of cardboard up to the **transfer station** and watched the excellent new Boots Riley movie, and on Thursday I went to the **Wadsworth Atheneum** in Hartford and ate some honest **pizza**.

And then it was back into the loving arms of the *Montague Reporter*. Thanks for letting us take breaks.

We missed a big part of the story in our June 25 article on **access to Farley Ledges**: that privately-owned parcel that has become restricted has also been for sale for months. It's on Zillow at "0 State Rd Lot 0, Erving" for \$250,000 if any of you might want to scoop it up.

"[I]t stated that you tried to contact us, which does not seem to be the case, or you did not attempt to try too hard," the owners told us. "We have no reason to have any ill will toward WMCC, rock climbers, hikers, or anyone. As landowners, we just have a different perspective that is valid and important to understand. Thanks for letting us 'clear the air' regarding this matter and please refrain from using our names." OK! (Our reporter found two out-of-service numbers and gave up after an hour. Apologies.)

Congratulations to the Leverett fire department's new **rescue boat**, which is now named "Clifford the Big Red Boat" thanks to the enrollees at Leverett Elementary.

"Every class submitted one or two names," preschool teacher Jessie Jean-Louis explains, "and then the preschool and kindergarten classes narrowed them down to four or five choices, and then each class submitted their final vote, ending with Clifford the Big Red Boat."

More Leverett fun: this Saturday, July 11, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will lead "**a hike into the wild** and woolly Ellamoose Repose Conservation Area in search of the elusive Ellamoose and other interesting critters." This all-ages, gentle, 1.5-mile hike meets at the Cave Hill Road parking area at 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, July 12 from 3 to 6 p.m., the Brick House and the Heartwing Center are throwing a "**Unity Community Cookout**" at Unity Park: "Free entry. Free food. Burgers, hot dogs, music, and a good afternoon with your neighbors."

The Brick House is also hosting a family gathering Wednesday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to noon under the Unity Park sunshade. "This is a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to get together while their kids play in the playground," they write. "We'll have snacks too!"

For bigger kids... a serious topic. The Brick House is launching a group for youth ages 13 to 17 who want to quit, or cut back on, nicotine. "**Quitting vaping or smoking** is hard, and it's a lot easier when you're not doing it alone," they say. "No judgment, no punishments. Just a group of people working toward the same goal, with snacks and folks cheering each other on." The group meets Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for the next several weeks. It's a good opportunity.

Like so many who spend time around the local music scene, my thoughts are with the friends and family of **Norma Jean Haynes**, who was gravely injured in a car crash. There's a GoFundMe to help with her medical costs. It's hard to find much sense in this universe.

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

## WENDELL from page A1

contested by, among other agents, the Wendell fire department, citing access to the site and potential runoff of toxic water in the event of a battery fire.

A hearing about the project has been continuing since August. Con com chair Ward Smith did the original wetland delineation for the site in 2018, and has recused himself from the hearing because of that, removing his expertise. On June 11 the con com received a third site plan, this one with no battery storage, but with no narrative for this change in the permit.

Kearns said the developer brought a lawyer to the most recent session, making con com members concerned that anything they said might result in litigation. He asked for the town's lawyer to attend the next session, which has been postponed to the August 11 con com meeting at the applicant's request.

Thomas added that the applicant's lawyer has become more aggressive, and that without Smith participating,

she worries the con com may miss a legal or practical step.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said that because of the cost, having a lawyer sit through an entire hearing might be an unnecessary extravagance. Member Paul Doud suggested that commissioners could ask counsel specific questions ahead of the August 11 session, and that if something at the hearing raises their legal concern, the con com can continue it again to wait for legal input. If necessary, a lawyer can come to the following session.

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley said there was under \$2,000 left in the FY'26 legal services account, but that the FY'27 account had not yet been touched.

To complicate matters, Wendell's longtime legal advisor is retiring soon.

### Other Business

DiDonato and Doud agreed to meet an hour before their next regularly scheduled meeting, on July 15, for evaluations of town employees,

including fire chief Matt O'Donnell after his first full year as chief.

Wendell citizen Chris Kranz attended the meeting, and announced that he was running to fill the recently vacated selectboard seat, and had already taken out nomination papers. A special election has been scheduled for September 1, the date of the primary election.

Kranz said fellow townspeople had told him he would be a good fit. At the time of the meeting he had no written statement, but on July 3 assistant town facilities engineer Alistair MacMartin posted a statement for him on the townwide listserv.

Kranz, a carpenter, has worked on the museum and meetinghouse and a number of private homes and town buildings, and said his experience gave him "good communication and problem solving skills." MacMartin, who worked with Kranz on the meetinghouse, recommended him with enthusiasm.

As of press time, no other candidates had been announced.



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Applications accepted until July 22, 2026.

*Leverett is an AA/EOE.*

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HOSTED BY LINDA ACKERMAN

**Saturday, July 11th**  
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**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC APOLOGY**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that CAPTAIN'S COMMAND AT BLUEBEARD'S BEACH CLUB OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. hereby publicly apologizes to TERRI SEVENE CAPUCCI, MICHAEL SEVENE and JAMES C. SEVENE, JR. for incorrectly naming them as the heirs of Barbara L. Sevene, having an interest in Week Number 10 in Villa Unit Number 225 in Captain's Command at Bluebeard's Beach Club, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands.

Captain's Command has been informed that the heirs are Rodney and Sheri Demers, Russel and Joanne Demers, Paul and Deborah Demers, of Turners Falls, Massachusetts, Ed and Carol Demers of Colrain, Massachusetts and Melissa and Arthur Patenaude of Vermont.

Richard H. Dollison, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff,  
Captain's Command at  
Bluebeard's Beach Club

**WE DIG  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTY**

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



**(413) 774-1285**

GILL from page A1

manager Olivia Ellis, who has managed the store since it opened.

Richman said the previous owners are "nice guys, but they're in New York, and this is a side thing for them.... Unfortunately, the store was really left for dead. I congratulated Olivia for keeping the existing customers that she has, because the store has no product."

In addition to restocking the store and putting on a new coat of bright blue paint, Richman said the company is interested in potentially adding a "tasteful" mural and hosting events with local vendors outside the store.

Richman said he is not "the normal cannabis CEO," as he is an accountant who started his career at Deloitte. "We come to compete," he said. "We grow our own products. We run a lost-cost business. We're run by a finance guy."

Selectboard members Charles Garbiel and John Ward voted to amend the HCA to be with Mello Gill, and extended its expiration

date until three years from that week. Selectboard member Jenn Waldron was absent.

"We're happy to see somebody step in, especially with experience, and keep the upper management that's local," said Garbiel.

#### Fire Department

Fire chief Billy Kimball came to the meeting with a list of purchase orders he hoped would be approved before the end of the fiscal year. "I didn't buy any equipment in the beginning of the year," Kimball said. "I wanted to make sure that I had it in my budget."

The board approved the replacement of 20 sets of brush fire equipment, at a cost of \$11,000. Kimball said the current equipment had seen significant wear and tear.

"We have way more brush fires than we have structure fires," said Kimball. "Every year the brush fires seem to be increasing." New weather trends, he explained, are creating drier springs, drier falls, and "more

prevalent, deep-rooted, larger brush fires, approaching the wildfire style that you see on the Cape."

The board also approved spending a total of \$13,580 for purchases including a new electronic reader system that recognizes when firefighters are at the station's door; materials to transition the department's phones to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) rather than copper phone wires; two chainsaw conversion kits so the tools can be used to cut structures like asphalt roofs; two iPads for the department's vehicles; and an attachment for the gas calibration bay so the department's portable gas meters can be calibrated monthly.

"If you've got them all on your budget and you've got two days to spend it, you might as well get what you need to keep everyone safe," said Garbiel.

The board appointed Logan Caron as a firefighter. Kimball said Caron was an athlete at Greenfield High School who was coached by Gill firefighter Stuart Elliott. "As


you know, we've had a lot that come from that direction," said Kimball.

Kimball announced that the fire department was planning to hold an open house on Sunday, August 2.

#### Other Business

The board voted to adopt a new wage scale and a 3% cost-of-living increase for town employees, following the recommendations of the personnel committee. The new plan has four more steps than the old one: employees will rise a step for each year of their employment, rather than every two years as they did with the old scale.

The board "regretfully accepted" the resignation of Dick French from the planning board after 20 years of service, and from the agricultural commission after 15 years.

Purinton announced that the Gillbilly Paddle is back on for this Saturday, July 11. Boats will launch at 10 a.m. from the Northfield Mount Hermon School docks. 

#### NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Candle Compound Cash-out Could Constrict Coffers; Constituents Crave Canine Corral, Confer Cranes

By GEORGE BRACE

Dog parks, world peace, and historical preservation were on the agenda at Leverett's June 30 selectboard meeting. The board also heard a warning about tax revenue related to the sale of the former Kittredge estate.

After other attendees were asked to speak up due to a loud rainstorm, resident Marty Klein prefaced his request for the selectboard to consider creating a dog park by saying, "I grew up in the Bronx, and words that were never directed to me are, 'Can you please speak up?'"

Although he does not own a dog, Klein said he had three reasons to want a dog park: to provide an opportunity for dog owners to socialize; to provide the same for dogs; and to try to reduce the number of unleashed dogs he encounters on hiking trails. He told the board he has encountered dogs over 100 times while hiking, and that contrary to town regulations, 90% of them were unleashed and 95% did not respond to their owners' commands.

While not "ill-disposed" to dogs, Klein said, he has been bitten by them and is "not particularly fond" of them, and does not feel it is his responsibility to "discern their intentions" as they run towards him.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy and member Jed Proujansky said they opposed Klein's suggestion that a park might be created near the library, as it would impinge on a play area used by elementary school students, but that it might be possible elsewhere. Member Tom Hankinson suggested an area behind the public safety complex.

Duffy added, however, that the town budget was tight, and encouraged Klein to consider fundraising for a park, taking maintenance costs into account. She suggested "creating a culture of obeying the dog laws" as an alternative approach.

Proujansky commented that a park may not achieve Klein's third goal, as many people prefer to walk their dogs on trails. Klein agreed, and suggested posting the regulations at trailheads, as he is "not greeted warmly" when he tells dog owners about them, even though he does so "nicely."

The situation, he said, is unfair to dogs, their owners, and the town as a whole, which all run risks associated with dog bites.

Hankinson asked Klein to draft language for potential trailhead signs. Klein said he would do so, and offered to report back after a year if signs are put in place.

#### Field Building

The selectboard discussed the plan to develop

proposals for the use of the historic Field Library building, which has long fallen into disrepair, and firmed up a timeline. At May's annual town meeting, residents voted to give interested parties two more years to come up with ideas for its conversion into a "multi-use" facility, which would include space for storage of some of the town's historical artifacts, with the goal that it could also support itself financially.

Duffy outlined a two-track process. Track One focuses on repairing the building's "envelope," or basic structure. Duffy reported that a small group is already working on a plan for this, and intends to finish it in time to apply for Community Preservation Act funding by the town's October 1 deadline.

Track Two, she said, involves gathering ideas from the community on what to use the building for besides archival storage. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she had drafted a form for submitting these proposals.

Proujansky described the submission form as a "good place to end, not a good place to begin," and said he wanted to generate more enthusiasm for the project, though summer was not a great time to do so. The board plans to encourage community participation through advertising, and to hold a public meeting in the fall where residents can share ideas, and perhaps form groups to further develop those they find promising.

Silas Ball, who served on the *ad hoc* committee which recently spent several years creating a report on the building's condition and potential, said its disposition has been talked about for 25 years, and urged the board to keep moving forward.

#### A Very Serious Time

Sister Clare Carter of the New England Peace Pagoda appeared before the selectboard to "say hello," and to expand on her request earlier in the month for the board to encourage neighboring towns to join the "Mayors for Peace" (MFP) organization.

The network, which Leverett joined in 2005, was formed in the 1980s by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and survivors of the atomic bombings of those cities, and seeks the abolition of nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Carter said one of the things she likes about the group was that it is not motivated by money or power, but the "fundamental morality of the life of humanity and the earth."

Carter said that we are in a "very serious time," with an increased potential for the use of nuclear weapons, and that the Peace Pagoda is inspired to "breathe new life" into the MFP,

which currently has nine member communities in the Connecticut River valley. She presented the town officials with strings of origami cranes, which she said were tokens of the Pagoda's gratitude for their support and appreciation for the people of Leverett.

McGinnis said she had drafted a letter to area towns and would send it out soon.

#### Trouble Ahead

McGinnis relayed a "heads up" from board of assessors member Jim Staros that the sale of the former Kittredge estate on Juggler Meadow Road may affect a pending appeal of the property's local tax assessment, and "could have a fairly large impact on the town's revenue." No further details were provided.

The estate, which is composed of 17 adjacent parcels in Leverett and three in Amherst, was put on the market in 2023 for \$23 million by Michael Kittredge II, son of the late Yankee Candle founder Michael Kittredge, and pitched as a potential site for a 400-unit housing development. That plan met with resistance from Leverett residents and the property remained unsold until this May, when it was purchased by a golf professional, reportedly for \$4.5 million.

The elder Kittredge won a multi-year appeal before the state Appellate Tax Board (ATB) in 2019, reducing the total assessed value of seven of the estate's 17 Leverett parcels from \$9.9 million to \$6.5 million.

A subsequent appeal by Michael Kittredge II is now pending before the ATB.

#### Other Business

The selectboard signed a series of annual appointments and reappointments to town positions.

The board appointed Juniper Katz to the energy committee, Case Seeger as a part-time transfer station attendant, and Abby Lamborn as a conservation commission agent. A prior applicant for the conservation agent position had reportedly withdrawn.

Maureen Ippolito questioned the legality of payments from the conservation commission's donation account to town legal counsel for work related to the Evans-Marlowe family's suit against the town in land court, and requested that the board review her research into the matter. The board agreed to do so.

After some discussion, the board decided against a suggestion to include death notices in the town newsletter. Members noted that some people do not want such notices posted, and that doing so may open the door to requests for other types of announcements.

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**FOOD CITY** from page A1

company's stock. A consultant advising on the process told the *Reporter* at that time that under the employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), all Food City staff working 1,000 hours or more a year would become "vested" in the stock over a five-year period – though the trust would also be repaying the loan for the first 15 years, he said, limiting the stock's initial value.

SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY

**Will the Employees Vote?**

If a group of people own a company, can it be sold without their involvement? The answer, apparently, is "sometimes." According to a 2024 article by managing director Anthony Dolan of Prairie Capital Advisors, a firm specializing in employee-ownership transitions,

... the board may decide to accept a purchase offer. However, before a sale can be finalized, the trustee has to vote the ESOP stock either in favor of or against the deal. In addition, depending on the type of sale, the vote may need to be passed through to the ESOP participants.

There are two basic types of sales: a purchase of assets and a purchase of stock. With a purchase of assets, the buyer receives the company's assets and may or may not take on the company's liabilities. In comparison, if the buyer purchases the company's stock, they take on the liabilities as well as the assets...

[I]n general, if the buyer proposes a purchase of stock, the trustee can decide whether or not to move forward without input from the participants. However, if the buyer wishes to purchase the company's assets, the vote is typically required to be passed through to the plan participants who will need to cast a ballot in favor of or against a sale of the company's assets....

[T]he trustee can theoretically supersede the participant vote if the trustee believes it would be a breach of their fiduciary duty to follow the participants' vote. However, this is extremely rare.

The *Reporter* is curious to see whether the Food City worker-owners will be asked to weigh in, but neither the seller nor the buyer has been clear about the steps. Contact [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org) if you have the scoop, or a copy of the ESOP plan!

The consultant, Marcus Piquet of Ambrose Advisors, also explained that day-to-day decisions about the trust would be made by a trustee, who would also sit on the company's board of directors, but that in the case of a "major corporate event" the shareholders may be called upon to vote.

Reached by telephone this week, Sclar said the decision to sell the chain to Patel had been made in the "best interest of the employees," though he also cautioned that the sale had not yet "gone through," and described the process as "heavily regulated."

On Monday, June 29, the Montague selectboard approved a request to transfer the grocery store's wine and malt beverages license from Crooked River Corporation, the entity that currently owns the store building and holds the liquor license, to Shiv Holdings Corporation, a Massachusetts company created this year by Patel.

Matthew Porter, an attorney representing Shiv Holdings at the license hearing, said that after the sale "everything would stay the same" at the store.

Selectboard member Nate Card asked him if that included the "employee stock relationship." A banner reading "Employee Owned" hangs on the front of the Turners Falls store, and under the 2019 agreement, all of the chain's stock is now theoretically held by employees. Sixty-four staff work at the local store, though not all are stockholders.

"Yep, it does," said Porter. "So, that is underway. Obviously, because of that portion of it, it needs to be approved as well, so the sale is subject upon that. But it will continue, and that process is underway right now."

Contradicting this, the *Greenfield Recorder* reported a week later that according to Sclar, the new owners will reimburse vested workers for their shares.

Sclar repeated this on Wednesday, confirming that the chain's employee-owned status would end, and added that he will be staying on as a consultant during the transition.

Attempts to reach Patel this week for additional information were not answered as of press time. The Lowell-based entrepreneur, whose holdings include a number of small grocery and convenience stores in Maine, declined to comment last month on the transition plan while the sale was still pending.



**PROGRAM** from page A1

wearing sneakers and a blazer, speaking warmly to anyone he was pointed at but staying right on message. Jim McGovern, the member of the US House of Representatives for 2nd District of Massachusetts, was here on what was billed as the "12th annual Summer Food Rocks Tour," an endeavor to draw media attention to a very simple, easy-to-overlook mass campaign: Summer Eats, an alternative statewide distribution of food that picks up when schools, the main social safety net for hungry children, are closed.

The stats are staggering: 40% of households with children statewide experience food insecurity; in Franklin County, the rate is 48%.

The federal Summer Food Service Program sends funds to the

states for the food – in Massachusetts, the program is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) – but DESE's "outreach partner" is Project Bread, the Boston non-profit best known for the annual Walk for Hunger fundraiser.

"We get special funding here in Massachusetts, in particular, for Project Bread to promote the program," Erin McAleer, the organization's president, explained before clarifying that though the organization has held the role since the 1990s. DESE technically puts the contract out to bid biannually.

"It's a really, really big program," McAleer added. "Last summer, in the month of July, about 2.1 million meals were served.... The biggest barrier is that people don't know it

exists. And so, how do we promote the program?"

Besides the outreach and the fundraising, she said, and besides high-level policy advocacy, Project Bread staff work behind the scenes to study demographic and poverty data, compare likely food needs with the program's reach, and scout out new sites to recommend to DESE.

McAleer said the most important way to help the fight food insecurity is to combat "false narratives." "There's this misconception that it's only people who are homeless, or living in dire poverty," she said. "But the reality is, in Massachusetts, a lot of people are working 40, 60, 80 hours a week and still struggling to put food on the table."

Gill-Montague food service manager Abigail Pease, now in her second year on the job, told the *Reporter* that the school district's kitchen supplies a number of smaller sites in the area each day, driving vans to Hillcrest Elementary School, Erving Elementary School, and the Carnegie Library as well as Unity Park. Staff from the downtown service agencies Heartwing and the Brick House, meanwhile, come to the park to pick up their shares, as do staff from a summer camp at Bernardston Elementary.

Any child who wants is eligible for the lunches, and can take a breakfast to go for the next morning.

"We're usually serving just around 100 [lunches] here every day," said Pease. One day last week, she said, the staff handed out chicken and waffles to 81 kids – even though the camp kids were elsewhere.

"We pick up a dozen lunches each day, with bagged breakfast for the next day," said Brick House youth programs director Hannah



Campers and counselors line up for lunch from Summer Eats outside the Unity Park fieldhouse on Monday, mostly ignoring the tiny media circus unfolding around them.

**Tip of the week ...**

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**Project Description:** Greenfield – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Route 2A  
**Project File No. 613591**

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed project in Greenfield, MA.  
**WHERE:** John Zon Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield, MA 01301  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of constructing a proposed shared-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians along the north side of Route 2A between Colrain Road/Robbins Road and Shelburne Road/River Street. It connects two existing projects and fills a gap in the bicycle and pedestrian planned network that will connect further to Greenfield City Center.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603), or email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign language, CART, or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events).

**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.**  
CHIEF ENGINEER

**NOTICE OF INTENT**  
**United States Department of Agriculture Funding**

The Town of Montague has filed an Application for Federal Assistance with the USDA, Rural Development. This application for financial assistance will be for funding under the Rural Utilities Service, Part 1780, Water and Waste Loans and Grants and was submitted on June 26, 2026. The specific elements of the project include wastewater collection system rehabilitation to address critical deficiencies in the Town's aging sewer infrastructure and to meet federal regulatory requirements. The project is anticipated to cost \$2,972,400.

Any comments regarding this application should be submitted to Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller ([chrisn@montague-ma.gov](mailto:chrisn@montague-ma.gov)) within fifteen days of this publication.

Bertrand. "A large majority of the youth who come to our teen center are reliant on school meals, so having access to meals all summer prevents a gap in food access for many of our families."

McGovern, who has made food security a core part of his political brand, was happy to spiel about the state of play in Washington. Aides beckoned him and McAleer together to film a short video on the event for social media.

"We're playing defense," he told the *Reporter*. "We've got over 48 million people in this country who are hungry or food-insecure; a lot of them are children. How do you learn? How do you grow up to be a

healthy adult if you don't have access to nutrition every day? You don't..."

"I don't understand why there's such a controversy with Republicans in Congress over prioritizing these programs. Millionaires and billionaires, and now that trillionaire, get tax cuts, but they're cutting SNAP by \$200 billion."

"I think some people feel like, 'Well, it doesn't matter. Let me pull the shade, wake me up when it's over.' That's a tactic that they're using to try to get people to disengage.... If they start destroying some of these important programs, it's going to be awfully hard to try to resuscitate them. So this is worth fighting for."



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# Great Falls Middle School & Turners Falls High School 4th Quarter Honor Roll

## – Grade 6 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Antony Castro-Siano, Lilith Cutaia, Lucia Diaz, Zeke Diaz, Lucas Edson, Liam Fox, Phoenix Inzer, Makenzie Lafave, John Lemerise-Reinking, Owen Martineau, Kimberlenn Mason-Emond, Alexis Preissler, Eleanor Ramsey, Chase Robinson, Annika Sadler, Shaylynn Slauenwhite

**SECOND HONORS**  
Lyla Burek, Madison D'Amici, Beverly De Jesus Arteaga, Ruby McMahon, Tianna Moise Valdez, Anthony Nuckols, Analice Perry, Joshua Pfisterer, Colton Rider, Michael Rosa, Milaidy Tomas Mejia, Ashley Torres Ovalle, Lilliana Wade, Ashley Wait, Ariana Wardynski, Lilly Waryas, Airabella Whipple

**THIRD HONORS**  
Ryker-Sylas Blier, Emelilia Petrizzi, Brailynn Swindell, Tyler Varilly

## – Grade 7 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Ryker Bray, Darcie Chagnon, Rowan Deery, Grace Giguere, Sigurd Hyatt, Oscar Muzzi, Aaron Neupane, Edward Pfisterer, Madison Phillips, Lilith Sumner, Malcolm Tyler, William Tyler, Owen Williams, Travis Williams

**SECOND HONORS**  
Louis Burek, Kenzie Flaxington, Carter Greene, Konrad Henry, Ryan Newton, Nathan Ortiz, Quest Petersen, Spencer Towne

**THIRD HONORS**  
Brenna Guilbault, Rylee Malek, Izaiah Matthews, Liam McGuigan, Emmanuel Quezada Abarua, Sophia Ramos, Alannah Renaud

## – Grade 8 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Dijon Arjona, Kaleb Briggs, Lylah Brocklesby, Mikayla Cormie, Andrew Eichorn, Jaylah Fisher, Jazelle Gonzalez, Isabella Griffith, Josephine Hayman, Emma Jardine, Page Katsoulis, Ava Laffey, Jo Licata, Amber Marcy, Nathaniel Martin, Anna McCarthy, Izzabella Otto, Daisha Ovalle Perez, Gabriel Palazzo, Alexis Parker, Gracie Jo Philip, Kyle Porter, Mya Ramos, Eleni Reipold, Janessa Sadler, Johnathan Sicard, Rhiannon Smith, Maria Solano, Taelynn Supernault, Westin Tela

**SECOND HONORS**  
Julian Bowden-Smith, Lydia Cadran, Nevaeh Call, Desmond Dubow, Kaelynn Dudek, Braedyn Firth, Silas Lively, Cooper Malone, Genevieve Otero, Liam Pielock, Fiona Ribeiro, James Sanchez, Ella Shaw-Jarvis, Azariah Stebbins, Parker Walters

**THIRD HONORS**  
Lailah Jenks, Leon Tomas Mejia

## – Grade 9 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Ella Larouche, Zuleimy Morales Morales, Brielle Perez, Myaa Reed, Emely Sanchez Abarua, Bethany Whitney

**SECOND HONORS**  
Kaiya Adams, Kaylee Adamski, Brandy Beauchesne, Malachi Bouchard, Jenna-Lee Brown, Chloey Bucinskas, Camden Cogswell, Nicholas Damkoehler, Jace Fisher, Connor Glennon, Devin Gray, Liam Kerivan, Tyler Newton, Melyn Ramirez Martin, Viviana Rosa

**THIRD HONORS**  
Ameliya Laramie-LaClaire, Gracie O'Neil, Asiah Parker, Zializze Perez-Gonzalez, Isabella Pfisterer-Hill, Allison Raymond, Romeo Ruiz Scott, Jordan Welcome

## – Grade 10 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Sato Bazemore, Daniel Morales Gonzalez, Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero, Lynx Petracchia, Nicole Porter, Olivia Wolbach, Kamden Zagame

**SECOND HONORS**  
Freilyn Abarua Corona, Sergey Alexeyenko, Jameson Betters, Cameryn Carner, Tori Chagnon, Braeden Charboneau, Summer Engleman, Ameliya Galbraith, Jaclyn Galvez Martin, Madison Haight, William Hutchison, Kylee Jenks, Michael Johnson, Addison Lively, Trevor Lyons, Ashton Marshall, Chase Maynard, Abigail Moffatt, Echo Myers, Vinicio Palazzo, Aiyana Simmons, Emmett Spriggs, Edward Walsh, Jakhia Williams, Chloe Wonsey

**THIRD HONORS**  
Lachlan Banister Potter, Kourtney Cummings, Morgan Deluca, Jazzlyn Gonzalez, Dakota Mimitz, Anakin Niedzielski, Genesis Pereira, Troy Thomas, Gabriella Trinquet, Athena Willor

## – Grade 11 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Keira Feeley, Gianna Marigliano, Layla Mathieu, Andrew Rodriguez, Paige Simmons, Brayden Slauenwhite, Addison Talbot

**SECOND HONORS**  
Makayla Carney, Porter Dubow, Makayla Fournier, Derek Jean, Rae Juarbe, Julian Kaiser, Ivy Lopez, Angel Ruiz Scott, Brayden Sloan, Marketa Vachula-Curtis

**THIRD HONORS**  
Johnny Bartolon, John Burt, Grayson Gary, Lia Little, Noah Shipley-Aja

## – Grade 12 –

**FIRST HONORS**  
Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo, Rojelio Galvez Mendez, Clara Guidaboni, Michaela Klompner-Siano, Allister Kolakoski, Shayly Martin Ovalle, Evelyn Moore, Elizabeth Polatin, Tobias Wilson-Hill

**SECOND HONORS**  
Michael Berdugo, Jackson Cogswell, Madisyn Dietz, Ethan Eichorn, Elsee Galvez Martin, Ciana James, Cameron Johnson, Janelle Massey, David Ortiz, Kainen Stevens, Jessica Therrien, Angelina Tidlund, Christopher Ulloa Abarua

**THIRD HONORS**  
Curtis Brito, Noah Kolodziej, Kevin Perez Cueto



GAGNON PHOTOS

Deb Loomer makes the rounds of her sprawling garden every day.

### GARDEN from page A1

"I watched my grandmother garden and I thought it looked kind of fun, and it was a very pretty garden," she said. After the matrons of the family passed away, Loomer transplanted rhododendrons, peonies, and milkshake hostas from Lake Hopatcong to Gill, along with weigela and daisies from Fairview.



A tin blue bird perches in a bush.

Now the sprawling garden is a daily escape for Loomer, who tends to the wide variety of plants and sits on one of the many benches to soak up the colors and fragrances. Two artificial knees, an artificial hip, and a steel rod in her back haven't stopped her making the daily rounds. One of the quotations placed in the garden reads, "Think Outside: No box necessary."

Loomer's husband Steven, who passed away in 2007, built the decks and helped her build the garden walls from Ashfield stone. They raised two children, Brady and Erika, in the two-story house she designed and he built. Another quotation in the garden reads, "One who blooms in our hearts can never be forgotten."

Like in most planned gardens, something new is always blooming.

"The azaleas bloom first in pink, purple, white, and orangish, then the rhododendrons bloom, then the mountain laurel, and by then it's time for the annuals like zin-

nias, geraniums, marigolds, million bells – the little purple ones – and Rose of Sharon starts blooming in July," she said. "I choose things because they're fun, they have a funny name, or I like the color."

As she walks down one of the many paths, Loomer "deadheads" flowers, plucking off blooms that have wilted, "so more of the plant's energy goes to the new flowers."

"I like the structure of a garden, so you can walk through it," she said. "Nature is very soothing. You can lose yourself, and find peace. And every garden has to have at least one bench, so you can sit and do nothing but enjoy the beauty of it all."

When Loomer taught wellness classes at Turners Falls High School, she emphasized the importance of spending time immersed in nature. "I told them you have to get outside to a place with no distractions," she said.

Each of Loomer's many gardens has a different theme, often emerging from memories of traveling the world with family and friends. She's visited every National Park in the United States as well as the Himalayas, Machu Picchu, and Africa. Every time the family traveled through big cities, they would visit

a museum, an amusement park, and a botanical garden.

Recreating memories of childhood includes "tacky beach things" that Loomer fondly remembers from visiting the Jersey Shore: One of her gardens features white-bearded gnomes, Snow White, and Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Other parts of the sprawling gardens feature stone carvings of Shiva and the Buddha, Mexican pottery, blue sculptures and blue cornflowers, red gewgaws and red flowers, and a bee theme including the quotation, "Bee kind, bee positive, bee you."

"Who can argue with that?" she said.

The regional "ambassador" of the Garden Conservancy is Sarah Chadwick of Hadley, who recruits people to open their gardens to the public.

"It's been so exciting to find these hidden treasures in our area and to make delightful new friends," said Chadwick. "The program is marvelous, and does such wonderful things for garden conservation." Tickets to Saturday's tours are \$10 for non-members, with children under 12 admitted free.

Based in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Conservancy works nationally to protect gardens of horticultural, historical, and design significance. Since its founding in 1989 the nonprofit has helped ensure the survival of more than 100 public gardens, sponsored lectures and symposia, and produced documentaries that highlight gardens as cultural landscapes and living works of art.



One section of the thematic garden is devoted to bees.

The Whimsical Shaded Hillside Gardens in Gill and the Phoenix House Gardens in Greenfield will be open for tours this Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Find tickets at [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) by navigating to "Open Days," and then on to "Garden Directory."



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1  
library downtown, which had culminated in a 56% vote to endorse a debt exclusion to fund it. (See Page A2.) The letter noted that the debate had been “emotionally charged,” but stated that “[n]ow that the voters have spoken, it is important that we move forward together in a cooperative and respectful manner.”

On the recommendation of town administrator Walter Ramsey, the board voted unanimously to endorse the public statement.

**Everywhere a Sign**

The board heard a presentation by Jess Marsh of Hired Hand Signs, a company based in downtown Turners Falls, of “design concepts” for an expansion and overhaul of the “wayfinding” signage in that neighborhood.

Town planner Maureen Pollock said the project was funded by a grant from the state Executive Office of Economic Development “to help improve navigation for pedestrians and motorists,” and was the product of public input at two meetings. Hired Hand Signs and the consulting company VHB are implementing the plan.

Marsh showed renderings of a wide range of proposed signs welcoming people to Turners Falls and directing travelers to a variety of parks, historic buildings, and other locations. The colors for different categories of destination, she explained, were inspired by the brown brick on many downtown buildings, the green railings on the Turners Falls-Gill bridge, and the blue water in the river and canal. A typeface was chosen “that didn’t look too modern, but also didn’t look too dated.”

Card advocated for involving students from the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) in the production of the signs, and urged Marsh to use a “colorblindness simulator” to ensure that people with “the various types of colorblindness aren’t going to have difficulty.”

One image Marsh shared showed the façade of Montague’s town hall festooned with large lettering naming the building and all five villages, which she suggested might clear up some of “the confusion for people in the region” about the status of the villages within the town.

“This is just an idea,” she said. “Nobody has to freak out.”

“I did freak a little when I saw the front of town hall all painted,” said Kuklewicz. “But I do know that signs were painted on many, many buildings in the past.”

“They sure were,” said Marsh. The board did not take a vote on the matter.

**Arbor Daze**

The next item on the agenda, labeled “tree committee business,” featured tree advisory committee co-founder and current member David Detmold.

The advisory committee, Detmold said, “supports the current tree warden,” Jason Kingsbury, “in his resignation,” which had been announced earlier in the meeting and was to take effect two days later. Kingsbury and other public works department staff, he said, had been very helpful in planting and caring for a large influx of grant-funded trees.

Detmold argued that the small stipend for the warden, who has traditionally been a DPW employee, is “out of touch with the reality of

how difficult and demanding and time-consuming the job is.” He said that in 2008 the stipend for the warden was \$2,267, and has increased by less than \$500 over the last 18 years. He added that he had been informed that the finance committee plans to review all of the stipended positions this summer.

At Ramsey’s request, Detmold said, the committee had inspected and written a report on the ash trees along Avenue A, and had decided that one was in poor condition and would need, after a required public hearing, to be removed.

Jeff Warren, a tree advisory committee member from Millers Falls, presented a proposal to seek accreditation for the town as an “arboretum” by ArbNet, an international tree professional network. This would require documenting 25 trees of different species in the town – five in each village, perhaps – as “especially noteworthy,” in Detmold’s words, and could perhaps lead to labeling them as “iconic trees” so visitors could take a guided tour.

The board did not vote on either issue, but agreed to improve communication about construction projects that might have an impact on public trees.

**Happenings**

The board heard proposals by RiverCulture director Suzanne Lomanto concerning two events on First Street: the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, which celebrates Native history, art, music, and crafts, from July 31 to August 2, and the Northeast Unity Car Show, which will feature Volkswagens and Audis “of any vintage,” on Sunday, September 20. This will be the 13th year of the Homelands Festival and the fourth of the car show.

The board endorsed two agreements with the FirstLight power company to use its riverside property along First Street, the closure of a portion of the street for both events, and an entertainment license for the Homelands Festival.

The board also approved closure of the Shea Theater parking lot on July 3 to project fireworks, and local Fourth of July footage from 1951, on a wall. A request from the Montague Center fire department to close a portion of Station Street for that village’s annual bonfire in the adjacent park on the same night was also approved.

Brian Westbrook, founder and organizer of RPM Fest, an annual Labor Day weekend “camp-out” at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club on Turners Falls Road featuring “heavy music,” updated the board on this year’s event, which already has an entertainment license. He said the police department would be providing a patrol officer, and that the festival was working with the public health and building departments for food vendor and tent permits.

**Whoopsie**

The final license request the board considered was for a permit to serve beer and wine at a wedding at the Montague Retreat Center the previous Saturday.

Retreat Center director Jason Cohen explained that the venue was in the process of changing its policies to make it easier for customers to arrange their own bar service, but that there had been a mix-up, and it was realized too late that the company catering the wedding had no

active alcohol license of its own.

The selectboard’s executive assistant, Fern Smith, had suggested that the venue request retroactive approval of a license. The board voted 3-0 to approve one.

Cohen said he had checked the 24 other weddings scheduled to take place this season, and found three others that did not appear to have the appropriate licenses lined up. One of these was scheduled for the coming Saturday, so the selectboard also approved a beer and wine license for that day.

Kristi Bodin, a local attorney who specializes in liquor licensing, told the board “just for the record” that the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission does not permit liquor licenses to be granted retroactively.

**Other Business**

The selectboard made a number of appointments to boards and committees, and approved a long list of annual positions that must be filled at the beginning of each fiscal year.

The board appointed Diana Pedrosa the new part-time administrative assistant for the Council on Aging, FCTS student Matthew Durham to a full-time summer maintenance role at the Turners Falls municipal airport, and police chief Jason Haskins as the town constable.

Kingsbury’s resignation as tree warden was formally accepted, and police officer Cody Wells was removed from injured-on-duty status.

Ramsey reported that the prudential committee of the Turners Falls fire district, an independent authority, had recently sent a letter inviting the town to join discussions about potential consolidation of the town’s fire and water districts. He suggested setting up a “working group,” and the selectboard appointed member Marina Goldman to represent it on the matter.

Ramsey also reviewed the results of the strategic planning “retreat” he had held that morning with the selectboard to set priorities for its focus during the fiscal year starting on July 1. The members had identified five overall priorities at the morning session, and did not take any additional votes on the list in the evening meeting.

“Number one,” Ramsey said, was coordinating major capital projects, such as a new central library, a proposed rebuild of the FCTS, and consolidating the town’s two remaining elementary schools. “Number two” was implementing “transformative” redevelopment projects, such as the mixed-use plan for the Farren Hospital site, the demolition of the former Strathmore mill complex, and the reuse of the current Carnegie library.

Next, he said, was protecting the town’s long-term fiscal stability: mitigating the loss of revenue from a recent agreement on “payments in lieu of taxes” with FirstLight; researching different health insurance options for employees; and working with legislators to revise state aid formulas, particularly for education.

The final priorities identified were promoting better regional collaboration, including potential consolidation of fire and water districts within Montague and of school districts and ambulance services regionally, and improving communication and trust with residents.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, July 13.

**LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

*Here’s the way it was on June 30 and July 7, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.*

eral’s office stated that “it is our policy neither to confirm or deny investigations.”

**Board OKs  
Dodge to Work**

The Montague selectboard took police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge off paid administrative leave Monday night, returning him to his official duties without explaining why he had been taken off them last Thursday. The board issued a terse statement saying that the “Chief has the full support of the board and we are confident in his abilities,” and that he “has been open and forthright in his handling of this situation.”

The selectboard’s statement did not specify what “this situation” was, but referred to an “ongoing investigation by the [state] Attorney General’s office.” That investigation was apparently discussed in a non-public session prior to the Chief being placed back on duty.

A source at the Attorney Gen-

**School Closing  
Alleged To Be Illegal**

Former Hallmark Institute of Photography owner and president George Rosa III made a bombshell allegation Wednesday, claiming the school’s current owner, Premier Education Group LP, has been winding down its operations quietly this year in an attempt to avoid regulatory scrutiny.

Rosa said the school was conducting a “teach-out” of its 10 remaining students without notifying the proper authorities. “The community part of this is that it looks like Hallmark is about to close,” Rosa said.

The reason they haven’t asked the required permission to close, Rosa added, is that it would jeopardize their access to Title IV financial aid “for all of their other schools.”

**20 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on June 29, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.*

This so-called “southern section,” which will cross the Connecticut River on a former railroad trestle, is being built by Northern Construction Co. of Weymouth, who won the bid at \$1,616,692.

**If It Ever Stops Raining**

While the canalside section of the Montague bike path has been held up since last summer, construction has begun between Montague City Road and McClellan Farm Road in Deerfield.

Weeks of rain have delayed completion of the \$1,355,396 “northern section” along the canal from Depot Street to Unity Park. The southern section should be complete by spring of 2007.

**140 YEARS AGO**

*Here’s the way it was on June 30 and July 7, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.*

day be forgotten.

**Turners Falls and Vicinity**

Four new business blocks going up on the Avenue give an old time air to the place. We’re bound to be a great place.

R.M. Starbuck & Co. have begun on the foundation of their fine business block on the avenue.

C.P. Wise will give away 200 packs of playing cards on Thursday, July 1st, one pack to each person buying a ten cent plug of Lorillard’s splendid tobacco.

Geo. C. Lougee’s handsome colt died the other day.

The water from the river smells badly of late, and most of the drinking water is carried from the cutlery spring in pitchers.

The selectmen received the blessing of the entire community for the notable absence of the fire cracker nuisance, Saturday and Monday. It is to be hoped that the relic of barbarism will some

The “corner loafer nuisance” is great in different parts of the village and Administrator Eppler is having the rail on the Second street side of Schuler block spiked so as to keep the gang from roosting on it, to the annoyance of ladies passing.

Rev. Father Perreault, the French priest, is doing a noble temperance work among his people. He has established a temperance society, and has already 220 members pledged to moderation, but not total abstinence.

Complaints have been made by parties having sheds for their carriages, that numerous boys frequent the places, sit in the carriages, play cards, and mark and deface the property. Mr. Wise had a grocery wagon fresh from the paint shop, and in a few days the young gamins had all the gilt lettering on the sides scratched and almost destroyed.

A man with an attack of the delirium tremens on the street attracted a big crowd Sunday.



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**ERVING** from page A1

joint meeting with that committee on July 13.

The annual town meeting voted \$30,000 to extend the Erving Public Library roof to protect the library's air-handling equipment, which has been damaged by ice and snow melt from the roof. Town administrator Bryan Smith presented a proposal from Johnson Roberts Associates, the architects who designed the building, for \$29,460 to design a solution and then prepare bid specifications and permitting documents.

Jacob Smith expressed concern about hiring Johnson Roberts. "They didn't get it right the first time," he pointed out.

Bryan Smith replied that the firm understands the building, and may be able to prepare designs more quickly than another firm. "There will be many eyes watching this carefully," he added, including McCrory, facilities manager Thomas Duffy, library director Abigail Baines, and the library trustees.

The board voted to hire Johnson Roberts for \$11,215 for the first phase of the project – designing a solution and preparing a rough cost estimate for construction – but to reserve the remainder for the bid specifications phase.

**State-Backed Projects**

Wastewater supervisor Peter Sanders asked the board's permission to submit an "expression of interest" for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan to pay for new clarifiers at the POTW#2 treatment plant. Clarifiers separate pollutants from the wastewater, often as a final step in the treatment process.

The SRF loan would be at a 2% interest rate, he said, and might be partially forgivable.

The next evening, Sanders informed the board that engineering consultant Tighe & Bond would prepare the expression of interest for \$7,000, and that enough funds were available in his wastewater budget to cover that cost. The board approved the submittal.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has assigned Colliers Project Leaders USA as the owner's project manager (OPM) for the roof replacement and heat pump conversion at Erving Elementary School, and Tighe & Bond as the project designer.

The board voted to contract with Colliers for OPM services. The next step would be to negotiate a contract

with Tighe & Bond, with the assistance of Colliers.

The state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced an additional grant of \$180,000 for additional repair work on the Farley Bridge, a joint project of Wendell and Erving. Bryan Smith reported that Warner Brothers expects to restart the work in mid-July.

**Speeders and Trash**

The board continued an ongoing discussion about speeding on town roads. Jacob Smith observed that the police department has increased enforcement.

Bryan Smith told the board the town can apply to MassDOT to create a school zone on Northfield Road. The zone could be marked with signs or include flashers. Another option is a townwide 25-mile-per-hour speed limit in thickly-settled areas, which would require town meeting approval.

Installing speed feedback signs is also an option. Selectboard member William Bembury said he felt interactive feedback signs with smiley or frowny faces would be effective.

The board asked Bryan Smith to gather information from local towns that have installed interactive speed feedback signs, and agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

The board voted to extend the contract for curbside collection of household waste and recycling with Casella Waste Management for one year. The cost proposed by Casella is \$152,462, approximately \$9,000 more than budgeted. Part of the increase is due to an updated prevailing wage schedule.

Jacob Smith described the residential waste sticker system as "mostly free, pay as you throw." Each household is given three free trash bag stickers per week, with additional stickers costing 50 cents.

"We do have a shortfall," he said, "and we haven't talked about trash stickers yet this year, have we?"

The board decided to issue three months' worth of stickers starting July 1, and then determine whether to issue fewer free stickers for the rest of the fiscal year.

**Jewels' Owner No-Shows**

The selectboard met on June 30 to hold a dangerous dog hearing for a blue heeler-pit bull mix named Jewels, and to consider an appeal of a previous citation of Jewels' owner, Kristal Brow, for keeping an unregistered, unvaccinated dog.

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**MATT YORK**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 AT 6:30-8 PM**  
**BAD NEWS JAZZ AND BLUES ORCHESTRA**

In May one of Brow's neighbors at Weatherheads Apartments had filed a complaint with the town stating that Jewels was aggressive and had attacked her and her dog on or around May 5. A police report about the incident was inconclusive as to injuries to the neighbor or her dog, but 17 other residents at the apartment complex signed a petition calling Jewels "vicious" and requesting her removal.

Police chief Robert Holst, who serves as Erving's animal control officer, and four others including town counsel Brian Falk attended the June 30 hearing, but Brow did not appear. On Falk's advice, the select-

board agreed to dismiss the earlier citation for Jewels' lack of registration and vaccination. "There were inconsistencies and confusion with some of the language in the citation, and the citation process," Jacob Smith explained.

The dangerous dog hearing was continued to July 13, as there was no official record that Brow had received the registered letter informing her of the hearing.

The board decided to send Brow a second certified letter, this time informing her that the hearing would be held whether or not she attended it, and to send it by mail and also have it served by hand.

**Other Business**

The selectboard voted at the June 29 meeting to adopt the town's 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is available on the town website.

The board voted to hire Fire Equipment Incorporated for fire extinguisher, alarm, and sprinkler testing services for FY'27.

The board appointed assistant treasurer Jean Fountain as interim treasurer until August 31 as the treasurer screening committee is conducting interviews with candidates. Jodi Chaplan was appointed to the cemetery commission, and Catherine Glennon to the historical commission.

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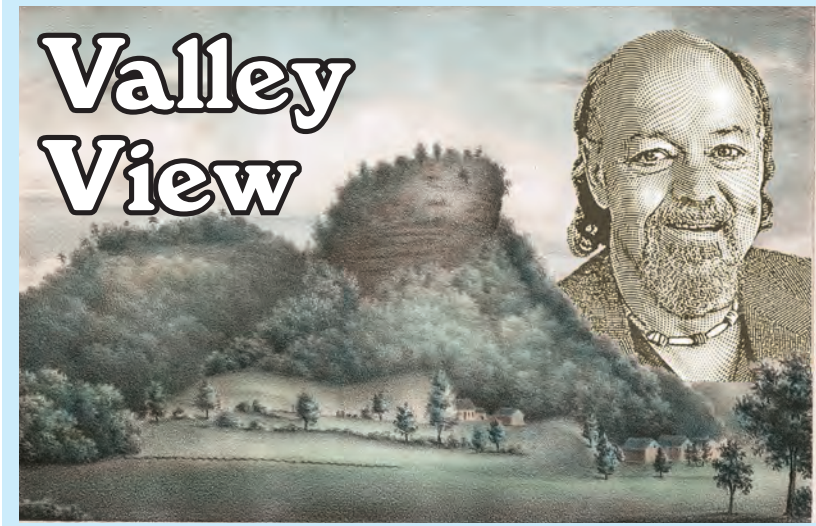
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## Valley View

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – I recently did a little poking around in the backyard of a property across the street from my own historic upper Greenfield Meadows home. There, Renaissance Excavating was repairing the shifting northern foundation of my neighbors’ ell.

Curious if the work had uncovered any evidence of the Hinsdale family dwelling that first stood there in the 18th century before being torn down to make way for the pre-Civil War-era structure now standing, I struck up a conversation with a departing workman as he squeezed between an idle dump truck and lilac bushes.

Approachable, he reported that the backhoe had not revealed any hints of an old stone foundation within the work perimeter, but that there was a stone foundation supporting the main, front, block of the stately home.

My fascination with the site dates back to my 1997 purchase of the house across the road, and has not faded since. Always on the lookout for crumbs of inquiry.

Local tradition, buttressed by Greenfield historian Francis M. Thompson (*History of Greenfield*, 1900), placed the Samuel Hinsdale family in the upper Meadows by 1746. There they quickly established two contiguous farms encompassing some 300 acres, with orchards, a tavern, and a cider mill and distillery.

As much as I wanted to believe Thompson’s early date of origin, however, architectural and thin documentary evidence have cast uncertainty at every turn.

The fact was that Hinsdale ownership of my property, which hugs the Shelburne border, needed further research after a century of community acceptance that both Thompson and Helen Gerrett – a former owner of my house who wrote a paper for a Greenfield Historical Society presentation in 1949 – were accurate. Ms. Gerrett, known by neighbors as “the mayor of the Meadows,” was an authori-

tative spinster who, it seems, was not one to be challenged on her fanciful tale about her Old Tavern Farm home.

My recent deed research has corrected the record. The Hinsdales’ upper Meadows arrival came a generation later than generally accepted, around 1770. Deeds reveal that Samuel Hinsdale’s first move out of colonial Old Deerfield occurred around 1750, but that he landed in what is today Gill.

Established in what was then known as “the nook of the falls,” situated in the northeast corner of Deerfield, the Hinsdale family farm encompassed two of the many erratic “pitch lots” drawn up in 1736 by proprietor grantees. Those 80-acre allotments completed Deerfield’s division of unclaimed land on the parcel “north of Cheapside and east of the Green River.”

Despite references in the deeds to such geographical features as Grass Hill, Bald Hill, and Fall Brook, and to Second-Division Lots 24 and 8, I could find no one in Gill capable of pinpointing the old Hinsdale farm. What we can say for sure is that in 1769, Samuel Hinsdale sold about half of his 164-acre farm, along with the “dwelling in which I now live” and outbuildings, to Benjamin Hosley. In 1777, by which time he had established permanent Meadows residence, Samuel sold the other half of his landholdings within what is today Gill to George Loveland, who had already built a home there.

But this discussion is not about early days of Gill; it’s about the upper Meadows, where the Hinsdale family established a strong enough presence to leave a minimum of 23 graves in the neighborhood’s North Meadows Cemetery.

I was eager to discover whether my neighbor’s excavation project exposed long-buried clues about the 18th-century dwelling built for Samuel Hinsdale’s sons, Samuel II (1741-1825) and Ariel (1750-1828). They both arrived at their shared Meadows home

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

## REFLECTION

# Down the Alleyways of the Past

By JULIA DEZELSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Twenty-five years ago, a small independent Catholic school graduated its first class of seven students. As they filed out of the former Saint Mary’s Catholic Church, presently Our Lady of Peace, they posed for a few of their last pictures together.

Until two weeks ago. On Saturday, June 27, our merry troupe of middle-aged adults were back to trace the steps of our past, reliving the memories that had woven us into a close-knit circle of friends. Together with a few spouses, we pointed out the old haunts: the rocky point at the Connecticut River by Unity Park where two of our group, bold and cocky, took a mid-day dip; the playing fields where intense ultimate frisbee games were had; the familiar orange awnings of the Shady Glen, where a few of the graduates waitressed at yellow counters under the patient eye of John Carey; the Subway that was once home of the \$3.14 Tuesdays sub special; the Carnegie Library, where the school debuted *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* in the great room atop the wide staircase.

Trekking up Seventh Street, we saw a woman rocking on her porch, gazing at the steeple of Our Lady of Peace. “Charlotte? Is that you, Charlotte?” exclaimed one from the group. A wide smile brightened the older woman’s face as she spread open her arms to welcome the unexpected visitor.

Just a block away, housed in the First Congregational Church – now Congregation of Grace Church – the school days of Mariamante Academy had passed slowly while the years had sped by.

But on this summer day, an older gentleman maneuvered a lawnmower down the grassy slope of the church’s lawn. He stopped mid-slope to bring it to a halt and covered his eyes to greet the sudden visitors. “This used to be our school!” one of us exclaimed.

see **REFLECTION** page B3

Above: An appreciative crowd checked out Brooklyn band Guachinangos during the June 27 “Montague World Music Mini-Fest” at Peskeompskut Park.



Top: The first graduating class of the Mariamante Academy. Above: Five of the seven classmates, back in Turners Falls late last month for their 25th reunion.

## RECIPES

# THE BERRIES OF THE GODS

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

**LEVERETT** –The botanical name for raspberries is *Rubus idaeus*. That Latin word *idaeus* derives from Mount Ida, a home to the Greek gods and the birthplace of Zeus. Pliny, the Roman historian, wrote that raspberries grew on its slopes, implying that they were a food of the gods.

If this is true, they would have enjoyed the description by E.W. Lowe, a late-19th-century American newspaper editor, who claimed “There is something in the red of a raspberry pie that looks as good to a man as the red in a sheep looks to a wolf.”

It is indeed an enticing color, more subtle than the scarlet of strawberries, just as the flavor of raspberries is more evocative, hinting of flowers and spices. Of all the berries that march through the summer – strawberries and then raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, and finally cranberries – raspberries are at once the most tender, the most luscious, and the easiest to pick, growing at person-height and slipping readily off their white core and into your basket.



Cranachan, an easy, no-bake raspberry dessert from Scotland.

see **RECIPES** page B8

# Pet of the Week



## 'BAMBY'

Meet Bamby, a male domestic shorthair, the perfect match for a calm household looking for a gentle, easygoing soul who just needs a cozy spot to nap and a human who appreciates his quiet charm.

Bamby is friendly and welcomes head scratches, but is also happy just sharing a room with his humans. He isn't one for zooming across the cur-

tains. He has lived with older teens and another cat, and did well.

To adopt Bamby, start by calling Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000 to be sure he is available. Open adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org) for more information.

# DIY Bodywork For All

simple tips for self-care monthly

By JAMIE SIMPSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – In my January 29 column I talked about healthy head position – ears over shoulders – as well as general good posture, and how to counteract the long periods of time many of us spend in front of screens.

This installment also has a postural focus: standing up from a sitting position.

I'm counting this as bodywork because it pertains to the body, and because our increasingly sedentary lifestyle – which of course can vary considerably from person to person – along with the passage of time, makes this seemingly simple yet crucial ability ever more challenging.

Why does this ability matter? For one thing, while sitting can be comfortable, chances are we'll eventually want to move. And when we do, we need to be able to.

Also, strengthening our core leads to better posture, breathing, balance, and lower stress. And because everything in our bodies is connected, improving core strength and functional movement benefits the whole system.

As you read these words, pause for a moment. Are you sitting down? If so, *how* are you sitting? Closer to

the front or back of your chair? Is the front edge of your chair pressing into the backs of your thighs? What's your upper body doing? If you're toward the front of the chair, where are your feet and knees?

Optimal body position, whether sitting, standing, or in any other position, is the alignment which demands the least effort from your body to maintain. This way, the body can focus more resources on all its other functions.

Let's start with the seat. The best sitting posture, as you may recall, is when you sit near the front of your seat. You need enough real estate to feel safe, enough that you're not going to fall off, and enough that your "sitting bones," the two bony points at the bottom of your pelvis, make contact with the surface you're sitting on.

Feel free to feel around the area until you find them.

Next, place your feet slightly wider than hip distance apart, with your toes and knees pointing forward. Crossing your ankles can squish nerves and make your feet "fall asleep," while crossing your legs can create imbalances in the pelvis and everything above it.

This foundation facilitates alignment from the waist up: the torso, where the respiratory diaphragm, lungs, and heart live; as well as the head and neck. This in turn activates diaphragmatic breathing, the fullest, most beneficial type of breath. Slower, deeper inhalations pull in ample oxygen, while exhalation expel waste gases. This type of breathing also reduces stress levels, helping your body and mind release detrimental tension.

Okay, we've set the foundation for good sitting. How do we get from there to standing?

Ideally, you're sitting in a sturdy, four-legged chair with arms you can push up from. Scoot forward to the front edge of the seat. Move your feet back so your ankles are under or slightly behind your knees, hip

distance apart.

Hinge your torso to bend as far forward toward as is comfortable, in order to balance the weight over your legs front and back. Place your palms on the arms of the chair, inhale, then exhale as you press down strongly and evenly through both feet and legs, uprighting your torso as you rise. Make your legs do most of the work, pushing down through your arms only as a secondary assist – don't overtax your shoulders.

Why do we need to bend forward before we stand? It may seem counterintuitive at first, but when you look closer, it makes perfect sense: when you lean forward, you're giving the legs an even amount of weight to lift, front and back, making their job much easier.

But what about the very real, and understandable, fear of falling? The best way to ease this fear is to practice with a trusted partner present, be that a healthcare professional, spouse, family member, or friend.

Practicing this sit-to-stand technique helps maintain strength and mobility as we age. And it's pretty easy to incorporate this into our day-to-day: while watching TV, knitting, at the dinner table, at the computer. Just make sure the chair you use is sturdy and will stay put, and make it safer and more fun with a partner. If you don't have a partner you can bring the chair close to a solid, stationary surface, like a kitchen counter or the back of a heavy sofa.

The more we practice this technique, the more it will become second nature, and the more this core strength and mobility will serve us, in many beneficial ways, for the long haul.

*Jamie Simpson is a Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT), registered yoga teacher, and certified Roll Model Method practitioner, as well as an occasional writer. Email to [bodywork@montagureporter.org](mailto:bodywork@montagureporter.org).*

## Senior Center Activities JULY 13 THROUGH 24

### 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 7/13

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch  
1:30 p.m. COA Meeting

#### Tuesday 7/14

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

#### Wednesday 7/15

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent  
10 a.m. Outdoor Yoga at the Discovery Center  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo  
1 p.m. Parking Lot Food Pantry  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Thursday 7/16

10 a.m. Decorative Mending Workshop  
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (must pre-register)

#### Friday 7/17

1 p.m. Pitch  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Chair Exercise  
2 p.m. Chair Dance  
4 p.m. Computer Class (must pre-register)

#### Monday 7/20

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
6 p.m. *No Cemetery Commission*

#### Tuesday 7/21

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Money Matters

12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday

3 p.m. Tai Chi

#### Wednesday 7/22

10 a.m. Outdoor Yoga at the Discovery Center  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Thursday 7/23

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (must pre-register)

1 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday 7/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pizza Party  
2 p.m. Chair Dance  
4 p.m. Computer Class (must pre-register)

### LEVERETT

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 7/13

6:30 a.m. Boston Tall Ships Trip

9 a.m. Good for U

10 a.m. Seated Fitness

12 p.m. Pitch

1 p.m. Yoga

#### Tuesday 7/14

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringer

1 p.m. Friends' Meeting

#### Wednesday 7/15

9 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 7/16

9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow

#### Friday 7/17

8:30 a.m. Quilting / Open Sew

#### Monday 7/20

9 a.m. Good for U

10 a.m. Seated Fitness

12 p.m. Pitch

1 p.m. Yoga

#### Tuesday 7/21

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringer

#### Wednesday 7/22

9 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 7/23

12 p.m. Summer Barbeque

#### Friday 7/24

8:30 Quilting/Open Sew

### WENDELL

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 July 21.

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 LeverettConnects listserv.

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is August 5. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for info or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

## June 25 Crossword Answers

E	S	S		R	S		S	S	E	S	C	S	V	A
I	R	E		M	M		S	E	N	I	N	S	R	E
S	S	S		S	O		R	O	A	M	O	A	N	E
S	S	L		A	P		A	S	H	E	A			
E				V			D	V	S	H			S	I
				O	S		L	S		S	E		E	P
				R			P	P		U	P		S	N
				M			E		A	N		S		B
				N			V		E	N				R
				I			T		H	A				E
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				R			E		T	L			S	M

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## First grads faithful to old tradition

The 54 students of Mariamante Academy, the first Catholic high school in Franklin County, represent 5 of the 6 New England states.

By WILLIAM SWEET  
Staff writer

MONTAGUE - Seven teen-agers helped achieve another milestone in the centuries of Catholic tradition yesterday. They were the first graduates of Franklin County's only Catholic high school. "Today some of the very best of us will be leaving," said Louise Desilets, headmistress at Mariamante Academy, which held its

Mariamante Academy seniors Geoffrey J. Campion of Orange and Catherine Spellman of Turners Falls are photographed by sophomore Martha K. Turner of Greenfield before their graduation ceremony yesterday at the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption in Turners Falls. The class of seven seniors was the first to graduate from the Catholic high school, which became recognized by the Springfield Diocese in March 1998.

**“I exhort you to aid fellow travelers in development of Catholic mind and Catholic...”**

A contemporary newspaper article documented the high school's first graduating class.

### REFLECTION from page B1

“Ah, yes, of course! Mariamante Academy – I have heard about it. Welcome!”

Mariamante Academy had originally opened its doors on Mountain Road in Gill in 1995. It was established as the first independent school in the Catholic tradition within Franklin County. It moved to Turners Falls in 1997 as the student body grew. After another move to Greenfield, the school closed its doors in Massachusetts and relocated to Virginia.

The pastor walked us into the entryway, with its distinctive smell that 25 years later still lingered there. Passing through the classrooms, he proudly pointed out the improvements – new flooring in the classrooms, musical equipment in the sanctuary, a new HVAC gained by substantial state rebates. Excited shouts punctuated the tour: “This was the French room.” “This is where the stage was that we used for play practice.” “Here is where we had morning assembly.”

Pastor Verne Williams’ parting words to us were, “There are seven steeples in this town. You look at them and wonder, how do I decide which one? Jesus, He is the One. You decide on Him.”

Our next stop was the highest steeple on the hill. We stepped into the vestibule of Our Lady of Czestochowa where the same familiar smell of incense and sacredness filled our senses. Grateful that the dark church doors swung open in the middle of a Saturday afternoon, we found ourselves faintly humming the polyphonic we were once capable of singing from the choir loft, recalled the faces of the numerous boys who attended at the altar, tried to reformulate the Polish greeting that began every Mass. Old scents, old sights, calling us back a quarter century into our youth.

How do you walk back into the alleyways of the past without a tinge of sorrow? You recall that inevitable day when each of you were forced to choose a path towards the

future that would change the course of your life, separating you from the people and places that had become a part of you.

For years, you proceed onwards, down paths unknown, rarely crossing this familiar territory. You wonder, *what if?* What if I had taken that other path in the wood? Would I still be here among these treasured places, bound to that cherished friend, birthing new life into this quiet corner of humanity where I was born? The pain of separating from the people and places of your past is the cost of growing up, the cost of loving.

Could this verdant corner of Franklin County have been my Rome, my Paris, my India? Does it matter where you go on this wide earth if those you have loved are not with you on the voyage? Returning to your roots returns you to those people.

You return to find out that much has changed and much is still the same; that the person everyone thought you were – with all your quirks – is, in fact, the person you turned out to be. Along life’s journey you may have discovered yourself, but your closest companions had already known you far better than you had.

Ambling down the Avenue, we admired the entrepreneurial spirit that has overtaken the town: books, instead of beer, now line the walls of one small brick building, local art and old photographs fascinate in another shop, while yet another serves up smoothies and açaí bowls. The sleepy village has awoken from her stupor: it’s no longer a drive-by, but a destination.

Last month, the returning classmates of 2001 rejoiced in the re-discovery of the people and places that have always been a part of us, are still a part of us, and will continue to be.

*Julia Dezelski (née Desilets) lives with her family in the Washington, DC metro area. She has visited over 40 countries and lived for 10 years in Rome.*



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# The Montague Reporter Podcast



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Adults Dress For Heat Wave, Shoot At Bear, Get Stuck On Rocks; Single Child Swamps 911 System With Countless Prank Calls

#### Monday, 6/22

3:45 p.m. Caller reports that she and her family just bought a property on Millers Falls Road; she is there now, and the front door is smashed open and the back door is wide open. Would like an officer to head over. Same had been reported by a passerby earlier today, at which time officers investigated. Officer spoke with owners, who were last at the building at 7 p.m. and will submit a statement regarding items taken.

6:13 p.m. Walk-in looking to speak with an officer regarding a tractor-trailer that is parked and running; states driver is on his sleeping hours, and she can't breathe with the truck running. Officer spoke with her at length and advised her to voice her concerns at town hall, as truck in question is on a private lot.

10:02 p.m. Walk-in reporting she has a baby owl she picked up on the side of the road. Officer advised party that MPD does not have the resources to deal with an owl; they could attempt calling VESH to see if they know of resources.

#### Tuesday, 6/23

2:42 p.m. DPW advises that a female party has been yelling at vehicles on Federal Street. She was wearing a red dress, but took off all her clothing and is walking up Route 63. Officer advises female is dressed at this time; speaking with her. Dropped off at residence with her mother.

6:10 p.m. Caller states roughly 10 minutes ago she witnessed someone steal hot dogs from the Montague Village Store. Investigated.

#### Wednesday, 6/24

4:06 a.m. Officer out with a male sleeping in front of the Shady Glen. Male refused any services.

8:59 a.m. Employee from Kharma Salon reporting a party who was having difficulty walking and talking walked in and asked to use a phone; when they said no, he walked out. Unable to locate.

7:40 p.m. First of six calls from a child using a 911-only phone and shouting profanities at dispatchers. Mapping to Fourth Street. Ongoing issue.

7:43 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting units to the Mill in Gill for a party in a vehicle who states that he is stabbing or will stab himself. Party being sectioned by state police; Baystate Franklin security advised.

#### Thursday, 6/25

4:20 p.m. E-911 caller from Montague City Road advises a female on the top floor has been screaming loudly and can be heard yelling “Get out.” Officer advises he can hear screaming from outside; making entry. Advises both parties were very short with officers on

the scene, denied any need for police services, and advised they would keep the noise down.

8:13 p.m. 911 caller from Turnpike Road advises his neighbor is currently firing a gun from the back of his house. All units advised. Officer advises male party is shooting at a bear on his property. Caller requesting to speak with officer when someone is available.

10:07 p.m. Shelburne Control advising they took a 911 call from a passerby reporting a male party with no shoes on sitting on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, rocking back and forth. Officer requesting CSO to location; advises no statements threatening self-harm made at this time. Requesting ambulance for party.

#### Friday, 6/26

2:48 p.m. First of a dozen calls from 911-only phone; children using profanity. Referred to an officer.

7:55 p.m. Caller states that the train crossing at East Main Street has had an active signal for the past 15 to 20 minutes with no train; a line of cars is forming. Contacted Pan Am, who report no active trains at this time; possible malfunction. They will contact a tech to resolve the problem.

8:09 p.m. E-911 caller advises that a handful of people, apparently two adults with two younger boys, are swimming in the water off Canal Road and appear to be struggling due to the current. During call, caller advised that one younger male made it across the river with help from an adult. Units advised; Shelburne Control contacted for FD. Officer advises parties are on rocks in the water with the current rising; requesting FirstLight close the dam. FirstLight advised.

Officer advises best access point will be near the Discovery Center bridge. Officer advises all people clear of rocks; everyone OK. Requesting FirstLight be contacted and play the spill tapes for the dam.

#### Saturday, 6/27

12:07 a.m. Caller reports that his dark purple 49cc gas bike was stolen from Fifth Street; he might know who took it. Investigated. Caller's mother believes the bike is on G Street and people are working on it. Officer states male was working on a gas-powered leaf blower in the driveway.

4:53 p.m. 911 caller states that people upstairs have been arguing for several minutes. Mother and son arguing over who left the water running in the bathroom sink. Officer provided courtesy transport to male, as no public transportation is available at this time.

10:46 p.m. Complaint of noise from the Montague Retreat. Area checked; no

exterior noise heard.

#### Sunday, 6/28

8:21 a.m. Caller reports a male party slumped over, but breathing, in front of the blue bins in the Aubuchon lot. Involved male is living in his car and was just sleeping. Moved along. 6:23 p.m. Manager of a Central Street property requesting officers ticket a vehicle at the location as they are parking leaving their car hanging out of the driveway, blocking the sidewalk and blocking the dumpster from being emptied. Officers unable to make contact with involved parties. Ticket issued.

9:09 p.m. 911 caller reporting a man lying down in the First Street alleyway; unsure if he is sleeping or if something else is going on. Male denied need for services. Moved along.

#### Monday, 6/29

4:21 p.m. 911 caller from Ce Ce's Restaurant states that someone who was intoxicated left their electric bike inside the restaurant, and two different people are trying to take it. Officer advises a party with a key to the bike took ownership.

7:47 p.m. First of several calls from a child using an E-911 phone and shouting profanity. Child daring officers to find him. Units checked area and spoke with juveniles and their parents at two Fourth Street residences due to a history of prior calls.

#### Tuesday, 6/30

5:53 p.m. Caller reports seeing three people on dirtbikes in the Sandy Lane area, cutting in and out of traffic. Unable to locate. Animal control officer (ACO) advises that she has seen the dirtbikes jumping dunes in the area of the high-tension wires.

6:27 p.m. Caller reports roughly eight teenagers climbing all over the equipment in the Third Street Laundry and causing a ruckus. Gone upon arrival; nothing appears damaged.

#### Wednesday, 7/1

10:09 a.m. Walk-in reports that while walking on the bike path, she saw a party riding a bike with a child on the back; the next time she saw him, he was walking out of the woods and got back on his bike, but she did not see the child. She felt this was suspicious. Referred to an officer.

12:15 p.m. 911 caller states that somebody came to a camp he had set up in the woods in the bike path area off Greenfield Road and vandalized items. Officer spoke with caller, who does not know who may have done it, but is going to pack up and move to Greenfield. 6:46 p.m. Four additional E-911 calls from a child using profanity. Officers out with a juvenile on a phone in the area of the Fourth Street lot. Officer spoke

to juvenile's grandmother, who took away the phone and will speak to his mother when she gets home.

#### Thursday, 7/2

8:49 a.m. 911 call; employee reporting a male party in Spinner Park asking people to buy him booze and cigarettes. Gone upon arrival. 10:45 p.m. Second of two more E-911 calls from a child, whispering profanities. Referred to an officer.

#### Friday, 7/3

12:01 a.m. Additional prank calls from a child using an E-911 phone. Investigated.

4:52 p.m. 911 hangup from 911-only number; juvenile whispering profanities. Same number called in; juvenile whispering “I need help” prior to disconnect. Mapping to Third Street.

Third call from the number, reporting someone on Second Street is threatening to come get them. Officers spoke with the mother, who states the juvenile is out on a bike. Caller reporting a juvenile on Avenue A is directing traffic in the crosswalk. Officers spoke to parties at length; mother is taking the phone.

7:09 p.m. Walk-in reporting that a male at the intersection of James Avenue and Millers Falls Road has his pants down and is holding his genitals. Officers spoke to male and caregiver; male was peeing outside; will work with parents to come up with a solution.

8:50 p.m. Caller reporting threats/harassment via calls and texts on behalf of a friend. Officer spoke to the friend and her father and will drop off a statement form and screenshots.

10:24 p.m. 911 call reporting a fire in a dumpster on Avenue A. Resident reports they used a fire extinguisher on it. Heavy smoke; no flames. TFFD taking over.

#### Sunday, 7/5

11:47 a.m. Caller from Montague Avenue reports that intoxicated individuals are in his yard throwing things and refusing to leave. Peace restored.

6:18 p.m. Report of three dirtbikes on the road in the area of Old Sunderland and Taylor Hill roads; caller requests increased police presence for a bit to deter them. Checked entire area; no dirtbikes observed.

7:53 p.m. Officer and firefighter advised a resident on Depot Street to extinguish their illegal burn.

10:10 p.m. E-911 call from 911-only phone; number has called numerous times. No voice contact. Officer advised the mother of the involved child of the call.

10:36 p.m. Water main break in Third Street area. On-call water department employee reached. Officer shut down Canal Street side of road; advises roadway starting to buckle. Control notified; FD aware. Roadway reopened.

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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 as eligible bachelors and married soon after settling into their new digs, nestled up to their father's "small dwelling house" then standing on my lot and significantly expanded over the years.

I have pondered the layout of that 18th-century Hinsdale dwelling across the street for many years. Leaving Hinsdale hands in 1842, six years after my property was sold, it was subsequently sold in 1852 by Julia Smead to Elias

A. Parmenter for \$3,000. Some years later, at an unknown date, Parmenter demolished the original dwelling to make room for the structure now occupying the lot.

Given the date of construction and the architecture of surviving contemporaneous homes in the neighborhood, the old Hinsdale home was most likely a classic five-over-four Georgian colonial dwelling with either a center or dual-center chimneys. Unfortunately, there seem to be no early photos or illustrations of the structure. Or, if such evidence does exist, it's tucked away in private obscurity. Though the precise demolition date is unknown, it likely occurred before 1860 when photography was young and still focused primarily on portraiture, not buildings or landscapes.

Perhaps it was Samuel Hinsdale's marriage to his second wife Eunice McDowell in 1763 that triggered his move to the Meadows. Why not? He had already inherited acreage there, and enjoyed close personal connections to neighboring landowners. Eunice was the widow of Colrain's first minister, Reverend Alexander McDowell, an intemperate Scots-Irish Presbyterian who was dismissed in 1759 and died three years later. Reverend McDowell lived and preached on Chandler Hill, a straight-line distance of five or six miles from what became the Hinsdale farm in the upper Meadows.

Though the neighborhood excavation didn't uncover what I had hoped, my discovery energy wasn't wasted. The investigation opened

a new window into my National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) home, and the old Parmenter place across the road. A few peripheral facts that raise questions about previous hypotheses and interpretations came to light, and should be chased further.

One fact I don't recall previously encountering is that Samuel Hinsdale's third wife – Sarah Hinsdale, her original surname unknown – lived out her widowed life until her 1799 death at her husband's aforementioned "small dwelling" on my property. Though unnamed in her husband's will, she appears to have stayed put for 13 years, probably due to an unrecorded gentlemen's agreement between him and eldest son Samuel, who inherited his homesite.

So, how did Sarah's presence on the site impact the evolution of the building? It's a question worth exploring. If his younger son Ariel Hinsdale, who inherited the home across the street, did indeed operate a tavern on my site from 1787 to 1796, he must have done so during his stepmother's tenancy. An old-fashioned tavern wench, perhaps?

Widow Sarah's final resting place, and that of Eunice, is also unknown. The mystery is likely related to the fact that Samuel's remains – and those of many other Greenfield founders – were exhumed from a downtown cemetery at the base of Miles Street to make room for the railroad depot. Though there seems to be no record of his second and third wives accompanying him to his new grave at the North

Meadows Cemetery, his first wife Rebekah Leonard did, and it would seem most likely the others did, too.

The North Meadows burial ground opened in 1821, long after the deaths of Eunice and Sarah. Though it's uncertain when Samuel's remains were moved to the Meadows, it could have happened as early as the 1820s or as late as the 1880s, when the downtown cemetery was finally condemned.

Our grave mystery doesn't end there. It includes Revolutionary War Corporal Ariel and his wife Thankful Severance Hinsdale, who lived in the neighborhood and died a year apart, he in 1828, she in 1829. There seems to be no record of their burials, although the presumed site would be the cemetery just a stone's throw down the road.

Oh well. Good thing I've procrastinated on submitting an addendum fine-tuning the NRHP narrative, first entered into the National Archives in Washington, DC two decades ago, documenting the history of my home.

Because history is fluid, such tweaks are inevitable. New twists and turns are expected and welcomed. The day my first detailed narrative was accepted by the National Parks Service, I understood it as a starting point, and not the final word.

A work in progress. Always new stones to upturn for fresh leads.

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



**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Disclosure Day (2026)**

By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

**GREENFIELD** – I really like sci-fi movies, and Steven Spielberg's movies, so I hoped that I would end up liking *Disclosure Day* very much. The movie premiered at the Garden Cinemas on June 12. I believe it was inspired by Spielberg believing aliens really exist.

The movie's opening wasn't anything special. We get introduced to two characters who seem normal enough. Emily Blunt plays Margaret, a weather girl in Kansas City, Missouri, who is looking for direction. Josh O'Connor is a computer guy named Daniel who stole some files from a company he worked for named Wardex. They had been covering up the existence of aliens for some time. Colin Firth is a guy from Wardex trying to stop this disclosure.

This plot is like something out of *The X-Files*, which I have seen a lot of, but much more tastefully done for the big screen. There is even a group trying to expose the cover-up of alien existence.

Margaret turns out to be someone very special. She suddenly un-

derstands Russian and Korean, and is literally able to look into people's lives. She is not freaked out by this, and just goes with it.

Daniel is also shown to be special when Margaret speaks some gibberish during a broadcast and he understands it. This guy is someone who sees merit in the idea that the truth will set you free.

There is a mention of what the disclosure could do to faith. One key line in the film, which shows that Daniel thinks truth has merit, is "I don't think you ever lost your faith in God – you lost your faith in people."

Something really wants these two characters together throughout the movie. Wardex's people do get a hold of Daniel, but Margaret continues to do one cool trick after another, bringing a wonderful sci-fi element to the film – and let's just say her being in broadcasting turns out to be very useful.

As the film goes on, the sci-fi elements really level up, and so does the action. Viewers will learn why this film is called *Disclosure Day*. This is one of Spielberg's masterpieces.



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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Reporter Staff  
Readers are invited to send poems to  
the *Montague Reporter* by email at:  
[poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)  
(Please note we are no longer  
accepting mailed submissions.)

# July's Poems: Our Tables Of Contents

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January 15, 2026

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Come for Our Food  
Make a Big Curtain  
Terrazza, Seussical, Python Pit  
Weedeater, Pink Slip, Reptile Nook  
Cool Without Forming Grey Rings

April 16, 2026

## as the cold sets in

decaying and potentially dangerous  
a threshold crossed  
selective outrage and obsession

being all unknown heirs  
structural and load-bearing  
mercy mode, clicking continuously  
rat traps in great quantities  
cleaning and painting bearings and stringers

never personally heard of the curse  
precipitate beading and bobbling  
over the top without flinching

dumpsters to dumpsters  
the gleaming and enchanted bolt  
beautiful glass, pockets of possibility  
stress balls, sunken cages, swamp god  
their skulking kind of war

November 13, 2025

## they say it's the most over a war has ever been

fell into the pulper  
fearful puddle-duck consciousness  
when we harden our hearts  
for bibles and cigarettes  
this really dark waterfall  
this kind of mother-of-pearl

over the flank of bear mountain  
on its deteriorating envelope  
stand-in for the great whale  
house-trained and microchipped  
probably already dead from the shock

rubber ducks playing in the snow  
nugd'd the duck across some threshold  
rare geese, father otter, secret world  
stick men, bird friend, worm altar

an ocean wheeling with gulls

March 26, 2026

## First there is a paper, then there is no paper, then there is

brighter than allowed, all the cranks  
kept at bay: destruction and  
fragmentation, woes, and youthful  
hijinks to span  
the entryway elements  
of the sculpture  
displayed static images only

Sprouting up around town, caught  
in a pickle, crowded with  
fairy shrimp; breaks  
the mirrored surface challenged  
by these patterns: a whole  
volume of cast-iron  
laws directly  
into the sallyport

These full layers  
of sound, until it trembles  
Slightly to help the struggling  
One gather to check out  
the flow – rocking puppies, fruiting plants  
the pomps, the meanies, the spatulas  
the smallness of toads

May 14, 2026

## Gotta Keep Moving.

Trying to stay afloat, this piece of apparatus, better  
than a rabbit, almost like  
a win-win,  
Want to  
move the needle, approaching the threshold  
zone – bared their teeth  
to him. Wailed. And flashed  
their lights.

Peering over  
their eyeglasses, waiting  
to be asked, still  
wet. And splashing the dryness  
that shrivels  
like cheese. Maybe slide show,  
blood bucket, pride,  
parade, ice giant, tone forest?  
Mind  
left body,  
Forcing  
a dead stop.

June 11, 2026

## Production Notes:

A **Table of Contents** first appeared on the front page of the *Montague Reporter* on March 4, 2019, the first week the paper was printed with a bar code for automatic retail scanning. The Tables' real function is to fill out a given whole number of columns' width at the bottom of the page, now that the inconvenient bar code is there.

This began as a fairly straightforward wayfinding list of key elements in each weekly edition, but over the next several years, *Reporter* staff began to provide the Tables with a broader range of titles, and then to slip more and more commentary and asides into the listing itself. Last August the Tables began to mutate into something new, and by the end of September they had crystallized into listings of strings of words found on each page of the edition. (The third- and second-to-last lines usually compiled terms from the Events Calendar.)

A number of readers have told us they see these as found poems, and so we find ourselves entertaining that idea here. The January 15 and April 16 items above were taken from the Tables as they were printed, with only the page numbers removed; these lines, in other words, were each originally written by a different *Reporter* contributor, and can be found on the pages of that given issue in that order.

For November 13 and March 26 we took the further liberty of converting the text to lowercase and altering the stanza breaks. For May 14 and June 11 we granted a qualified community member, who asked to remain uncredited, permission to fully repunctuate the text, including using new line breaks.

How much poetry can you take? – Eds.



## WRITING THE LAND

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# EVENTS

Shelburne Falls Theater  
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July 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.  
**UNLESS SOMETHING GOES TERRIBLY WRONG**  
Award-winning documentary, and arguably buddy comedy, about a wastewater treatment plant and the heroes that make it work.

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## THURSDAY, JULY 9

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Austin & Elliott, The Brookside Project*. 6 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *A New Blue Jazz Ensemble*, open jazz jam. 6 p.m. No cover.

Brewster Court, Northampton: *Hot Dirt, Goldsetter*. 6 p.m. Free.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Ashley McBryde*. 7 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Soup Dreams, Jetties, Silvie's Okay*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Buck Meek, Kisser*. 8 p.m. \$.

## FRIDAY, JULY 10

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Coyotes*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Venus Solomon, Apollo Chastain, Zoe Tuck, Joan Tate*. Poetry reading. 6 p.m. Free.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 6 p.m. \$.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Alex Cohen*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Smith Academy Park, Hatfield: *Carol Devine & The Mighty Fine*. 6 p.m. Free.

Riverfront Park, Erving: *Farley String Band*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Noise Nomads, Joshua Burkett, Sam Gas Can, Mystery Peanut Pump*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Breadwinners*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Library Annex, Easthampton: *Lisa Bastoni, Hazel Basil*. 7 p.m. Free.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Louise Coombe*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Movie, Karate Kid (1984)*. 8 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Lavender Country Tribute Band, Hush Puppy*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Carnivorous Bells, Cartoon, Crazy Deja Vu, Landowner*. 8 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, JULY 11

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

Northfield Mount Hermon Boathouse, Gill: *Gillbilly Paddle*, five miles down the Connecticut to the mouth of the Millers. Sponsored by the Gill rec committee; bring your own boat. 9:30 a.m. Free.

Barton Cove, Gill: *Dinosaur Footprints*, history and geology walk. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, and meet at the campground picnic tables. 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Reception for Community Mini Art Show*. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm Inc., Amandla, Rebelle, Drums of Passion, SoulKeys, Wheel Out, Wendell Warriors, Root Fiyah*, many more. 2 p.m. \$.

Sundershock, Sunderland: *Orange & Amber, Candle Opera, Reuben Toadstool, Brokestring, RJ McCarty, Berm*. 3 p.m. By donation.

Thompson Temple, Lake Pleasant: *Pamela Means, Kim Chin-Gibbons, Wylder Ayers*. Songwriters in the round. 5 p.m. \$.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 6 p.m. \$.

Brewery at Four Star Farm, Northfield: *Periscope*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, with featured performer *Craig Cornett*. 6:15 p.m. By donation.

Monstergirl Farm, Ashfield: *Forrest Fleur, Mud, Psyclops, Film & Gender*, more. Live music, drag show. 6 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Sophie Mae Wellington, Ava Brennan, Camie Camper*, refreshments. 6:30 p.m. \$.

33 Hawley, Northampton: *Walk On Air*, presented by the Lisa Leizman Dance Company. 7 p.m. \$

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Mavis Staples*. 7 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Green Sisters*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Horizon Line III*. In the lobby. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Honeysuckle, Moon Hollow*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Abandon All Closure, Yourarmsaremylegs, Choke Out*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

## SUNDAY, JULY 12

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Art Naturally: Gel Printing Trace Fossils*. Art workshop with all materials provided. Ages 6 and up. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Pollinator Shade Garden Dedication*, in memory of Ann Lucas. 11 a.m. Free.

Many venues, Shelburne Falls: *Unagi, 133 Skeelee, Lily Soleil, Little House Blues, Free Range Cats, Couchboy, Over Easy Jazz, Farley String Band*, many more. Details at [shelburnefalls.com/porchfest](http://shelburnefalls.com/porchfest). 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.



*Were you in the Staples Sisters? No? Then go see someone who was. As of press time tickets remain to see the legendary Mavis Staples perform in Keene this Saturday. They're pricey, but word is she's still putting on an amazing show at 86.*

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 2 p.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Elaine Carey & Ava Mendoza Duo, Wednesday Knudsen, Erica Dawn Lyle*. 4 p.m. \$.

Lupinewood, Greenfield: *Moe Reen, Silvie's Okay, Fading Not Receding*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Darlingside, Cloudbelly*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The Wildwoods*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Buckingham Rabbits Karaoke*. 8 p.m. No cover.

## MONDAY, JULY 13

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Block Printing* for teens and adults, presented by Launchspace. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Free.

Peace Pagoda, Leverett: *Local author reading, Keeping the People Alive* by David Detmold. Potluck and sharing at 6:30 p.m.; reading at 7:30 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. 7 p.m. Free.

## EXHIBITS

**Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:** *Please Touch*, participatory works by 15 artists, through August 7.

**Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Ways of My Ancestors*, photographs of New England Native Americans by Scott Strong Hawk Foster, through August 26 with a reception Saturday, July 25 at 2 p.m.

**Montague Center Library, Montague:** *The Divine Lives in You*, paintings and upcycled works by Donna Estabrooks, through July.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague:** *Nature's Magic*, abstract landscapes by TL LaFleur, through July.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *LCA Artists*, group show by artists with studios at the building. Through August, with a reception this Sunday, July 12 at 3 p.m.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:** *Green Light: A Love Letter to Greenfield*, acrylic paintings, lamps, and ceramic wares by Danielle Lucier, through next Friday, July 17.

**Greenfield Downtown: MA250 Sidewalk Art Tour.** Ten murals by local artists Danielle Lucier, Jill Strait, Youme Nguyen Ly, Althea Keaton, and Cameron Schmitz, with perspectives on 250 years of American independence.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Chaos on a Plate Presents The Rainbow Arc - Phase 1: Violet*, paintings by Donna Barrett, and *The Peace Birds Exhibit*, artistic and community responses to ongoing events in Palestine, both through July.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Desire Paths*. Work by Emily Holt and Chris Davis, visiting artists in residence, through July; closing event Friday, July 31.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston:** *Members Summer Show and Grand Opening*. Grand opening reception at the new gallery at 1 Brattleboro Road on Sunday, July 19, from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Patterns of the Forest*, interactive art by Rachel Loeffler, through July.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Summer Fun*, group show by coop members, through July.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:** *Illustrator Margot Apple and fiber artist Kate McClelland* show their work in July and August, with a reception this Saturday, July 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

**Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton:** *Hannah Brookman*, paintings, and *Angela Zammarelli*, prints and various media. Both through July, with a reception this Saturday, July 11, at 3:30 p.m.

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# CALENDAR



## looking forward...

### TUESDAY, JULY 14

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Box Shop Duo*. 5:30 p.m. Free.  
 Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Cypress Hill*. 7 p.m. \$\$\$.  
 Tanglewood, Lenox: *Ziggy Marley, Trombone Shorty*. 7 p.m. \$\$\$.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, Hadley: *Tim Eriksen*. 6:30 p.m. \$.  
 Iron Horse, Northampton: *Mikaela Davis*. 7 p.m. \$.  
 Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown*. 8 p.m. No cover.  
 Academy of Music, Northampton: *Taj Mahal & The Phantom Blues Band*. 8 p.m. \$\$\$.

### THURSDAY, JULY 16

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.  
 Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Hike*. Moderate level. Register at [bookeyo.com/northfield](http://bookeyo.com/northfield). 10 a.m. Free.  
 Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke & Larry LeBlanc, The frost heaves and haies*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton: *King Radio, Simple Friend*, more. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Spirit Circle*, featuring Shay and Charles Cooper. 7 p.m. By donation.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Matt Maeson*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Hell Beach, Cliffrose, American Television*. 7 p.m. \$.

Library Annex, Easthampton: *Gamelan Lebdo Budoyo*. 7 p.m. Free.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Mal Devisa, MG & the TV, lamMycellium, Parker McQueeney, Eli Wise*. 8 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, JULY 17

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Dinosaurs*. For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Through Your Lens*, photography class for teens. 4 p.m. Free.

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Paw Paw Culinary Club*. Pop-up kitchen serving okonomiyaki, karaage, tsukemono, and sake; DJs. 6 to 10 p.m. No cover.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 6 p.m. \$.

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

Riverfront Park, Erving: *Connecticut River Flute Choir*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *The Dotted Line*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Wildcat O'Halloran*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Editrix, Phroeggs, Mummies and Wolves*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Princess Ghoul, The Freqs, Chris Goudreau Duo*. 7 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Community Contra Dance with Monday Night Session & Friends*, caller *George Marshall*. Fundraiser for the Common Hall accessibility fund. 7:30 p.m. By donation.



At Cold Spring Hollow next Friday: Editrix "carve a style that is articulate and crushingly exhilarating" (*The Guardian*), their "serpentine locutions have a raw, DIY quality" (*Spectrum Culture*), they "take punk's framework and stretch it to its breaking point, pushing listeners to question orthodoxy in all its forms" (*Pitchfork*). And members are super busy with other projects. But they still come back to western Mass! Extremely worthwhile live band.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Midnight Floyd Eclipsed*. 7:30 p.m. No cover.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Screening, Fantastic Planet (1973)*, with live soundtrack by *The Empyreans*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gentlemen Brawlers, Fool & The World*. 8 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Lomelda, Plume Girl, Home Baker*. 8 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, JULY 18

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

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Honoring Elders: Gail Mason*. 3 p.m. Free.

Robertson Paper Company Field, Bellows Falls: *The Mammals, Doozy Jane, Michael Veitch*. 4 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Documentary screening, Daughters (2024)*. Fundraiser for Decarcerate Western MA. 4:30 p.m. By donation.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 6 p.m. \$.

Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *Afterglo*. 7 p.m. \$.

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Bekka Dowland*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever*. 6 p.m. Free.

THCC, Easthampton: *The Damaged, Bag Lady, Ragz To Stitches*. 7 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Trio Sefardi*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Skatalites, The Attractors*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BASSTHOV3N*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

### SUNDAY, JULY 19

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Jurassic Dinosaur Habitat Diorama and Collage*, art workshop for ages 6 and up with all materials provided. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Do It Now!*, concert and book fair featuring local authors and publishers. 1 p.m. Free.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Finding Nemo*. 2 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Al Miller*, poetry reading. 3 p.m. Free.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Arborio Duo*. 4 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Vorhex Angel, Luke Schneider*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Oddball Song Creation, Roolet, Thread In*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Monday, July 20

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Leather Tooling Workshop*. Learn leatherwork basics and create a book cover. For teens and adults; materials provided. 1:30 p.m. Free.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Shaky Graves, Dope Lemon, Texino*. 7 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Lucy Dacus*. 8 p.m. \$\$\$.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. 7 p.m. Free.

### TUESDAY, JULY 21

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Reptile Show*. Hands-on presentation featuring 15 reptiles from around the world. 1:30 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Masala Jazz*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Design and Commission of Seven-String Banjar*, presentation by Michael Nix. 7 p.m. By donation.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Punch Brothers*. 7 p.m. \$.

Sena Farm Brewery, Worthington: *Johanna Rose & the Dreamboats*. 7 p.m. \$.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *"Weird Al" Yankovic, Puddle's Pity Party*. 7 p.m. \$\$\$.

Community Music School, Springfield: *Bokani Dyer Trio*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Family Gathering*. Snacks provided; meet under the sunshade. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House, Hadley: *Whisper In Mid-Zone*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Faux Paws*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben Falcoff Trio*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Twisted Teens, Tattler*. 8 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, JULY 23

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

Erving Senior Center, Erving: *Barbeque with live music by Ed Hogan*. Call senior center for reservations. 12 p.m. \$

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Steph Marshall, Pat & Tex LaMountain, John Lentz Trio*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton: *Floyd Mercantile*. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Commissioning a Bespoke Instrument and Compositions*, panel discussion on the seven-string banjar featuring its inventor, Michael Nix. 7 p.m. By donation.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Shaky Graves, Dope Lemon, Texino*. 7 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Lucy Dacus*. 8 p.m. \$\$\$.

### FRIDAY, JULY 24

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Creative Writing, Folly of Three, Marathon 77, Concussionists*. 7 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Radical Joy, Map of the Stars, Grazer*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, JULY 25

Franklin County Boat Club, Gill: *Christmas in July Fireworks*. 9 p.m. Free.

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Banjo Playing Styles*, workshop with Michael Nix. All levels welcome. 4 p.m. \$

### THURSDAY, JULY 30

Haze, Northampton: *Don Gadi, 22BB, The White Moms*. 9 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, JULY 31

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie Blackbird*. 8 p.m. No cover.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Nova Arts, Keene: *Tiffany, All Feels, Afterthought*. 7 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Asbestos Farm, Hadley: *Frank Hurricane, LUCY, Mark Cone, Ruby Lou, Fugga Wugga*. 7 p.m. \$.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Lou Barlow's 60th Birthday and Variety Show*, with *Jeffrey Lewis, Adam Green, Sunburned Hand of the Man, Bobby Bare Jr., Black Francis, Sick of Fun: A Tribute to Deep Wound*, and more. 7 p.m. \$.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Wishbone Zoë*, album release; *Taxidermists; Sweat Enzo*. 8 p.m. \$.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Palladium, Worcester: *Suicidal Tendencies, Cro Mags, New World Man*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$\$.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Alela Diane, Alex Rose*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ*. 7 p.m. \$.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Talib Kweli*. 7 p.m. \$.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Rodrio y Gabriela*. 7 p.m. \$\$\$.

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# CRANACHAN

*2/3 cup oatmeal  
1 1/4 cups heavy cream  
about 2 Tbsp. honey, or to taste  
4 to 5 Tbsp. Scotch whisky  
9 oz. raspberries (1 1/2 packages)*

Toast the oatmeal by putting it into a dry non-stick frying pan over low heat. Cook gently for 4 or 5 minutes, stirring and sliding the pan over the burner from time to time to move the oatmeal about, until it smells fragrant and is a shade or two darker. Watch carefully to make sure it doesn't burn, and when it is ready tip it immediately into a medium mixing bowl.

Whip the cream, and when it is thick, stir it into the cooled oats, then add the honey a teaspoon at a time to sweeten it to your taste. Let stand for 20 minutes or more so the oatmeal softens.

Just before serving, stir in the whisky, and then one 6-oz. package of raspberries, reserving the other half package for garnish. You can also add a drizzle of honey to the surface if you like. Irish whiskey or dark Caribbean rum are alternatives to Scotch. Serve in glasses or bowls with the extra raspberries.

*Serves 3 to 4.*

# RASPBERRY AND DARK CHOCOLATE MUFFINS

*2 cups all-purpose flour  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1 stick (4 oz.) chilled butter  
1/2 cup sugar, plus 2 tsp.  
1 egg  
about 1/2 cup milk  
one 6-oz. package of raspberries  
3 squares (1 1/2 oz.) Ghirardelli dark chocolate or other dark chocolate, chopped into small bits*

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a muffin pan with paper cups. In a large bowl, combine the flour and baking powder. Cut the butter into 10 to 12 pieces and add them a few at a time, rubbing them in until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Mix in the half cup of sugar. (Reserve the remaining 2 tsp. for sprinkling.)

Beat the egg with half the milk in a small bowl. Make a well in the flour mixture, pour in the egg mixture, and stir it in, adding more milk a little at a time until you have a thick dough.

Fold in the raspberries and chocolate bits. Do not overmix. Dollop the mixture into the prepared muffin pan, and sprinkle the remaining 2 tsp. of sugar over the tops.

(For **Raspberry Almond Muffins**, omit the chocolate, and add 1 tsp. of almond extract to the batter. Just before putting the muffins in the oven, add a few sliced almonds to each one.)

Bake for 18 to 22 minutes, or until golden and a skewer poked into the center comes out clean.

*Makes 12.*



## RECIPES from page B1

Blackberries, like raspberries, belong to the rose family, but unlike raspberries they hang on to their hard central core when picked. Black raspberries look superficially similar to blackberries, but these wild variants of red raspberries are smaller than blackberries and share the raspberry habit of coming away from their core when picked. If you find them growing on local road verges or hedges, be sure to sample them as they taste delicious.

Both sorts of raspberries team so beautifully with cream that one may wonder if it's worth bothering to do anything more than simply serve them plopped together in a bowl. You would certainly want to do this often during their local season, which begins in early July and goes into August, with some varieties producing a fall crop.

But there are many other delightful ways to eat them.

One of these is the famous Peach Melba, invented by the French chef Auguste Escoffier to honor the Australian soprano Dame Nellie Melba. This is a poached peach served on vanilla ice cream with a raspberry sauce that adds a balancing tingle – easy to make, especially if you omit the crowning tangle of caramel that chefs usually add.

Another lovely dish is **cranachan**, a Scottish dessert of raspberries, whipped cream, and toasted oatmeal flavored with whisky and honey.

Summer pudding is an English specialty that's a bit trickier to make: you have to line a bowl with bread then fill it with raspberries, perhaps also including a few blackberries or blueberries, and then cover it with a bread lid and weigh that down to compress everything together. It's chilled for several hours, and then finally, crossing your fingers that it doesn't collapse, you un-mold it and serve it with cream.

Other favorite raspberry treats include sponge cakes filled with cream and raspberries, triangular raspberry puffs made of puff pastry and raspberry jam, and those raspberry pies evoked by E. W. Lowe.

Notably, these desserts are all from cool countries rather than Mediterranean or tropical ones. That's because raspberries are a northern fruit, growing as far as north as Scandinavia and Alaska. Scottish raspberries are particularly

# RASPBERRY BUTTER CRUMBLE



HOPLEY PHOTOS

*1 stick (4 oz.) chilled butter  
12 oz. (two packages) raspberries  
4 or 5 tsp. white sugar  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. powdered ginger  
6 Tbsp. light brown sugar*

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a shallow, quart-sized baking pan or dish with a little butter. Put in the raspberries and sprinkle them with 3 tsp. of white sugar. Set aside.

In a mixing bowl stir together the flour, baking powder, and

ginger. Cut the butter into small pieces and add them, rubbing them into the flour until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Now thoroughly mix in the light brown sugar.

Scatter this mixture over the raspberries, smoothing it even but not pressing it down. Sprinkle on a teaspoon or two of white sugar.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden and pulling away slightly from the pan. Serve warm, with cream or ice cream.

*Serves 4.*

esteemed because the country's cool wet climate suits them perfectly.

Listing raspberry dishes highlights some of their flavor partners. These include other fruits, such as peaches and blueberries. Their seasons overlap the raspberry season so it's easy to team them.

Raspberries are also delicious in cakes and pastries flavored with almonds or hazelnuts. Then, as well as cream, raspberries pair happily with other dairy foods as shown in the butteriness of the pastry used for raspberry puffs and pies and

the **Raspberry Butter Crumble** recipe above.

And, perhaps more surprisingly, raspberries team remarkably well with dark chocolate – a fact not lost on fine chocolate manufacturers, so if your idea of something special is a high-quality chocolate bar, be sure to try one with a raspberry filling.

Also, try the recipes on this page. Note that the most common plastic supermarket packages of raspberries contain 6 ounces, or one and a quarter cups, of berries.



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