

The Montague Reporter

ORIGINS

A Special Town Needs Special Districts (Or, Why They Made Sense at the Time)



QUALE PHOTO: *The annual meeting of the Montague Center fire district in June drew a larger crowd than usual.*

By WILL QUALE

MONTAGUE – In an interview with the Montague Oral History Project last year, Luke Hartnett – at that time a captain in the Turners Falls fire department, and chief of the Montague Center fire department – shared that there has been good-natured joshing over radio calls about which department has a stronger claim to the name “Montague.”

The real answer is neither: there is no “Montague Fire Department,” as neither department is a part of the town; each is governed by an independent fire district. In fact, these are just two of four “special” districts that coexist with the town: there is also a water district and a light district. And not long ago there were six such districts in the town, four of which ran fire departments.

So, what are these “districts,” and what makes them, well, special?

While the answer is scattered throughout Massachusetts General Law, it was explained in a clearer way in 1930 by Hyannis postmaster Edward Maher:

Now it may transpire that there is a certain populous, and important, community within a town that desires certain conveniences, improvements and protection that the town as a whole may not wish to provide funds for. In that case, the law provided that this community may petition the town to set it aside as a Fire District and define its boundaries. If the town refuses to comply, the petitioners may proceed to organize a Fire District under the general laws. A Fire District may be formed also by special act of the legislature....

Maher characterizes a district as “in some respects like a little town, with restricted rights... to raise money by taxation,” in order to provide specific services. There are two additional wrinkles: one, a district may include territory in multiple towns, and two, separate districts may overlap, if they provide different services to their residents.

Montague’s special districts are effectively “little towns” within our town, each with its own version of a selectboard and

see **DISTRICTS** page A4

Board Calls Six-Town Meeting

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The state legislature has simplified a ballot question that would ask voters in Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, Warwick, Montague, and Gill if they would like to form a new six-town regional school district – or, alternately, a five-town district without Warwick.

The Six-Town Regional Planning Board (STRPB), a group of representatives from

each of the towns which worked for years to study the feasibility of the idea, eventually came to endorse it, spent several more years drafting a district agreement for the would-be region and editing it with state officials, and is now trying to schedule a special election in all the towns this fall. The date is still pending final state approval.

“The two ballot questions crafted by our legislators have been simplified into one

see **SIX-TOWN** page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sewer Rates Rising By 3%; Parking Bans: Tyranny Basically

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its August 10 meeting the Montague selectboard endorsed a 3% increase in sewer rates, a decision which all felt was modest but has since received stern criticism on social media, particularly from opponents of a new library in Turners Falls.

The board also voted to schedule the election for a debt exclusion to finance a new regional tech school building for October 6, approved the warrant for the September 1 primary election, and appointed former town clerk Deb Bourbeau as a consultant from August through December.

The meeting began on a rocky note, when

Scott Hyman of Millers Falls complained that his son had been ticketed as a result of the policy which bans parking on the street between 1 and 5 a.m., from December through March, in most of the town.

“We are a free country – everywhere else

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Mobile Park Rent Increased Again; Landlord Seeks Years of Back Pay

By SARAH ROBERTSON

ORANGE – Homeowners at the Leisure Woods Estates mobile home park may see the rent they pay on their lots increase by about \$30 next month, following a court-ordered revision of a local rent control ruling. An appeal headed to state court, meanwhile, could result in the residents owing the park’s owners thousands of dollars in back rent.

Two years ago, after months of fact-finding, deliberation, and contentious public hearings, the Orange Mobile Home Rent Control Board decided to approve a 25% rent increase at Leisure Woods, rather than the 43% increase requested by park owner Glenn Gidley.

Gidley, whose company Leisure Woods

see **PARK** page A6

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Two Selectboard Hopefuls Agree To Hold Forum; Town Hall Sags

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Through the summer the Wendell selectboard has been down to two members, and a vote for a replacement board member is timed to coincide with the state primary on Tuesday, September 1. Earlier this summer Chris Kranz took out nomination papers, and a second resident, Marina Apostol, recently announced her intention to run. Both candidates came to the selectboard’s August 12 meeting, one by Zoom, one in person.

Citizen Ray DiDonato is helping to coordinate a candidate forum at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday, August 27 at the town hall. Each candidate will make an opening statement,

see **WENDELL** page A8

First Street Homes Advertised as Habitat Heads to Planning Board

By BELLA LEVAVI

TURNERS FALLS – The newly-renamed Franklin Hampshire Habitat for Humanity is moving forward with plans to build six affordable homes on First Street, following years of environmental cleanup and planning work at the town-owned site.

“It costs so much to build houses these days that we’re selling the houses for less than it costs to build them, even with the help of volunteer labor,” Megan McDonough, executive director of the organization, told attendees at a community meeting on Monday. “It’s not a for-everyone program, but we hope that it provides stability and strength.”

About 20 residents attended the informal community meeting, hosted by the Brick House Community Resource Center, to discuss the project and ask the organization questions ahead of a planning board hearing scheduled for next Tuesday at the town hall.

Habitat for Humanity plans to build five

two-story, three-bedroom homes and one single-story, two-bedroom home designed to accommodate a homeowner with mobility impairments.

The property, currently used as a parking lot across from town hall, once contained

see **HOMES** page A7



LEVAVI PHOTO: *Habitat for Humanity director Megan McDonough shared illustrations of the six planned houses.*

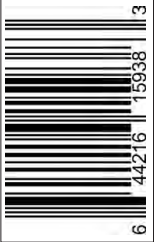
SECOND CHANCES



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO: *Conway-based raptor rehabilitator Tom Ricardi shows a peregrine falcon during an August 9 visit to the Great Falls Discovery Center. “It was a very popular event, to the point that the room was filled and going out the door, because Tom Ricardi is a well-known person,” our photo beat guy, Joe R. Parzych, reports. “It was fun and awesome. Everyone enjoyed it and asked questions and listened to what he had to say.”*

Full Steam Ahead

Emerging as a Destination.....	A2	A New Generation of Poison.....	A8	Unfolding All Around Us.....	B6
Battling It Out.....	A3	Sagging for So Long.....	A8	Signifying Princeliness.....	B7
Spreading Rapidly Down the Street.....	A4	Wearing a Delicate Flower.....	B1	Like Heads in Prayer.....	B8
Succumbed to Absorption.....	A5	Saving Your Natural Teeth.....	B2	Standing on the Gallows.....	B9
Serve as Breeding Grounds.....	A6	Lying Near the Bushes.....	B3	Horse Pull, Truck Pull, Easy Walk.....	B10
In the Snow Globe.....	A7	Being Listened To.....	B4	Withering, Bittersweet, High On Fire.....	B11
Crumbling Down in Pieces.....	A7	Jarring to Recognize.....	B5	Doors That Might Be Openable.....	B12



The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

CORRECTION

An article in our last edition (*Loss of Regional Recycling Pioneer Derails Wendell’s Compost Program*, August 6, Page A1) mistakenly reported that “almost all” municipal transfer stations in Franklin County rely on the Compost Cooperative to collect and transport food scraps and yard waste to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield.

In fact, Casella Waste Systems provides this service to seven transfer stations in the county, while the Compost Cooperative collects compost from six. Both companies deliver the compost to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield.

Thanks to Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for helping us correct this mistake!

Letters to the Editors



Feeney: Coryat Already Prepared

Corinne Coryat already has five years’ experience working inside our state legislature. She is familiar with the communities of the 1st Franklin District in her former role as top aide to Natalie Blais.

This, combined with her law education, uniquely prepares her to drive solutions to our communities’ concerns at the state level.

Corinne will represent our inter-

ests with strength and translate – for us – the legalese of referendum issues impacting our natural resources – water rights and data centers come to mind most recently.

Corinne is a leader serving us right out of the gate. A vote for her on September 1 is a vote for our future.

Mary Feeney
Turners Falls

Hanold: Wondolowski for Council

On September 1 voters in the 1st Franklin House District will choose the Democratic candidate that will appear on the general election ballot on November 3. The choice is particularly important because, as of the swearing in on January 3, the seat will have been vacant for 11½ months.

A look at what each of the candidates has done during this period gives some insight into what might happen in the next session on Beacon Hill.

Corinne Coryat will complete five years as the chief of staff to the former Representative, and has “kept the lights on and the services coming” by continued community services and outreach for our towns and city. In a rural district like ours this is a substantial job by itself, but she has also been actively involved with completing the House-passed FARM Bill, which we hope will pass the state Senate and be submitted to the governor. Her service to date indicates that she has the background to move into the formal leadership role.

Her opponent for the Democratic endorsement has led the Greenfield City Council, a more visible position but one serving a smaller constituency. Greenfield is a city with its own unique challenges, and I question her decision to leave her leading role there to seek a new job.

I do not know the reasons for the recent staffing changes there, and do not assign blame for them, but they do not demonstrate a clear hand at the top. Most recently, the *Greenfield Recorder* described in their lead article on August 15, a possible delay in setting the tax rate for FY’27 – a consequence of delayed completion of property valuations, in turn a result (in part, I assume) of late issuance of a Request for Proposal for assistance, in turn, etc.

I can’t say why all this happened, but I do know from years on Montague’s finance committee that this reflects inadequate oversight, at multiple levels, of a fundamental civic responsibility. It is an awkward time to leave a job, for another for which she does not have the experience that Coryat has shown.

I have spoken with both candidates and conclude that Greenfield will be best served if their Council head applies her talents and energy where she is, and that the 1st Franklin District is best served by empowering the chief of staff with the full authority she has already exercised.

John Hanold
Turners Falls

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Owner Denise Mayo and scooper Josie Cloutier serve up frosty delights on a recent Friday afternoon at Sundaes at Lena’s, at the former Oak Ridge Golf Course on West Gill Road in Gill. Customers can choose from 25 flavors of Maple Valley hard ice cream in novel concoctions and traditional arrangements. Lena’s is open from noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays.

Wisnewski: Wondolowski ‘Will Not Walk In Alone’

I am proudly supporting Lora Wondolowski for State Representative in the 1st Franklin District.

For many years, I have had the privilege of serving our community as a volunteer, nonprofit leader, elected official, and appointee to local and regional boards and commissions. Through these experiences, I have learned that public service starts with listening, earning people’s trust, understanding their needs, and bringing people together.

Lora understands this really well. She brings valuable municipal government experience. For two years in a row, her peers have trusted her to serve as Greenfield City Council President. That matters. Municipal leaders see firsthand how decisions made on Beacon Hill affect our schools, local budgets, food systems, housing, infrastructure, and families. They also know that what works for one community may not work for another.

That perspective is especially important in our district. From Montague and Sunderland to Ashfield, Colrain, Rowe, and our smaller rural towns, our communities have different needs, challenges, and resources. We need someone who will listen to those differences and advocate for all of us.

Lora has spent years building relationships with municipal officials, legislators, nonprofit and community leaders, workers, advocates, and residents across our region. She knows how to build coalitions and how to bring people along.

For Lora, Day One has already started.

I see that in her grassroots campaign. She shows up. She works hard. She listens. She invites people into the work. She mentors others and creates opportunities for people across generations to lead. To me, that says a lot about the maturity, leadership humility, and emotional intelligence she will bring to this position.

When Lora walks into the State House, she will bring years of relationships and community work with her. She will not walk in alone; she will bring our communities with her.

That is the kind of representation I want for the 1st Franklin District. On September 1, I will proudly cast my vote for Lora Wondolowski, and I hope you will join me.

Francia Wisnewski
Montague

Since Jurassic Times.

Thanks go to the *MR* for facilitating conversation among residents around the topic of “understanding land stewardship.”

Noise made by the author of *Minor Median Mauled* (August 6, Page A2), is most welcomed by Readers, who witness needless destruction of Habitat for all Life, in our villages and beyond. They are eager to put into action cross-disciplinary conversations already begun, that include public and private stakeholders, pollinator experts, and geologists.

Montague, and Great/Turners Falls in particular, is (since Jurassic times) an exceptionally dynamic place, wherein community and conversation can thrive. We are emerging as a destination for many reasons, for the right reasons: to reactivate and cultivate Right Relations with each other, and with Life.

Let us compare our motives and intentions with open minds and hearts, exploring our Emerging Future. Reader responses are welcomed.

Leonore Alaniz
Turners Falls

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An exuberant Jenna Putala, in her senior year at Turners Falls High School, steps up to the plate during the 2016 Western Mass Division III semifinal at UMass Amherst. Turners would beat Mt. Everett 3-1, and a week later clinched their second successive state championship title thanks to an RBI double by Putala.

High School Sports: The Loss of a Legend

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – I have some sad news to share with our readers this week. Last Sunday, August 9, Jenna Catherine Putala passed away at the tender age of 28.

Jenna graduated from Turners Falls High School in 2016, and was very active in both academics and athletics. After high school, she earned her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and her master's degree from Nichols College.

Before Jenna even reached high school she was a standout softball player, netting five varsity hits while still in seventh grade. Over the next five years, she hit her stride.

According to *MassLive*, Jenna had 146 career hits in 200 at-bats for an amazing .730 batting average. She finished with 110 RBIs, 31 doubles, two triples, and 24 home runs, and was hit by three pitches.

While in college and grad school, she was active in both schools' softball programs. After finishing her studies she continued her softball career, becoming an assistant softball coach at Babson College.

I had the privilege of witnessing Jenna battling it out, game after game, on the softball diamond, but that's not what I remember most fondly about her. It was her constant smile, her easygoing nature, and her unwavering support of her teammates.

Rest in heavenly peace, Jenna.

A celebration of Jenna Putala's life will be held Saturday, September 12, at the Schuetzen Verein in Gill, beginning at 2 p.m. Jenna has requested that black not be worn. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Jenna Putala Sunflower Fund: www.tinyurl.com/SunflowerFund

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

I attended retired geology professor Richard Little's great, stock, local geology lecture last weekend at the Discovery Center, and was entertained to hear him still beating the drum for his campaign to have the **armored mudball** named the "official sedimentary structure" of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (See header photograph, Page B1.)

I knew vaguely that a bill to this effect had actually been introduced on Beacon Hill, but when I looked it up I was surprised to learn that H.3438, "An Act Establishing the Official Sedimentary Structure of the Commonwealth," actually had a third reading in the House last Monday and was passed to the Senate, where it was read on Thursday and referred to the Rules committee.

There are definitely more important things to worry about, but something about Prof. Little's cam-

paign is so perfect – it's bite-sized, it's *winnable*, it draws attention to a much larger planetary timescale, and uh, you know, it puts Turners Falls right on the map! So, if any of you have friends or family members on the Senate Committee on Rules, put down this paper and shoot them a string of text messages about the importance of moving H.3438 forward in a timely manner.

Solid Waste Management District manager Amy Donovan, reacting to the photo of a bear raiding the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) we ran in our August 6 edition, sent in some generally good-sounding **bear advice for our more compost-minded readers**:

- "Some people put their compost bin or pile inside a wood-and-metal wire enclosure that they build around it."
- "To deter bears from your compost bin, sprinkle powdered

- lime around and in the bin. Bears don't like it."
- "I find that many/most compost bins do not contain enough leaves and other carbon-rich materials. Add a lot of fall leaves in autumn, and stockpile fall leaves to add to your bin all year long. Adding plenty of carbon makes composting happen faster, insulates the food waste, and increases oxygen."
- "Avoid adding large volumes of sweet-smelling fruits such as watermelon, cantaloupe, berries, etc."
- "Never add meat, bones, fats, dairy to home compost bins. These materials attract animals and slow down the compost process."

Thanks, Amy!

Also on the topic of Wendell, a **blind item** forwarded to us from that town's townwide email listserv: "Found: Joni Mitchell CD on Lockes Village Road. It got wet but looks OK. Inquire at the Wendell Store."

We hope reprinting it here might help reunite this CD with its owner!

The primary election takes place before our next edition, and there are **two candidate forums next week** we want to highlight.

First, the two candidates seeking the Democratic Party nomination for the 1st Franklin District state rep seat previously held by Natalie Blais will meet next Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Guiding Star Grange on Chapman Street in Greenfield.

"Lora Wondolowski and Corinne Coryat will be asked questions at a forum concentrating on rental and housing issues," the announcement announces. "The event is hosted by the Greenfield Tenants Union and Franklin County DSA in partnership with Housing Greenfield.... 'This is everyone's chance to ask the candidates questions concerning rentals and housing. Renters, homeowners, landlords, and everyone in between are welcome.'"

To register for online attendance, go to <https://bit.ly/3S5lbVC> – I'm sorry for that terrible URL!

And second, next Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. the two candidates running in a special election for a vacant seat on the Wendell selectboard – wow, this column is *really* highlighting Wendell this week for some reason, isn't it – will participate in a forum at that town's town hall.

"The public are invited to a selectboard candidates' forum to hear from candidates for office, Chris Kranz and Marina Apostol," writes Ray DiDonato, who helped organize the forum. "The event will be moderated with six questions posed to the candidates for their reflection, along with opening and closing statements."

OK, one more week off publication and then it's *AUTUMN*. Bye!

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

Blast off at 10AM - Continues for the rest of your life.

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Reader and contributor Christina Trincherio sent us this photo she took last week at Wendell Old Home Day.

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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.

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Attorney for Plaintiff,
Captain's Command at
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DISTRICTS from page A1

town meeting, a clerk, elections, and the right to tax its denizens.

To many, these districts may seem confusing, chaotic, and overly complicated. But as with many of our town's quirks – five villages, four ZIP codes, three library branches, two fire departments, and a partridge... – when we look at them through a historical lens, it makes sense how they got here.

Do they still make sense now, and going forward? That's a question Montague faced in the 1960s and 1990s. As we prepare to give the question another look in the 2020s, let's start from the beginning.

At Turners Falls

In 1860, a century after its incorporation, Montague's population stood at 1,593. Most lived in Montague Center, a collection of farms and cottage industries with two churches and a dozen stores and hotels at its heart. The optimistically-named Montague City stood where a navigation canal, now defunct, had met the main road connecting Boston with Greenfield, and a third small village had sprung up, straddling the Millers River where it was crossed by a newfangled steam-powered railroad, just a decade earlier.

Then came Turners Falls, virtually overnight. By 1880 it boasted 3,110 residents, and the entire rest of town just 1,765. Nearly all of them lived downtown in a dense settlement of hastily-constructed buildings.

A volunteer fire department formed there in 1871, but it lacked organization or income. Montague's town government, still based in Montague Center, was reluctant to create a fire department that would be devoted to an economically and culturally distinct village fully half a day's travel away. And so, the leaders of Turners Falls petitioned the state to create a special district.

In what would become a pattern, this district was born after a conflagration: the Great Boston Fire of 1872, which burned down 776 buildings, killed over 30 people, and prompted the governor to call a special session of the legislature. In addition to disaster relief for Boston, that session passed the act creating the Turners Falls Fire District.

Over the next year, the district organized the Turners Falls Fire Department, built a fire station on Third Street (today's Brick House), and purchased a second-hand Jeffers steam-powered horse-driven fire engine from Fitchburg, which it named the *Alvah Crocker*. With two hose companies – teams of men and boys who raced through the streets, pulling enormous reel carts – this department protected the rapidly-growing village.

Protection often meant containing a fire rather than extinguishing it, as was the case in 1877, when fire destroyed the entire Keith Paper Mill – rebuilt later that same year, now known as the Strathmore. The Keith fire was an early example of Franklin County's mutual aid network, as the Greenfield Fire Department sent its hand-pumped *Eagle* engine and a hose company over the mountain road and across the lower suspension bridge to help.

For over a decade, the district provided only fire protection, drawing water from the Connecticut River, but in 1886 the legislature expanded its jurisdiction to include supplying water for drinking and sanitation,



The Turners Falls Fire District built the fire station on Third Street in 1873.

granting it the use of Lake Pleasant as a source.

The district organized the Turners Falls Water Department, built a pump house on the lake's shore, and laid pipes up to a reservoir on Wills Hill and then down to the village. Its taxation powers allowed it to raise revenue to support both the fire and water departments and cover the cost of street lights, though by some peculiar arrangement the placement of those lights has always been at the mercy of the town selectboard.

At Montague Center

More notable fires struck in 1885 and 1889, both on Main Street in Montague Center. In the first, two houses and their barns burned to the ground while a bucket brigade of residents kept the houses to either side wet, limiting the fire's spread. There was no fire department to aid them.

Four years later, a larger fire started at a factory along the canals east of Main Street, spreading rapidly down the street. "Take from the characteristic New England village a row of its neat houses with their commodious barns, thirteen buildings in all, and replace it with blackened ruins, only the chimneys standing, the pleasant dooryards deserted, and the trim fruit trees charred, and you have Montague as it appeared after its misfortune Saturday night," the *Greenfield Gazette & Courier* lamented.

A telegraph was sent to Greenfield, who shipped the *Eagle* and a hose cart to Montague Center by rail. "But for the coming of this engine," the paper added, "at least four more houses must have gone."

Cecil T. Bagnall described further mutual aid efforts in the *Turners Falls Reporter*: "An incident of the night was the bringing there from Millers Falls with horses the old Button tub *Franklin*," a hand-pumped engine based in Ervingside. Unfortunately, though the Turners Falls fire department also tried to respond and "the Montague Paper Company's draft horses were volunteered to haul the steamer to the fire... it was found impossible to get the top-heavy monster there inside of two hours, and the plan had to be abandoned."

Montague Center needed fire protection – and running water and street lights, for that matter – but these weren't likely to come from a town meeting, especially because by the mid-1880s those were usually held in Turners Falls. The village had to develop its own solutions.

Light came first. "The idea that something besides kerosene is needed for lighting purposes is spreading rapidly through the country villages," the *Gazette & Courier* wrote in 1902. "Montague is investigating the matter in a serious way."

Residents raised \$2,000 by sell-

ing stock in the Montague Electric Light and Power Company, which installed a dynamo at the Harrington sawmill (just downstream of today's Bookmill) and strung up 30 electric lights.

The company provided the village light until 1914, when the state legislature created a Montague Lighting District, bounded by the Boston & Maine tracks to the north, power lines to the east, the Connecticut River to the west, and Sunderland to the south. The company sold its infrastructure to the district, which contracted with the local power utility Franklin Electric, rendering the dynamo at the sawmill unnecessary.

Meanwhile, a farmer named E.L. Bartlett needed water for the cattle he pastured north of Center Street, on land adjacent to today's Sawmill River conservation area. He bought West Pond, and in 1912 built a pump and engine, a water tower, and pipes through the village to his farm. To fund the venture he founded the private Montague Water Works and built connections to supply houses along Main, Union, School, and Center streets with water for a fee.

In 1916 the Montague Center Village Association finally acted on a longstanding desire for fire protection, motivated by the knowledge that money raised for a fire truck would be more than offset by the lower cost of homeowner's insurance it would achieve. To complement their effort, Bartlett added seven fire hydrants to his system, including one on the town common.

Throughout that year, the Association's *Montague Calendar* newspaper reported on fundraising and order specs for a Robinson Combination Fire Motor Truck, with "one standard regulation fire department fire pump... one 35-gallon regulation chemical engine tank... chemical hose, suction hose, fire hose, ladders... The machine is a Ford automobile, and can get pretty nearly anywhere in a hurry."

Upon the truck's arrival, the *Greenfield Recorder* related that in its first test connected to the hydrant on the common, "a stream [was] sent as high as the weather vane on

the steeple of the Congregational church." A volunteer company ran the truck, which was kept first in "the clubhouse" (a long-gone building on Main Street where the memorial bench for Tracy Turn now stands) and later in the Montague Garage.

The truck operated into the 1930s, funded by contra dances and bake sales, theatrical performances and poetry readings. But the challenge of finding spare parts eventually became too great – the Robinson company had gone out of business in 1917 – and a new truck was needed. In order to enable taxation, the village sought to create a fire district.

Boston approved the Montague Center Fire District, geographically covering the entire southern half of the town, in 1941. Wartime restriction delayed delivery of its first truck until 1944, at which point the department acquired the Grange Hall for a station, the Grangers having moved into the former Unitarian church.

In 1953, after Bartlett announced plans to sell his home in Montague along with his water company, villagers sought legislation for a water district. One resident temporarily bought the company from Bartlett, then sold it to the district once it had been brought into being. Since that day a water commission has overseen the small system, which – following a minor expansion – now provides water to 156 properties.

At Millers Falls

Over in Millers Falls, beginning in 1882, hose companies on each side of the river supported a volunteer Franklin Engine Company, which maintained a hand-pumped engine. But, again, it took a great fire to start a district.

"Millers Falls Crippled," the headline on the *Gazette & Courier* wailed, describing the fire of October 30, 1895. "The Business Portion of the Village Wiped Out. Seventeen Buildings Leveled."

"No completer scene of desolation can be imagined than the ruin in the area run over by this fire," the article read. "The photographer, early the next morning on the field, found nothing to make a picture..."

By the next year the Millers Falls Water Supply District had been formed, enabling the installation of pipes and hydrants throughout the Montague side of the village as it was rebuilt. The fire engine and hose companies were brought informally under the district's management, though its taxation authority was limited to supporting water and light services. The water was purchased from the Turners Falls water department under a renewable long-term contract, with pipes connecting the two systems.

In 1902 the legislature expanded the district's territory to include

see **DISTRICTS** next page



The newly created Montague Center Fire District bought its first truck in 1944.

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DISTRICTS from prev. page

Erving, where about half the population of Erving lived, doubling its membership. Water lines were extended across the Millers, and in 1903 the district built its own hydropower station and installed street lights on both sides of the village. That station ran until 1912, when the district began to contract with Franklin Electric for power.

With Erving's well-covered, when the town of Erving formed a fire department in 1925, it was only to serve the eastern parts of town, Farley and Erving Center. The water supply district, realizing it could raise fire taxes, sought to broaden its jurisdiction. The legislature obliged in 1927, and the name was changed to the Millers Falls Fire & Water District. The village's fire department acquired its first motorized truck, an American La France pumper with a Brockway chassis, that same year.

It wasn't until the early 1980s that anyone raised the issue that half of Erving's taxpayers were indirectly paying the Erving fire department – which wasn't protecting them – with their property taxes, while paying fire tax to Millers Falls. By 1987 cries of "double taxation" led to open hostilities between the district commissioners and Erving's selectmen, in what the *Recorder* would describe as a "controversy that... plagued district residents for nearly 10 years."

Though most Erving's residents wished to secede from the district, the commissioners acted for years to thwart them as it would halve the district's revenue and undermine its ability to maintain services, before abruptly changing their tune and seeking to dissolve the district on their terms.

The process was complicated by numerous entanglements. At least a half dozen options were explored by advisory committees in each town, and the negotiations frequently broke down.

At one point, the district sued in Superior Court to make Erving's assessors share their documents on the revaluation of Erving's properties. When the commissioners realized they might lose, they announced that the district could no longer provide fire protection to the neighborhood. Cowed, the assessors handed over the documents, and the case was dismissed. As they asked town meeting to cover the legal costs, Erving's selectmen called it a "hollow victory."

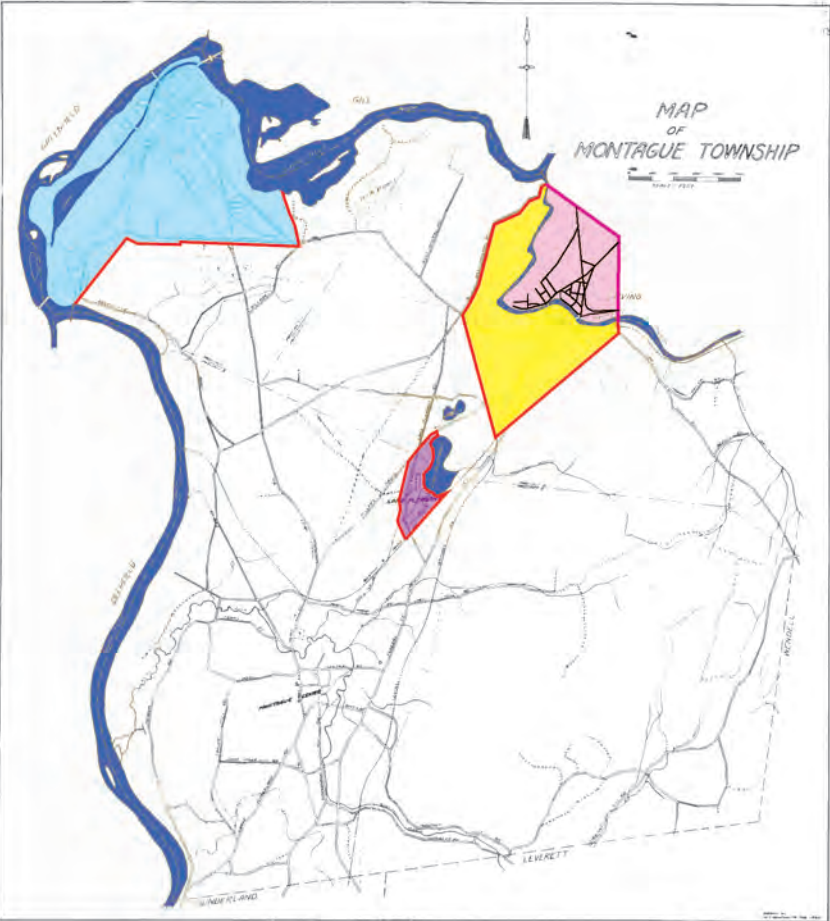
Montague and Erving also had different state legislators, who sponsored competing bills to dissolve the district. Erving's bill passed, and the two sides agreed to arbitration to settle their assets and liabilities. Unhappy that Erving was awarded the district's fire truck, the commissioners stole its license plates and held them for a month.

At Lake Pleasant

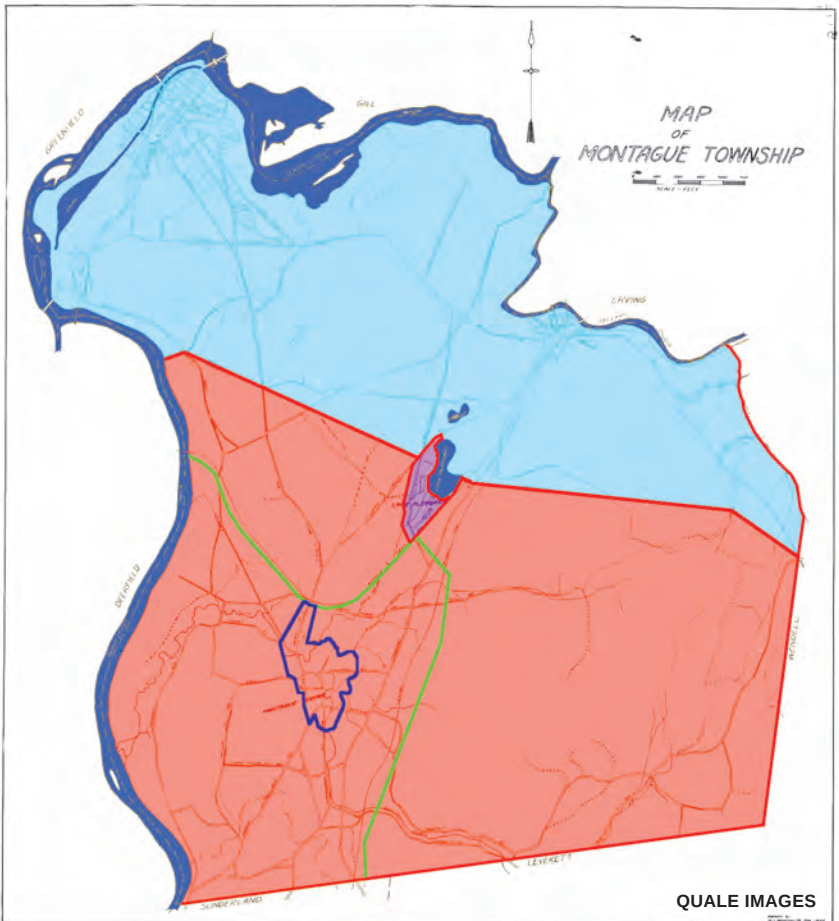
Not to be outdone by the larger villages, Lake Pleasant suffered a fire in 1907 that destroyed more buildings – 112 – than any other in the town's history.

"Fanned by a strong wind," the *Springfield Union* reported, "the flames ate up the lightly constructed buildings as if they had been of card-board."

Though aid arrived swiftly from Turners and Millers Falls, "[t]he lack of means for pumping water made the use of fire-fighting apparatus impossible". The fire razed the Bluffs side of the village, including a 75-room hotel, a dance pavilion, several



Left: From 1908 to 1914 there were three special districts: the Turners Falls Fire District (blue), which sold water to both the Millers Falls Water Supply District (yellow/pink) and the Lake Pleasant Water Supply District (purple). **Right:** The situation today, with the Montague Center Fire District (red), Water District (blue outline), and Lighting District (green outline). Lake Pleasant is now within the Montague Center Fire District, but gets its water from the Turners Falls fire district.



stores, the post office, and Association Hall. Trenches protected the Bridge of Names and kept the blaze contained to half the village.

Any water system at Lake Pleasant would have to connect to the Turners Falls water department's infrastructure as the lake itself, plus nearby Green Pond, had been granted solely to the Turners fire district by its charter. Neither the Millers nor Turners districts were inclined to annex the small and ruined settlement, so the plucky villagers petitioned the legislature for their very own Lake Pleasant Water Supply District.

The district, approved in 1908, laid pipes throughout the village, and also installed street lights – a welcome improvement, as the fire had been caused by an unattended lamp. A volunteer hose company provided rudimentary fire protection to the village for decades.

An arson spree in 1955, however, brought a rude awakening. For several weeks that April the village was held in terror. The "firebug" responsible for as many as 21 fires was never apprehended, though thankfully, most were brush fires, and the Adams Street Temple was the only major structure lost.

The fire department, which had nothing but hose, hydrants, and about a dozen volunteers, relied on help from Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Montague Center, and Greenfield through the crisis. Mutual aid, which 70 years earlier had consisted of a telegraphed SOS resulting in an engine shipped by rail, or horses unable to climb the Hill, by 1930 had become a planned multi-town system, formalized in 1950 with the establishment of Tri-State Mutual Aid and its two-way radio dispatch.

This brought a growing expectation that aid be *mutual*, and by the early 1970s gentle pressure was put on Lake Pleasant: if you want to receive aid, you should be able to provide it. Fire chief John Zellmann, Sr., rising to the challenge, rallied the villagers to build a two-bay garage and purchase a second-hand pumper truck from Hadley, which they enthusiastically repainted bright yellow. The department flourished for 20 years, despite having no support through taxation, and in 1991 still boasted a volunteer force of 15 and two trucks.

Consolidation Efforts

The fire station on Third Street, having been described as early as the 1920s as "unsafe," by the mid-'60s was decrepit. From 1965 to 1974, the Turners Falls Fire District and Montague's town meeting debated where a new station should go: downtown, near the business district and mills, or up on the Hill, which had developed into the village's main residential neighborhood.

The idea of building a station on the Avenue was eventually scrapped – the land became Peskeompskut Park – though the fire district's annual meeting refused, year after year, to purchase land for a station anywhere else. By 1971 the topic of consolidating what were by then six special districts was broached.

"It seems a logical step," said selectboard chair Joseph Bonnette, who envisioned it as one of the "major projects for the town in the next few years." Bonnette acknowledged it would be difficult, and would meet substantial resistance. "The smaller districts will have to be asked to consider it for the betterment of the town," he opined.

In 1974 a plan to build a station on Turnpike Road passed by a single vote. Over the next decade, the Turners Falls department transitioned into a full-time career force and substantially upgraded its apparatus.

Consolidation talk resurfaced in 1990, with Turners Falls fire chief Richard Morin advocating for a merger of all of the districts as a "pioneering feat that would be praised by the townspeople in the future," but the Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, and Montague Center fire chiefs united in opposition.

"Before they could sell this district on some type of change," Montague Center chief John Greene argued, "they would have to show a gain in value for a gain in cost."

Town meeting was asked in 1991 to form a committee to "study the advantages and disadvantages of merging Montague's various fire, water and light districts," and to appropriate \$10,000 for the study. The measure passed, but with a significant amendment: the funding was completely stripped.

The penniless committee received no further news coverage, but study proved unnecessary to bring about a

partial consolidation of the districts. 1992 was the year Erving's finally withdrew from the Millers Falls Fire and Water District, though the arbitration dragged on through 1993.

After a year of courtship, the Turners Falls Fire District was allowed in 1994 to annex the rump Millers Falls district, as well as extensive non-district territory including the Turners Falls airport, Franklin County Tech School, and the foothills leading to Wendell.

At the same time, membership in Lake Pleasant's fire department was collapsing: from 15 volunteers in 1991 to three in 1993. Fire chief Dean Wonsey attributed the waning support to "people moving away from the village, few people moving in willing to get involved, and other demanding interests." (David James expresses this another way in *Spirit and Spa*: "Mid-1990s – Gentrification comes to the village of Lake Pleasant.")

That summer the Lake Pleasant Water Supply District defunded the village fire department, opting instead to receive fire protection under short-term contracts with the Turners Falls fire department. However – perhaps feeling more affinity with a volunteer rural department, or perhaps because the fire tax there was much lower – in 2000 the village opted to be annexed instead, along with its firefighting assets, into the Montague Center Fire District.

The Lake Pleasant Water Supply District persisted in its aqueous and luminous capacities for another eight years, until succumbing to absorption by the Turners Falls Fire District in 2008 for the maintenance of the water infrastructure and street lights.

Back to the Future

Montague is left today with four special districts: three in "Montague Center," though they vary widely in territory, and one labeled "Turners Falls," which covers three and a half villages.

The two fire districts each have a prudential committee, akin to a selectboard, and hold an open annual meeting. All residents who are registered to vote may attend their district's meeting and vote on articles, determining its budget and priorities for the coming year.

This April, the annual meet-

ing of the Turners Falls Fire District drew 40 of the district's over 6,000 residents, and its election attracted 38 voters. The Montague Center Fire District, which "proudly protects 2,078 people," held a standing-room-only informational meeting in June, followed a week later by its annual meeting, held at the fire station to accommodate an engaged crowd of 81.

Not all districts tax their residents. The Montague Center Water District bills its 156 customers based on their water usage. Perhaps because this is so straightforward, its annual meeting in May was attended by nine people, including this reporter and the five-member water commission.

And then there's the Montague Lighting District, whose name implies it lights the entire town, though it serves only a portion of the village. For decades it has held the distinction of having the lowest tax rate of any entity with taxation authority in Massachusetts, being responsible solely for 83 street lights.

Though fire districts can form anywhere in the state, in practice they are clustered in the southeast, on or near Cape Cod, and the west, mostly in Franklin County. Water districts are more widespread. In Franklin County, 22 towns have municipal fire departments, while the other four – Buckland, Shelburne, Deerfield, and Montague – contain seven fire districts, some of which also supply water or lighting. Ashfield, Monroe, Montague, Sunderland, and Northfield contain separate water districts.

While consolidating fire service townwide has been discussed in Montague several times before, other possible moves include creating a single water service while maintaining two fire districts, or consolidating Montague Center's districts, leaving two simpler districts – and Lake Pleasant. As the question again returns, some circumstances are new: there are fewer districts now, and as of this year, both fire districts share a chief in Luke Hartnett.

Though the town's economics, geography, and culture may point us in different directions, if history is to be a guide, at least we can all agree it would be best that the solution not be born in flames.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Congregationalists May Garden

By GEORGE BRACE

At its most recent meeting on August 11, the Leverett selectboard gave the go-ahead for a church to garden public land in the center of town, approved a conservation restriction on a section of the Robert Frost Trail, and formed a hiring committee for a police sergeant, among other business.

Ralph Tiner appeared on behalf of the First Congregational Church of Leverett seeking the board’s approval for landscaping and gardening work on town-owned land bordering the church’s property along Montague Road.

Tiner said the church wants to remove “what some people may call weeds,” or “natural wildflowers, if you will,” along a stone wall across the street from the town hall and Leverett Crafts & Arts and replace them with perennial herbs, other flowering plants, and grass in order to avoid a “constant battle with weeds.”

Among other vegetation, Tiner said, the area currently contains poison ivy and some invasive species, but “nothing endangered, believe me.” He and the selectboard members agreed the work should leave plenty of room for a future sidewalk in the area.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy said she didn’t want to complicate things, but suggested that the church draft a simple agreement, as a “formality,” to provide clarity to future administrators and selectboards.

Board member Jed Proujansky agreed that “given recent experience” the board has had with land-

use issues, it would be a good idea to have a document “which our kids can look to” defining the relationship between the town and the church.

Tiner agreed to draft a document.

Board member Tom Hankinson joined Proujansky and Duffy in commending the 250-year-old church for the initiative and said the project would “improve the aesthetics of downtown Leverett.”

Frost Woods Preserved

The selectboard approved a request from the non-profit Kestrel Land Trust to hold a conservation restriction on 27 acres of land near Two Mile Road owned by Gay Hapgood.

Kestrel conservation manager Lee Halasz said the restriction would secure a section of the Robert Frost Trail to be maintained by the trust, and will protect wetlands that serve as breeding grounds for herons and wood ducks.

Halasz said the restriction allows public access to the trail from adjacent properties, but that other areas would remain private. These could be used for forestry, farming, or recreation at the landowner’s discretion, he said, but uses which could be described as “development,” including solar farms and housing subdivisions, would be prohibited.

Halasz said the land was “largely” wetlands, with no road frontage, and that the restriction should not affect property taxes. He explained that the town’s approval was necessary because the owner was assigning the restriction to a non-profit rather than holding it herself.

Other Business

The selectboard formed a committee to interview applicants for the town’s open police sergeant position, but said it would only be convened if necessary. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that police chief Scott Minckler had received five applications, but only one with the desired qualifications.

The board decided to confer with Minckler as to whether to wait for additional qualified applicants, but agreed that if none are put forward, it will skip the hiring committee step and proceed directly to a selectboard interview.

The board appointed Gregory Massa to a 19-hour-per-week building custodian role, pending a physical exam and CORI check.

The board signed a grant-funded \$30,000 contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to provide hazard mitigation planning. McGinnis said the work is necessary to qualify for further grants.

The board signed a contract to buy a new road grader from Milton Cat for \$383,125. McGinnis reported that the bulk of the cost will be covered by a \$250,000 grant from the state’s Unpaved Roads program, with the balance coming from Chapter 90 funds, a trade-in on the old grader, and \$38,125 from the town.

The board decided to update its policy on use of the town hall by private groups to clearly exclude their use of its expensive audiovisual and computer equipment, due to liability concerns.

PARK from page A1

Estates Inc. owns the 153-lot park, sued the rent control board in October 2024, contending that the smaller increase would not provide the business with a “fair net operating income” – which it is entitled to under Orange’s mobile home rent control bylaw – and that the hearing process had taken too long, costing it further money.

The approved increase was phased in over the following two years, bringing the monthly price of a lot from \$410.40 in 2024 to \$462 last year, and \$512 today, including taxes. Gidley’s suit sought payments from Leisure Woods tenants for the full requested amount, \$588 per month, retroactive to when the company first petitioned for the increase.

On February 10, Superior Court judge David Hodge denied the retroactive increase, which Leisure Woods is now appealing. However, the court also ordered that the rent control board “explain the exclusion of certain financial documents presented by Leisure Woods” in its decision not to grant the full increase.

Rent control board chair Jane Peirce told the *Reporter* that the board did not receive adequate information from the owners to justify certain expenses they had cited in their estimation of a fair rate of return on the park.

“They never sent us good numbers in a consistent format so we could compare one thing to another,” Peirce said. “All they need to do is get an actual accountant to give us this information.”

As they puzzled through Leisure Woods’s submitted documents, the board members had decided that neither a \$40,000 annual line item for general asset depreciation, nor a \$70,000 increase in employee salaries, should count as necessary operating expenses. Judge Hodge asked for an explanation of these exclusions.

On August 10 the rent control board convened at the Orange Town Hall to address the court’s question and discuss its next steps.

Selectboard members Jane Peirce and Julie Davis and town clerk Andrew Smith, who comprise the three-member board, were joined by town counsel Donna MacNicol.

“We have been hand-tied by a very rudimentary spreadsheet that purports to be a budget, that never was clarified for us when we asked for a breakdown of the categories for the budget,” Davis said. “The \$70,000 it feels like we have to accept. The \$40,000 doesn’t feel justified at this moment.”

Throughout the hearing process, the board had sought to differentiate which expenditures were for Leisure Woods and which more broadly benefited Gidley’s family business, Salem Manufactured Homes, which bought the park in 1997. The company manages six other trailer parks in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and sells mobile homes, which residents purchase in addition to renting lots.

A major point of contention was whether Glenn’s son Adam Gidley, who serves as the operations manager for Leisure Woods, was collecting multiple salaries for parks managed by Salem Manufactured Homes.

The \$70,000 increase in the salary line item in 2024, Leisure Woods attorney John Kuzinevich told the *Reporter* this week, was due to the fact that Adam Gidley and a part-time bookkeeper both began col-

lecting salaries from Leisure Woods for the first time.

Asked why neither had been paid previously, he answered: “Because the rent control board did not give us enough money to pay them.”

Kuzinevich also confirmed that Adam Gidley is not a full-time employee of Leisure Woods Estates, but declined to answer whether he is also employed at any of the other parks.

“We think that’s irrelevant,” he said, “because as long as he is performing his function at Leisure Woods, that’s the only thing that’s relevant.”

“We have no evidence that the operations manager is full-time dedicated to the Leisure Woods park, in spite of the fact we’ve asked for that many times,” Peirce said at last week’s meeting.

Nevertheless, the board voted to concede on excluding the full \$70,000, but to count a reduced sum for the position, \$50,000, toward the fair market rent calculation. The revised estimate of operating expenses resulted in a rent increase of \$28.54 per lot, which is set to take effect on September 1.

“We have no evidence that the operations manager is full-time dedicated to the Leisure Woods park.”

– Jane Peirce
Chair, Orange Mobile Home Rent Control Board

“As long as he is performing his function at Leisure Woods, that’s the only thing that’s relevant.”

– John Kuzinevich
Attorney, Leisure Woods Estates, Inc.

Reached for comment on Wednesday, Leisure Woods residents Alfred Henderson and Arthur Hicks, his neighbor and son-in-law, were surprised to hear their rent was going up.

“He’s in for a big surprise from me, because he’s not going to get it,” Henderson, a widower in his 90s, told the *Reporter*. “We got no notice that this was supposed to be a rent increase meeting. I would have been there, definitely.”

Henderson and Hicks say they plan to challenge the decision on the grounds that the increase will be too burdensome for tenants, that the cost estimates used to justify the increase were inflated, and that the owners do not adequately maintain the park. They will deposit the difference between the current and increased rent into an escrow account instead, they said, and meet with their neighbors to encourage them to do the same.

“We want him to be audited for what he’s showing. We want these numbers to make sense,” Hicks said. “We’re going to force him to come clean about what he’s actually spending.”

The Massachusetts Appeals Court will hear oral arguments in the coming months regarding Leisure Woods’s appeal for a retroactive rent increase, Kuzinevich said. If granted, each of the 146 homes at Leisure Woods would owe the company “several thousand dollars” in back rent.

“That’s going to put people on the street,” said Hicks.



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HOMES from page A1

tenement housing associated with the area’s mills. Environmental testing found heavy metals and other contaminants in the soil, left from the former buildings, delaying the project since 2023.

“We are returning it to the historical use of housing,” McDonough said, “but some of that historical use has slowed us down.”

The town secured grant funding to clean up the property, and a final report issued in May found no remaining limitations on the site’s use.

Habitat was selected by the town as the affordable housing developer and expects the property to be transferred later this fall, pending project approvals. The town had also changed the zoning for the neighborhood through a new overlay district intended to encourage affordable housing.

Habitat plans for all-electric houses, with heat pumps or mini-splits for heating and cooling, heat-pump water heaters, and solar panels developed in partnership with PV Squared, according to McDonough.

Some trees along the First Street alley may be cleared this fall to prepare for the solar access, she said, and Habitat has acknowledged that the project will eliminate informal parking along the alley where neighbors have parked for years. The organization is seeking permission to create six additional parking spaces along the rear of the single-story house which could be returned to the town for public use.

The homes are to be sold to households earning below 60% of the area’s median income who demonstrate a housing need, but also meet Habitat’s credit and minimum income requirements. Unlike some other programs, applicants do not need to apply with a mortgage in hand; Habitat will help them obtain financing.

McDonough said she expects applications to open

after the necessary permits and property transfer are complete, likely this winter. The application period will remain open for 60 days, followed by a review process that typically takes several months. All eligible applicants will then be entered into a lottery.

“We just finished taking applications for two houses in Pelham, and we got 32 applications,” McDonough said. “Only a third of them are actually eligible for the lottery. So your odds aren’t that bad – something like one in 10, or one in 20.”

Two priorities will be weighted in the lottery. The single-story home will favor applicants who require a handicap-accessible home because of a physical disability. The other homes will prioritize households that need all three bedrooms, though smaller households will not automatically be excluded.

Those chosen for homeownership must then contribute approximately 250 hours of sweat equity, with up to 50 potentially completed by friends and family. Habitat can develop alternative forms of participation for those who cannot perform construction work.

“We build homes for low-income families alongside those future homeowners,” McDonough explained. “People ‘volunteer’ – they put sweat equity into the homes – and then they purchase them at an affordable price.” The homes will carry deed restrictions limiting their resale price so that they remain affordable to future buyers, though the homeowners can still build equity through mortgage payments.

“We are grateful that the town has invested the time and effort to say, ‘This is an important piece of land in our downtown, and we want to clean it up and make it available for housing,’” McDonough said.

Construction is anticipated to begin next spring, with three homes being completed in 2028 and the other three in 2029.



MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Montague Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026** in the Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom to review a Special Permit request filed by **Finn Cross** to allow the proposed operation of a dog daycare and dog training facility, under Sections 8.4.2, 8.4.5 and 9.2 of the Zoning Bylaw, located at **40-44 Industrial Blvd (Parcel #17-0-033)** Industrial (ID) Zoning District.

Remote meeting login information and the filing are available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Montague Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026** in the Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and via Zoom to review an Application for Plan Approval Under Smart Growth Overlay 40R Districts, filed by **Franklin Hampshire Habitat for Humanity** to allow the proposed construction of six single-family homes and public parking area, on an approximate 0.654-acre lot, to be split into seven separate lots, under Section 10 of the Zoning Bylaw, located at **0 First Street (Assessor’s Map/Parcel 04-0-0031)** Neighborhood Business (NB) Zoning District & Smart Growth Overlay Zoning Sub-District B.

Remote meeting login information and the filing are available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on September 14, 2026 beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Leverett Town Hall to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Janna Tetreault for 59 Camp Road. The proposal is to remove 3 trees.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office at the Leverett Town hall or by appointment at concom@leverett.ma.us or (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

MONTAGUE from page A1

in the snow globe, you can park on the street until it snows,” Hyman declared. “But you ticket my son in early December. There’s no sign of snow. Why?”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said the board would take a vote on the policy at a future meeting, as it does each year, and that Hyman could attend and voice his opinion. In recent years an exception has been made in downtown Turners Falls and the Patch, where street parking is allowed unless a snow emergency is declared.

The annual hearing on sewer rates began with a presentation by Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little reviewing the components of her department’s “enterprise fund,” which finances most of the budget approved by town meeting each May for the coming fiscal year. The fund includes revenue from both residential and industrial sewer users, as well as fees from septic tank owners, from other towns that rely on the Montague plant to process sludge, and from a variety of other “miscellaneous sources.”

The enterprise fund finances most of the facilities budget – though there is a separate townwide tax supplement voted by town meeting – as well as payments for short- and long-term debt, and is used to replenish a capital stabilization fund. Unspent balances from each year are certified as “retained earnings,” which may be used the next year.

After reviewing the long-range impact of the sewer rate increase on future operational and capital expenditures, and a brief discussion of a proposed state law that would ban the agricultural use of composted municipal sludge, the board approved a 3% increase in the rates.

Barbara Hoynoski of Precinct 4, who was in attendance at the meeting, said she felt the 3% increase “wasn’t bad,” but questioned why retained earnings were not being used to lower the rates even more.

Hoynoski said she remembered when Charlie Blanker, an official at the Esleek (Southworth) paper company in Turners Falls, would attend sewer rate hearings and “would say ‘Please use retained earnings to keep everything stable,’ and it was.” She called Blanker a “white knight.”

Little said that according to the town’s current financial policies it is “bad practice” to use retained earnings to fund the next fiscal year’s operating budget, because it leaves too little money to cover capital expenses.

“The plant is crumbling down in pieces because rates were kept so low,” she told Hoynoski.

A review of comments by Blanker prior to the closing of the paper mill in 2017 shows that while he consistently cited an agreement between his company and the town requiring that all retained earnings be used to reduce sewer rate increases, he rarely demanded that it be enforced. For example, at a 2016 hearing Blanker said, in response to a proposed 17% hike in rates that the mill, which by then operated under the name PaperLogic, would be “flexible” about enforcing the agreement “as we have in the past.”

After the meeting, online critics of a new main central library seized on the increase as another attack on taxpayers by a corrupt selectboard.

“Better not hear any library supporters bitch about this,” read one post on the Everything Montague MA/Turners Falls Facebook page. “Wait till the rest of the tax increases come.”

“Increase this select board,” said another poster, inserting an upright middle finger emoji. “[B]unch of crooks.”

Former Montague finance committee chair Mike Naughton, on the other hand, chimed in, writing that “[t]here are likely at least several factors that led to this rate increase, but the recent library project approval and alleged criminality of the select board (which,

IMHO, is a baseless slur) are not among them.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall inflation stands at 3.4% per year, while inflation in energy prices is at 14.7% per year.

Clerks & Clerk Stuff

Town clerk Wendy Bogusz came before the board with several requests related to the fall season, which could see as many as four elections taking place in town: a September state primary, an October debt exclusion vote to build a new tech school, a November state and national election, and an as-yet-unscheduled vote on creating a new five- or six-town school district.

The board approved the warrant for the state primary, which will be held from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1. It includes the polling places for each precinct and the “candidates of political parties” to be voted on.

The board also voted to approve the special election to fund the rebuild of Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) on Tuesday, October 6, from 12 to 8 p.m. Selectboard member Marina Goldman asked if the total amount being voted on – \$236,572,983 – represented the entire cost of the project.

Kuklewicz, who abstained from the vote because he serves on the FCTS school committee, answered that, as with the amount printed on the library debt exclusion ballot in June, voters would be endorsing both the local and state shares of the project.

The board voted to appoint former town clerk Deb Bourbeau as a part-time consultant at the clerk’s office from August 10 to December 31 at a rate of \$45.36 per hour. The total number of hours she may work during the period is capped at 50.

Bogusz and her assistant clerk, Tina Sulda, each filed disclosures on appearances of conflict of interest, as required under state law as both have family members who could be appointed as poll workers.

The board accepted their disclosures, then approved a list of poll and early-voting workers for the period through June 2027.

Other Business

On the recreation front, parks and rec director Jon Dobosz came to the board with a handful of requests including a \$4,900 contract with Tailblock Concrete, LLC, for sealing the Unity Park skate park surface and permission for banners advertising the September 26 Soap Box Races to be placed next to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and at the top of Unity Hill. The board approved both requests.

The board also approved requests from Dobosz involving the Halloween Rag Shag Parade, which this year will begin at Peskeomskut Park and travel up Avenue A to the lot near the Discovery Center where the new library will be constructed. The permit and entertainment license will allow the ragged revelers to gather at the park from 5 to 6 p.m., and be accompanied up the street by the high school marching band.

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller asked that the board approve a contract with the

firm Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering to locate easements, needed to complete an improvement project at the corner of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard, on the property of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The funds for the surveying will come from the town’s unexpected engineering account, not to be confused with its unsafe and unhealthy buildings account.

Continuing on the obscure public policy front, Nolan-Zeller announced that the details of the proposed municipal aggregation plan for the purchase of electricity by Montague residents will be posted online from August 17 to September 16 to allow for public comment, and that a public presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 31. Once this comment process is completed, the plan may be sent to the state Department of Public Utilities for consideration.

On the ritual front, the board approved outdoor seating in front of the Ritual Bowl at 109 Avenue A.

The selectboard’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 24.



SIX-TOWN from page A1

question that allows for three outcomes,” STRPB chair Alan Genovese reported on Monday.

Last week the STRPB invited the selectboards and administrators of all of its member towns to an all-hands meeting, which Genovese said this week has been scheduled for Thursday, September 3 at the Gill town hall.

The board has been trying to schedule the election for October 6, to coincide with a special election already scheduled in all six towns to fund the construction of

a new Franklin County Technical School building.

“If we do not hear in time for October 6th,” Genovese wrote, “we will work with towns to schedule one later.”

A majority of voters in every town (except Warwick) must approve the agreement for a new district to form. If it should happen, a state-funded transition phase would begin, with the new district being built out for a year before the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional districts are dissolved.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Riverside Re-Use Squad Launched

By KATE SAVAGE

Plans for the Riverside Municipal Building moved forward at last Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting, with discussion of a new asphalt-shingle roof and potential rental space.

The board established a committee to plan for the future use of the building and the land around it, with a goal to report back on September 21. Jenn Waldron, the selectboard’s representative on the committee, said she would like its work to be done by the end of the year.

The other committee members are Cathy Demars, Amy Gordon, Karen Larsen, Rebecca Minor, Christopher Pelletier, and Samuel Plotkin.

Waldron said she was particularly interested in exploring ways space in the building could be rented out, to help the town cover some of the maintenance costs. She said that even its basement rooms could be useful to someone looking for space for a woodworking shop.

Waldron asked if the historical commission could avoid using the large central room before the committee has set out a plan for the future. “I would hate to bind this committee in any way before we even start doing anything,” she said. In February, the historical commission was given permission to use three rooms in the building, but until now it has kept most of its materials in the west room.

Town administrator Ray Purington said he could put the issue on the agenda for the next selectboard meeting, so those with an opinion could be present.

Selectboard member Charles Garbiel reported back from the Riverside building roof committee, which had met to investigate the leaking roof and determine the next steps the town should take.

The committee decided they would reroof with asphalt shingles rather than with metal, to keep the immediate cost lower.

Garbiel said the biggest question the committee encountered is whether the town needs to hire an engineer

for the project. He estimated the cost of an engineer could be over \$30,000.

“Engineering is kind of a waste of money on a building like that,” said Garbiel. “You don’t need an engineer to tell you can put a roof on a roof. You just need people that know how to put shingles up.”

He said roof committee member and builder Stephen Greenwald planned to seek the advice of Jim Hawkins, the building commissioner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The roof committee’s next meeting is next Tuesday, August 25, at 6 p.m. at the town hall.

Other Business

The board signed a warrant for the state primary election on September 1, and approved the following times for early voting: Saturday, August 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.; Monday through Wednesday, August 24, 25, and 26, from 1 to 3 p.m.; and Thursday, August 27 from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Town clerk Doreen Stevens said a town election would also be held on October 6. On the ballot will be the question of whether to borrow money for a new building for the Franklin County Technical School.

Stevens said she hoped the October 6 election would also include the question of whether to replace the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley school districts with a regional district covering five or six towns. That ballot was not finalized, she said, “but we still have time, and we’re hopefully going to make it.”

The board voted for counting votes by hand in all upcoming elections, except for the November 3 state and national elections, which will be machine-counted. Stevens said hand-counting allows her to create the ballots herself and ensure that the writing is clear. “I want to be sure that people are very aware of what they’re voting on,” she said.

The next Gill selectboard meeting will be held Monday, August 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.

WENDELL from page A1

then have a chance to answer questions submitted in advance by interested citizens.

Assistant town engineer Alistair MacMartin told the selectboard that the town hall ceiling is sagging so much that a temporary post had to be put in to keep it from falling any further. Engineer Bob Leet drew a plan to brace failing trusses, though the ceiling has been sagging for so long that it will not be feasible to push it back up completely.

MacMartin wanted authorization to get the necessary pieces fabricated so he can install them and make the temporary post superfluous. Materials are projected at \$2,500 to \$3,000, and the design work will cost \$1,200 to \$1,250.

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley said the repair is too pressing to wait for the town’s free cash to be certified, and that money in the building maintenance fund is already earmarked, but that the “sale of real estate” fund has enough money and is overseen by the selectboard. The finance committee is not yet aware of the need, she said, but the town accountant is on board with using it to fund the repair.

Selectboard member Paul Doud

and chair Laurie DiDonato said they lean toward getting the work done quickly.

Good Neighbors volunteer Kevin Skorupa said his organization, which uses the hall, had contacted state senator Jo Comerford about possible grants for the repair. Town coordinator Kelly Tyler said any state grants would not be fast to arrive.

Full Moon Coffeehouse committee member Paul Richmond said the coffeehouses will not start until after the likely repair date, but that the Coffeehouse can designate the town as one of its beneficiaries.

MacMartin said there is not an imminent danger, though town engineer Jim Slavas added, “No contra dancing.”

Rodent Challenge

Alison Wight followed up on a concern she had brought up at the July 29 meeting about poison being used to keep mice out of the town hall, the office building, and the library. Those poisons kill the mice, but continue to kill animals when they eat the dying mice, including possibly residents’ dogs.

Traps work, have to be checked at least every other day. Skorupa said Good Neighbors workers are in the

building almost every day, and that when they are not they could probably coordinate with the town custodian, who has shown him the route mice use behind the stage piano.

He added that library trustee Sylvia Wetherby was willing to monitor traps at the library, and town clerk Anna Wetherby at the office building.

Tyler said there is a new generation of poison products that degrade quickly and pose less of a danger to predators. Citizens Gabrielle Freels suggested sealing building gaps with steel wool, but residents with older houses said the mice can get past it. The town hall foundation is dry laid stone.

Doud demonstrated a way to enclose a mouse trap in a cardboard tunnel, which allows someone who does not want to touch a dead mouse to dispose of the whole thing.

DiDonato said the town would need to confirm the consequences the various under discussion. Wight said the town is currently spending \$2,500 a year on mouse control.

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Samara Sawyer to the Mahar regional agreement subcommittee.

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Tip of the week ...

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Slavas reported that the sewage line that connects the town hall to the town septic system is plugged, which means the building’s settling tank needs to be pumped out regularly, at \$500 each time. The building does not get heavy use, he said, but the line should be cleared before that money adds up.

Tyler said Montague has had good results with Roto Rooter.

Because there is no account ready to pay for the work, board members agreed that a special town meeting should be scheduled soon, in September if possible. The underground tank at the highway garage and a few other items also need town meeting’s consideration.

Freels shared concerns over lia-

bility the town incurs in giving out one-day liquor licenses, and said she thought the town needed tighter policy guardrails. Swampscott, she said, has special regulations for events involving 10 or more people. She contrasted the Wendell Meetinghouse asking for a waiver of the fee for serving alcohol on Old Home Day with waiving fees for Good Neighbors supplying food to households.

DiDonato said the town has consulted with counsel, and that it is valuable to match town regulations with the size of an event, and with the size of Wendell.

It was the first selectboard meeting of the fiscal year that ended after the sun had set completely.



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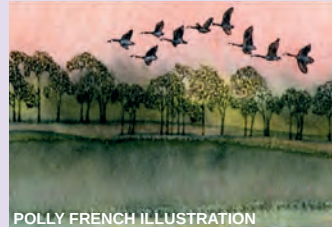


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features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER AUGUST 20, 2026



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE ZEN OF AUGUST MORNINGS

By DAVID BRULE

Every day is a good day.
– Yun Men

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – You can get up early, before the others, even before the dog still asleep upstairs.

You can tell it still feels like mid-August, like August 18. Which, in fact, it is.

The sunlight is already streaming through the eastern window.

You can look out to see beyond the early morning shade of the cherry tree, over to the kitchen garden, where the string beans flower.

This 1880s kitchen has three windows facing east and south. They let in a lot of light, summer and winter. They make this the bright spot and center of household activity.

There are three doors, too.

You can put on a pot of coffee before going out one of those doors, onto the back deck wet with dew.

You can hear the crows calling, not alarmed, just doing what crows do, off in the distance.

This morning, you sense that the qualities of the crows’ calls indicate just social talk. They fear nothing, at least for the moment.

You can step out into the grass. Your feet, ankles, toes and all feel the cool of the misty dew on the lawn. Down here along the west-flowing river, mornings are damp because of the riverbank lowlands and closeness to the slow-moving summer current.



Cardinal flowers and blue lobelias grace the author’s garden.

You can take your seat in your favorite chair next to the green Paris café table and set down your books and coffee cup. It’s cool in the growing shade under the ancient apple tree where mother and her siblings played, close to a hundred years ago.

This summer, a hundred apples hang there, high up and way out of reach. Way up in the top of the tree. Over the past summers there were few apples in this old Baldwin, if any. This year is different. There’s no telling why apple trees decide to produce or not. But they all seem to be preparing a mighty crop, all over town.

Go figure.

You will wait for them to fall, no rush. They’ll be good for apple sauce, or for the nibbling by the timid doe and her fawn, once they sense the cidery smell of fermenting fruit.

The crickets have not ceased their fiddling, all day and night. They are accompanied by the endless calls of the katydids at dusk.

With daybreak, katydids will cease calling. Later in the day, as the temperatures rise, the electric buzz of the summer locust rises to a pitch and joins the crickets. They stop only to begin again, either complaining of the heat or encouraged by the erotic insect drive to mate, and quick!

Like the apples, they all know what they’re doing.

Coffee cup empty, you can go back in to fill it back up. But get outside again quick, quick to not miss a thing.

Scarlet cardinal flowers flame, they beckon the ruby-throat.

Dog comes out, strides through the tall grass that needs mowing, but no rush. He acts like he owns the place, and he does.

You see how he comes back, stops at your chair, noses your knee knowingly, somehow wearing a delicate flower petal on his back. He thinks you’ll never notice he’s been poking around in the fragrant stalks of bee balm, just where he’s not supposed to go. The flower is a clue, and the minty smell lingering about his ears tells you what he’s been up to.

You can take your time out here. August is supposed to be about cultivating some peace of mind. September, on the other hand, with its responsibilities and tasks, will come soon enough, soon enough.

You are reminded that peace of mind brings right values, right values produce right thoughts, right

see **WEST ALONG** page B6

Above: After delivering a comprehensive introduction to local geology to a packed hall at the Discovery Center on Saturday, Richard Little tore the veil from a new interpretive sign installed above the Center’s specimen of Jurassic armored mudballs. “I’m really pleased that we can preserve this, because this is the only place in the world you can easily see them,” the retired Greenfield Community College professor told the entranced crowd before calling once again for his trademark discovery to be named the official sedimentary structure of the state of Massachusetts. “If it’s not preserved and celebrated,” he added, “this would just be an old rock covered by moss someday, and nobody would know what it is.”

Faint Traces of the Rebellion

By RAY DIDONATO

WENDELL – For our nation’s 250th birthday, I wanted to retrace some of the steps of Daniel Shays, a local who shaped the early nation through protests and armed insurrection. Shays’s gripe was over debts owed by him and by his other fellow Revolutionary pensioners. The rebellion named for him – though scholars debate his actual role – helped push the nation toward the writing of the Constitution, replacing the Articles of Confederation which had shown the weakness of



A small marker on the Pelham Common honors Daniel Shays.

federal response to insurrection, as well as influencing the early Federalist form of our government.

Shays called nearby Pelham his home. In fact, what remains of his actual homestead, as well as of Conkey’s Tavern, where some of the early rumblings of the Rebellion began, lie in relative obscurity within the protected confines of the vast Quabbin.

Grumbings around high taxation to pay off the state’s debts from the American Revolution led to the formation of a 4,000-man militia in 1786 intent on disrupting state government, with Shays as its figurehead. By 1787 the rebellion was quashed.

On July Fourth, my wife Laurie and I first set out to look at the Pelham Common, where Shays’s rebels would organize. The grassy common is bounded by both the Pelham Historical Society and the old Pelham Town Hall. The Historical Society presents an excellent local history of Pelham, as well as of the Rebellion, and even contains a replica of the entrance to Conkey’s Tavern. The original entrance stone to the tavern is set in grass nearby.

Here we met a knowledgeable docent who gave us a tour of the historic Pelham Town Hall, which today is two floors high, but at its inception was one floor with vaulted ceilings. The hall, erected in 1743, housed both town meetings and religious observances up until the separation of church and state in 1833, and is the oldest

see **REBELLION** page B9

BOOK REVIEW

Immeasurable, Invaluable... Underpaid

Nancy Folbre, *Making Care Work: Why Our Economy Should Put People First* (University of California Press, 2026)

By DONNA PETERSEN

TURNERS FALLS – Imagine you are a healthy 35-year-old who is in an automobile accident that will keep you off your feet for six months. Or maybe you have an elderly parent who needs increasing levels of care that you cannot physically or logistically provide; you have a job and two kids of your own. Perhaps you are a single parent or hell, maybe even a two-parent family with a child with disabilities who requires almost 24/7 care.

Or maybe, like my niece, while you are preparing to take the LSATs and working as a bartender in New York City, you are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a life-changing diagnosis that progresses very quickly.

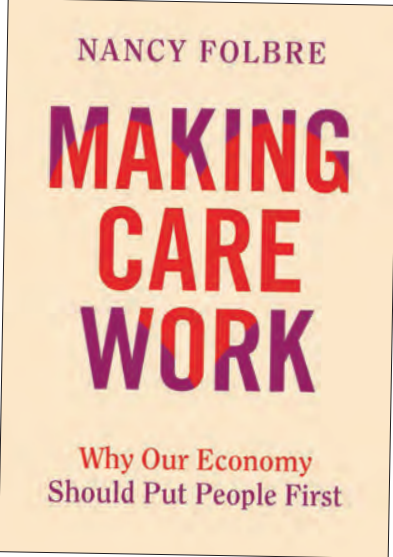
Then imagine that it is very difficult to find the caregiving you need. How many people – mostly women – can do, or are willing to do,

the hard work involved for pay that does not add up to a living wage? Uh oh! You are in trouble.

Nancy Folbre is a professor emerita at UMass Amherst, the director of the Program on Gender and Care Work at the Political Economy Research Institute, the author of a number of books, a *New York Times* blogger, and a Montague resident, and has a host of other achievements under her belt. Her work and writing over four decades have focused on “the interface between political economy and feminist theory with a particular emphasis on the value of unpaid work.”

Her newest book, *Making Care Work*, can help explain much of why this country is failing so many people who need care or do that work.

This book is not a summer beach read, or a nice escape novel. It is a serious look at a very timely, relevant topic, an academic treatise that could be used in college courses.



es. For the non-academic reader, though, it can provide insights into why care work, unpaid and low-paid, is undervalued or ignored in the US government’s labor economics calculations, by most other established economic systems of measurement, and in everyday life.

And why, increasingly, there are consequences to these non-inclusions.

Women’s work, a.k.a. tradwife life; bearing and caring for children

see **REVIEW** page B12

Pet of the Week



‘THUNDER’

Meet Thunder, a gentle 8-year-old male Staffordshire Bull Terrier, weighing approximately 100 pounds. Thunder is house-trained, microchipped, easy on a leash, playful, and great with kids. He knows many commands including *sit, paw, lay down, no, and leave it*. If told, he will wait when receiving food, then eat when he hears the word *go*. This bilingual pooch even knows Spanish commands.

Thunder’s parents are relocating. There is no adoption fee. He will need to be neutered within 30 days of adoption. To begin the adoption process, visit the Dakin Humane Society website, www.dakinhumane.org, and find the “Available Community Animals” link. (Dakin offers these listings as a courtesy.) Adopting Thunder will require direct communication through Adopt-A-Pet.



Our Aging Mouths: A Chat With a Dentist

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – The last time I saw the dentist, I realized that my dental needs have changed over time. I have fewer cavities, but greater concern over the health of my gums.

The dental hygienist reminds me every time that brushing should be gentle and thorough. She inspects my mouth and says I’m doing a good job. I feel like I just got a gold star on my second-grade spelling test.

I’m always intrigued by the different systems in our bodies and their effect on general health. Foot care, skin care, dental care, and more have necessary places in our daily routines before we even leave our homes to participate in the activities we enjoy.

They take time. My friends and I joke that we don’t know how we did it all when we were working.

I thought others might like to know more about how our dental needs change as we grow older, and Dr. Jeffrey Collura of Turners Falls Dental kindly agreed to answer some questions. Understanding the underlying issues encourages us to

seek care, save the teeth we have, and prevent costly and uncomfortable procedures.

MR: *What are the oral health challenges for elders?*

JC: The biggest challenges for older people are dry mouth and dexterity issues. Often as we age we produce less saliva, and that can be exacerbated by medications which decrease salivary flow as well. Saliva protects the teeth and buffers acids from our foods, so decreased saliva increases the risk for dental caries (cavities).

Dexterity issues can lead to poor oral hygiene and an increase in plaque and risk for periodontal disease. Elders often tend to have more gingival (gum) recession, which exposes the roots and increases the risk for root caries as the roots of our teeth are much softer than the enamel on the crowns of teeth.

Lastly, loss of enamel from wear and erosion can also expose the dentin inside our teeth, and this also increases the risk for caries.

MR: *What are the advantages of saving teeth, versus implants, bridges, or false teeth?*

JC: Saving your natural teeth is always preferred when possible.

Your natural teeth have proprioception which allows you to feel the smallest things between your teeth like a grain of sand. This allows the nerves to send a signal back to your brain to stop biting in an instance when something is too hard or sharp and you should not bite down.

Your natural teeth also preserve the gum-covered ridge of bone that covers the upper and lower jaw. As soon as a tooth is extracted, this bone starts to shrink in that area. A decrease in bone can make future treatment, such as placing an implant, retention of a denture, or proper contours of a bridge, much more difficult.

While a bridge does utilize natural teeth, these teeth need to be cut down, and future problems can lead to loss of multiple teeth involved in the bridge. They can also be challenging to clean for an elder person.

MR: *Do you recommend electric toothbrushes and/or water pics?*

JC: I use an electric toothbrush, and think everyone should.

If you brush properly – every tooth, every surface – a manual toothbrush can be just as effective. But the reality is most people do not brush properly and do not brush for a full two minutes. This

is where an electric toothbrush can help “pick up the slack.”

MR: *How often should someone get their teeth cleaned?*

JC: A person with good oral hygiene should only need their teeth cleaned twice a year. Some could probably even go once a year.

But when plaque control issues become a problem, or a patient has a history of periodontal disease, they need to get their teeth cleaned more often, usually three or four times a year.

MR: *Gum disease seems to become more of an issue as cavities decrease with age. Is this correct?*

JC: Cavities do not necessarily decrease with age. In fact, elderly patients often see a high increase in cavities.

We see cavities most often in kids, teenagers, and young adults because their oral hygiene habits are not necessarily established yet, or they are ignored. They also tend to have a higher intake of sugar in their diets and drink sugary drinks.

As we become adults, we typically start to eat healthier and have better hygiene habits. We also pay for our own care, so prevention becomes more important to us. But, as I stated earlier, elderly patients tend to need more treatment due to dry mouth, recession, loss of dexterity, habits, and the fact that they have had more restorations throughout their life that can fail.

Gum disease tends to progress as we age. This can be from heredity reasons, receding gums, dry mouth, other health conditions, dexterity loss, and years of bad habits such as smoking, vaping, poor oral hygiene, or not getting regular cleanings.

MR: *What else would you like people 60 and over to know about caring for their teeth and gums?*

JC: Your oral health can affect your overall health. Untreated periodontal disease or chronic infections can increase your risk for strokes, heart attacks, dementia, poor diabetes control, and overall quality of life.

It is just as important as we age to seek routine dental care due to the risk factors noted above. To try to get used to a denture at 85 years old is not fun, and overall health can decline due to a lack of nutrition caused by the inability to chew.

MR: *Thank you, Doctor. I think I’ll go home and floss now!*

Senior Center Activities

AUGUST 24 TO SEPTEMBER 4

ERVING

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

Monday 8/24

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

Tuesday 8/25

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

Wednesday 8/26

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

Thursday 8/27

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
1 p.m. RMV Changing Gears

Friday 8/28

8:30 a.m. Quilting / Open Sew

Monday 8/31

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

Tuesday 9/1

8:15 a.m. Nail Clinic
8:30 a.m. Nurse
9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 9/2

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Veterans’ Services

Thursday 9/3

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch
Friday 9/4
8:30 a.m. Quilting/Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 8/24

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

Tuesday 8/25

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

Wednesday 8/26

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 8/27

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 8/28

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

Monday 8/31

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

Tuesday 9/1

Closed for Town Elections

Wednesday 9/2

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. Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 9/3

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Montague Neighbors Board Meeting

Friday 9/4

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

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is September 15. Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at town hall. For more information, contact coa@leverett.ma.us or (413) 548-1022, or check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is September 2. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for info or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

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The Montague Reporter Podcast

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on August 18, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

Double Exposure

It was, perhaps, not the best-kept secret in Franklin County, but now it is official. The Hallmark Institute of Photography, which had over 200 students in its heyday, will close in October, after its remaining 10 students graduate. Premier Education Group LP purchased Hallmark in 2009, after the school's previous owner George Rosa III defaulted on loans and filed for bankruptcy. Rosa continued on as campus president until 2012. In 2014, he pled guilty to fraud and tax evasion charges. Premier has been in a costly legal battle with former CEO Gary Camp, who had been a strong supporter of Hallmark, but left the company in

the spring of 2015. The institute owned three buildings in the Montague Industrial Park, and rented gallery space in both the Crocker Building and Colle Opera House in downtown Turners Falls. For Those In The Back In spite of signs that state it should not be done, baby wipes and disposable diapers have been flushed down the toilets in the Wendell library and town hall. That plugs the drainage, and can cause sewage to back up into the buildings. Selectboard member Dan Keller missed the beginning of a library program he was interested in so that he could help facility engineer Jim Slavas clear wipes from the building's grinder pump, which pushes material up to where gravity can carry it into the town septic system.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on August 10, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

Handsome Desk Seeks Umbrella

The Montague water pollution control facility is used to dealing with leaking sewers, but leaks in the administration building roof are another matter. After six years of singing "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Desk," WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley received approval from the selectboard to hire Rockwell Roofing Company, the low bidder at \$66,450, to install a new mem-

brane roof and added insulation. Five thousand dollars have already been spent on the project's architectural fees.

Changing of the Guard

On Monday, August 7, the Montague selectboard appointed Deb Bourbeau as the new town clerk, effective October 1, when the resignation of longtime clerk John Zywna takes effect. Bourbeau has served as assistant town clerk for two years, and has been pursuing course work to qualify for state certification for the position.

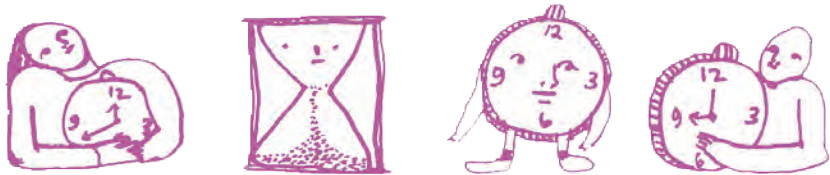
140 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on August 11 and August 18, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The water in the Connecticut river has been lower for the past two days than was ever known in the memory of man. Monday afternoon the wheels of the Turners Falls Lumber Company and the Clark Machine Company stopped dead still, and work in both places had to be entirely suspended. The wheel that drives the village water supply pump couldn't be moved, so that the village has been without water. The sluiceway used by the rivermen to get logs through, became dry as a bone, and all work with the logs had to be suspended. L street has a bad hole, washed out by the rain Monday night. Seven bicycles are owned in this village now, and next spring half a dozen others at least are to be added to the number. Mrs. C.J. McCoy has in her garden in rear of Geo. L. Manchester's block, a rose in bloom, the flower

of which is a deep green. The plant was obtained in the west, and is proving quite a curiosity. The funeral of Julia Collins on Monday, was the largest seen in the village for a long time, some 55 carriages being in line. Thomas Brothers have an immense quantity of fine building stone which they have obtained from the trenches dug for the sewers. These stones will be very valuable to them in future building operations. Householders who still use cesspools instead of entering the sewers, should be called on by the board of health. There will be a one mile roller skating race for boys and an orange race at the Union skating rink, on Friday evening. The most graceful lady skater will also get a prize of a silver cup. Some malicious person poisoned a couple of dogs at Montague City last night. Wanted, at this office, a good conscientious boy to learn the printing trade thoroughly. Those who are looking for a place to fill in an idle time need not apply.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Mrs. Claus Wins; Strathmore Explored; Bathroom Occupied; Long Spill of Fluid; Bucket of Worms; Trunks With Flowers

Monday, 8/3
8:37 a.m. Caller states that an older white male flagged her down on Lake Pleasant Road and asked her to drive down a gravel road to give his car a jumpstart. He said he had cables, but she was not comfortable doing this, and could not see his car from the main road. All side roads and parking area checked; nothing found.
9:25 a.m. Report of several cows in the road on Wendell Road. Animal control officer (ACO) notified and responding.
1:48 p.m. Caller states that she struck a mailbox on Swamp Road, but does not know the address or how much damage was done. Mailbox located by officer. No one home. Officer left a business card. Second mailbox may also have been damaged. Business card left. Report taken.
5:09 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports he was scammed out of \$7,500 and needs to make a police report. Officer advises caller is refusing to provide any information except that he sent \$7,500 worth of gift cards to a woman at the North Pole. Caller stated he would contact us if he feels like giving further information.
Tuesday, 8/4
4:14 p.m. Caller reports an intoxicated male having trouble standing at Peskeompskut Park; he is lying near the bushes near the gazebo. Officer advises involved male being checked out by medical. Courtesy transport to Park Street provided.
7:18 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road states he saw what appeared to be a drunken possum, which vanished in his backyard. Advised caller ACO was not on at this time; however, call would be logged.
8:07 p.m. 911 caller reporting individuals climbing all over a tractor-trailer unit parked in the Food City lot. Caller advises they are taking pictures and were inside the back of the trailer. Officer advises two involved juveniles were the truck driver's kids, and were taking photos/videos for a class project.
Wednesday, 8/5
6:37 a.m. Caller from Wendell Road states that a skunk appears to have been hit and may have a broken back. Nearby resident is taking the skunk to a rehabilitation center.
10:36 a.m. Caller reporting broken-down tractor-trailer unit in the intersection of Avenue A and Seventh Street. Truck ran out of gas; help is *en route*. Officer redirecting traffic down Fourth Street. Truck refueled and on its way.
11:31 a.m. Caller from Canal Road requesting police presence; states property

was broken into overnight; reports spray paint and fire extinguisher damage. Report taken.
9:05 p.m. Caller states she previously reported a stolen bike to the Greenfield PD and the person who took it is in Turners. Caller requesting that an MPD officer attempt to locate the bike for her. While on the line, caller advised "he" was calling and she needed to take the call. Advised caller to call back afterward to discuss options. Caller called back; per officer, advised to have the investigating officer from GPD contact MPD if they want our department to assist. GPD officer called and spoke with an MPD officer, who will follow up tomorrow.
Thursday, 8/6
9:08 a.m. Caller from South Ferry Street states that a male with no shirt or shoes is walking around his property and nearby properties. Located involved male, who stated he walked from Athol to Montague and had spent the night near a train station where he was mugged for his clothing. Same did not provide any further info. Courtesy transport provided.
12:26 p.m. Caller states that four or five goats are loose, walking on Hillside Road towards Turners Falls Road. ACO notified.
4:57 p.m. Warrant faxed from Parole Board. Three MPD officers and three additional officers from the sheriff's office assisting in serving warrant on Avenue A. A 35-year-old Lake Pleasant man was taken into custody for a community parole supervision violation.
5:32 p.m. E-911 hangup call. Child on phone stating "I hate you." Three calls in total from child. Female could be heard instructing child to say these things. Officer spoke to individuals at location, who stated they called and said these things. Confirmed misdial.
7:49 p.m. Caller reports her husband called her advising that people were breaking into the Strathmore/Indeck building. Caller advises she can see flashlights on camera and could hear people entering through the tunnel located on the side of the building. Officer out with three individuals. One juvenile entered the building.
Friday, 8/7
11:54 a.m. Caller from the Millers Falls Library states that within the last several days, someone shot BBs at the door, cracking the glass, and someone may have tried to break into the building. Caller would like extra patrols throughout the evenings.
6:21 p.m. Caller reports a vehicle traveling under the speed limit headed towards Montague Center. Units advised.
Saturday, 8/8
9:10 a.m. Walk-in states that there appears to be a dead cat in Turners Falls Road near Hatchery Road. ACO notified.
Sunday, 8/9
9:35 a.m. Caller states that his landlord/roommate is not allowing him to use the bathroom. Parties mediated situation; no need for police response.
6:23 p.m. Officer located a vehicle in the Second Street lot whose driver and passenger doors were open. Officer located male who stated he was letting his belongings air out.
9:29 p.m. Caller states that there are six disabled vehicles in the public lot near Keith Apartments; she would like them towed and would like the plates run to see if they match the cars. Caller states people are using the parking lot as a junkyard and that one car is up on blocks. All vehicles run; only one was unregistered. Officer will try to make contact with its owner tomorrow.
Monday, 8/10
10:14 a.m. Caller reporting multiple complaints about people setting up encampments in a parking lot off Avenue A. Officer spoke to involved parties last night, and they were supposed to have moved along. Officer states parties are not present at this time; he will try to make contact with them later. Officer spoke to involved male, who advised he was waiting for his wife to assist with cleaning up. Officer advised male that he would return tonight to check the location and confirm everything has been cleaned up. Officer advises he rechecked area, which has been cleaned up; nobody around.
10:44 a.m. Complaint received that every Thursday night people are leaving trash, including twelve-packs of Corona, in the parking lot by the embankment on First Street. Location to be checked to attempt to locate involved parties and ask them to pick up their trash.
1:17 p.m. Caller reports that a male with a shopping cart is in front of Walgreens asking people for money; would like male removed. Male party moved along.
Tuesday, 8/11
10:29 a.m. Multiple callers reporting brush fire on the side of Turners Falls Road in Greenfield. Transferred to GPD. GPD officer requesting MPD close off bridge on the Turners Falls side. All GPD units clear; bridge OK to be reopened.
11:24 a.m. Caller from West Mineral Road re-

ports that this morning she noticed "slow children" signs painted in the roadway. Caller states she spoke to a tenant at the residence and they both believe that a female party known to them likely did this in retaliation for recent events. Caller called back stating she believes her mailbox was also vandalized. Officer spoke to caller; she is going to finish painting the mailbox that was started and is now complaining about people speeding down the roadway.
5:19 p.m. E-911 caller states he is the owner of the Strathmore/Indeck paper mill and reports that four individuals broke into the location. Caller states he followed and confronted the individuals, who are now on Third Street near the Keith Apartments. Caller states he is standing in the path of the vehicle so it doesn't leave. While obtaining information, caller advised that all individuals got out of the car and are awaiting the police. Caller indicated that officers were on scene and that he was pushed by individuals and pushed them back. Officer advises Miranda was given roughly five minutes ago. Information gathered from caller and involved parties; parties sent on their way. Officer advises that the caller declines to press charges at this time.
Wednesday, 8/12
3:04 a.m. Caller from Thomas Memorial Country Club states that someone damaged the green on the ninth hole Sunday with what appears to be an electric bike. Caller states that when he was watering the greens today, he found a couple with fresh damage; would like to speak with an officer. Officer spoke with caller; believes the damage was within the last two hours. Damage to fifth, sixth, and ninth hole greens. Report taken.
12:06 p.m. Caller states that a male party called Town Hall reporting that some type of liquid is spilled on both ends of the Route 47/63 crossover and that he almost crashed his motorcycle because of it. Officer reports a large, long spill of fluid from the beginning of Route 63 all the way to the crossover and then continuing south on Route 47. Spill appears slick in nature. Montague DPW supervisor and MassDOT notified. MassDOT requesting fire department respond to determine if there is an environmental threat. TFFD and MCFD responding. Spill has been addressed; no environmental hazards located.
1:53 p.m. 911 caller states that he struck a person on a motorized scooter. see MPD next page

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MPD from previous pg

No injuries, but there is some damage to the scooter. Parties exchanged info; caller agreed to give the scooter owner cash for the damage.

2:04 p.m. Caller reports that a male, “JJ,” was under the influence near the veterans’ memorial when an unknown male approached him claiming JJ owed him \$600. The male proceeded to shake down JJ’s pockets, then went to the bandstand and dumped JJ’s backpack, which included a large number of capped needles. Male then fled north. No one on the scene able to describe second male, who is only known as “Leon.” JJ not found on scene but later located by officer at Cumberland Farms; advised him MPD had placed his backpack contents back into the backpack and that the caller was sitting with it at the bandstand.

10:03 p.m. Report of assault and battery on Bernardo Drive. Officer re-

questing ambulance for female to get looked at. Officer advises negative contact with involved male parties. Transport refused by female party. Female will complete and return statement form.

Friday, 8/14

2:59 a.m. Report of an older lady with her hair in a bun and a male in a grey sweatshirt fighting in the road on the General Pierce Bridge. Area checked; negative findings.

7:58 p.m. 911 caller concerned about some teenagers that may be “smoking something” near the fence between the softball fields at Unity Park. A group of teens had a small grill and were barbecuing. They were advised of the complaint and would be cleaning up soon. Not a hazard.

Saturday, 8/15

12:26 p.m. Caller states that when an SUV pulling a trailer went around the corner at Cross Street and Turnpike Road, a bunch of junk fell into the road,

but the vehicle kept going. Now there is debris in the road. Officer located vehicle at transfer station and advised the driver of the complaint. Driver said he would go back and clean up the area.

Sunday, 8/16

12:51 a.m. Officer out on Tenth Street in the area near new construction with a male party who states he was digging for worms. Officer did see that he had a bucket of worms, and it didn’t look like anyone had entered the building.

11:03 a.m. 911 caller from West Main Street reporting that a highly intoxicated neighbor approached her in the driveway and he has been in the building three times. Left something on her door; walked through the driveway with a hammer. No shirt; swim trunks with flowers on them. Officers spoke at length with the male, advised him of the complaint, and told him

not to go near the female. Officer called caller back and advised her of options including pursuing an abuse prevention order and contacting the landlord for a trespass order.

11:41 a.m. Report of two loose horses in the roadway at Turners Falls and Swamp Roads. One may have been hit by a car. Officer advised. Road shut down until horses moved. Owners on scene. Horses removed; road back open.

4:59 p.m. 911 caller from West Main Street states she is being stalked by a male party who is yelling and waiting for her to get home. She is home but parked her car away from the building. He has a shrine and notes outside her door. She states he has no shirt on and is wearing slim blue shorts with white flowers. Officers spoke to both parties. Male states he was never over there but is going to stay in the house. Units clear.



FILM

Spider-Man: Brand New Day (2026)

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* premiered in July, and is still showing in theaters. The movie was fun and exciting, with a plot swing that tugs at the audience’s heartstrings. The fight scenes were well done, and I recommend that you watch it in 3D. Not only did it have spectacular special effects but the actors did a wonderful job bouncing off one another. There were some forced emotional scenes, but themes of loss, grief, friendship, and revenge carried the film.



Brand New Day stars Tom Holland, who first played Spiderman in 2016 in *Captain America: Civil War*. He then starred in three standalone Spidey flicks – *Homecoming*, *Far From Home*, and *No Way Home* – and resumed his arc in *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Avengers: Endgame*, and *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*.

But you don’t have to see the previous movies to enjoy *Brand New Day*. Basically, a teenage science nerd named Peter Parker gets bitten by a radioactive spider and gains superpowers.

And unlike those previous movies, *Brand New Day* is not a universe-skipping adventure. The entire story takes place in New York City, which lends itself to some stomach-churning web-slinging.

There are Marvel tie-ins: the Hulk, Tony Stark, Black Widow, the Punisher, Mac Gargan, and the ninjas from the Hand all share screen time. Dr. Strange is not in the film but, without revealing too many spoilers, in the previous movie Strange had cast a spell which affected Peter’s relationships. The event is explained early, and leads to a heartwarming scene between Peter and his two best friends.

Other supporting cast members include Michelle “MJ” Jones-Watson, not to be confused with Mary Jane “MJ” Watson. (Apparently, Marvel wanted a less bubbly leading lady for Peter while retaining the iconic moniker.) MJ is played by Zendaya, who began her career in a string of Disney projects.

Jacob Batalon reprises his Ned Leeds character. Leeds was first introduced way back in 1964 by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko as Parker’s romantic rival. This version of Ned Leeds is Parker’s tech guy, and is based on Ganke Lee, the best friend of Miles Morales in the *Ultimate Spider-Man* comics. Leeds isn’t the Hobgoblin in this adaptation, though he may have some magic tingling in his hands.

Sadie Sink (Max from *Stranger Things*) plays a pre-X-Men Jean Grey. Sink replaced Sophie Turner (Sansa Stark from *Game of Thrones*) because the producers wanted a younger actor to play Grey, who has not yet become the Dark Phoenix.

In my opinion, one of the best characters in this film is the Punisher, as portrayed by Jon Bernthal. You may recognize Bernthal as Shane from the *Walking Dead*. He plays the same brooding character here, and if you know Punisher’s back story, you know why he is so angry.

One of my biggest peeves is that these days Spiderman is an adored hero, working with the police. I’ve collected Marvel Comics since 1975, so this has been a little confusing.

Lee and Ditko, along with Jack Kerby, took the comic world by

storm in the early ’60s by introducing characters who weren’t black-and-white. While DC’s heroes were goodguys, working with the police and lauded as heroes, Marvel’s characters all had faults and struggled with their superpowers: Thor’s alter ego was lame; Iron Man had a heart problem; Daredevil was blind; Ben Grimm hated being the Thing... Not to mention that the Hulk was a misunderstood national menace who was hunted by the Army.

And Spiderman... Well, in the first issue, Spiderman was wanted by the police.

There was one big plot twist in this film, which I won’t go into in detail. But *sometimes* the goodguys turn out to be evil, and sometimes their antagonists turn out to be fueled by righteous anger.

One spoiler I will reveal is that Spiderman does not die in this film. It seems that the producers wanted to add a little drama, but I don’t think the audience was fooled, especially since Marvel has already been promoting its next Spiderman project.

The post-credits scene hints at what that project will entail, but the audience was forced to sit through endless credits before it played – it took so long that people from the next showing were trickling in, standing in the back of the theater, as the names still scrolled on the screen. If you see this movie at home, I recommend fast-forwarding to get to the final scene.

But seeing the movie in a theater is much more thrilling than watching it on a phone, and you can still catch it at the Greenfield Garden.

According to Ellis Jacob, the CEO of Canada’s Cineplex chain, younger audiences are heading back to multiplexes because they’re “tired of looking at the small screen” and want social outings with friends and family.

I agree. On the big screen, 50-foot dinosaurs really appear 50 feet tall. Which sets me up for my next outing, *The End of Oak Street*...

TELEVISION

Apple TV’s Star City

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I started watching the show *For All Mankind* on the Apple TV streaming service because its what-if concept – about the Russians getting to the moon first – interested me a lot.

For All Mankind has now apparently lasted for five seasons, and on top of that, it became so popular that they decided to make a spin-off called *Star City* about how the Russians ended up doing it. The show premiered with two back-to-back episodes on May 29.

The changed history involved in the storytelling isn’t too far off the mark from the actual history. The Russians did manage to do something like this in real history. A cosmonaut named Yuri Gagarin was the first human in space in 1961, and female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, was the first woman to fly in space.

The “not too far off the mark” piece with this show was that people in Russia were probably spying on their fellow countrymen at the time – their phone conversations during the Space Race were probably being listened to.

The writers of *Star City* decided to show how the Russians did the moon landing first by having a man named Sergei Korolev, the real father of

the Soviet space program who died in 1966, still be in the middle of the Space Race in 1969. His character is played by Rhys Ifans.

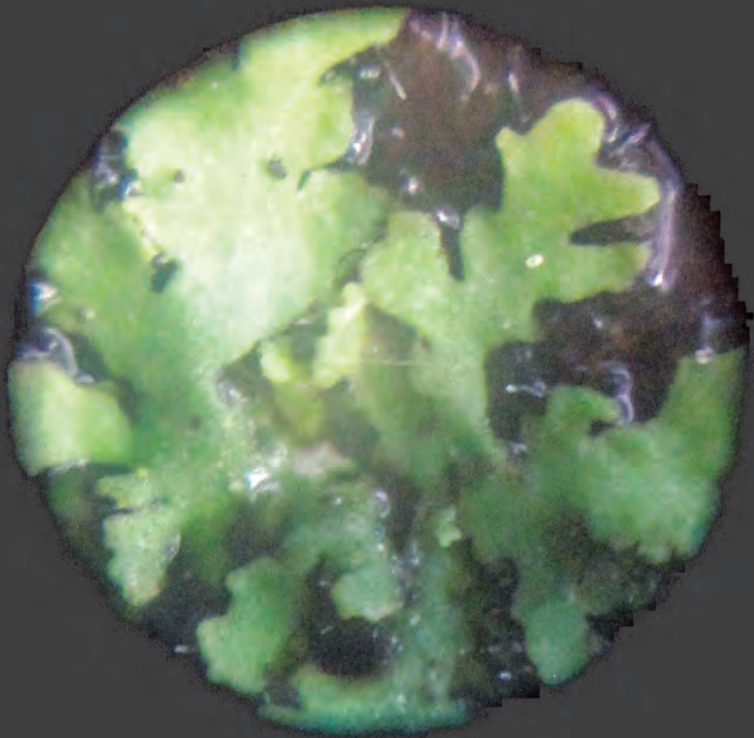
This man was very similar to Wernher Von Braun, the German scientist who was a big part of the US’s space program. Like Von Braun, this man had a vision of a “space station” in mind. There was one other thing he had in mind for the program. He ended up showing a colleague his plan for it in one of the premiere episodes.

Someone like that could have been very helpful in getting on the moon first, like Von Braun was for the US. I learned through looking up info on this spin-off that people felt it should be called a spy thriller, but I think it could be called both a spy thriller and a political one. I would add the political part because it shows they wanted a certain image to go with who they sent into space.

For All Mankind is a drama that has some cool storytelling in it. It was interesting to see those female astronauts training for the United States on the screen. This spin-off shows people a different world, with the female cosmonauts still being part of the race on the Russian side. However, there is not really any freedom in *Star City*, which makes it a different type of show than *For All Mankind*.

TINY GIANTS

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our june 18 view: *fuligo septica*, a.k.a. ‘scrambled egg’ or ‘dog vomit’ slime mold, creeping onto the sidewalk. (did you get it right?)

by Oscar and Jon Magee
Fellows-in-Residence at the Permanent Secretariat for the International Dialogue of Pocket Microscope Enthusiasts, Franklin County branch

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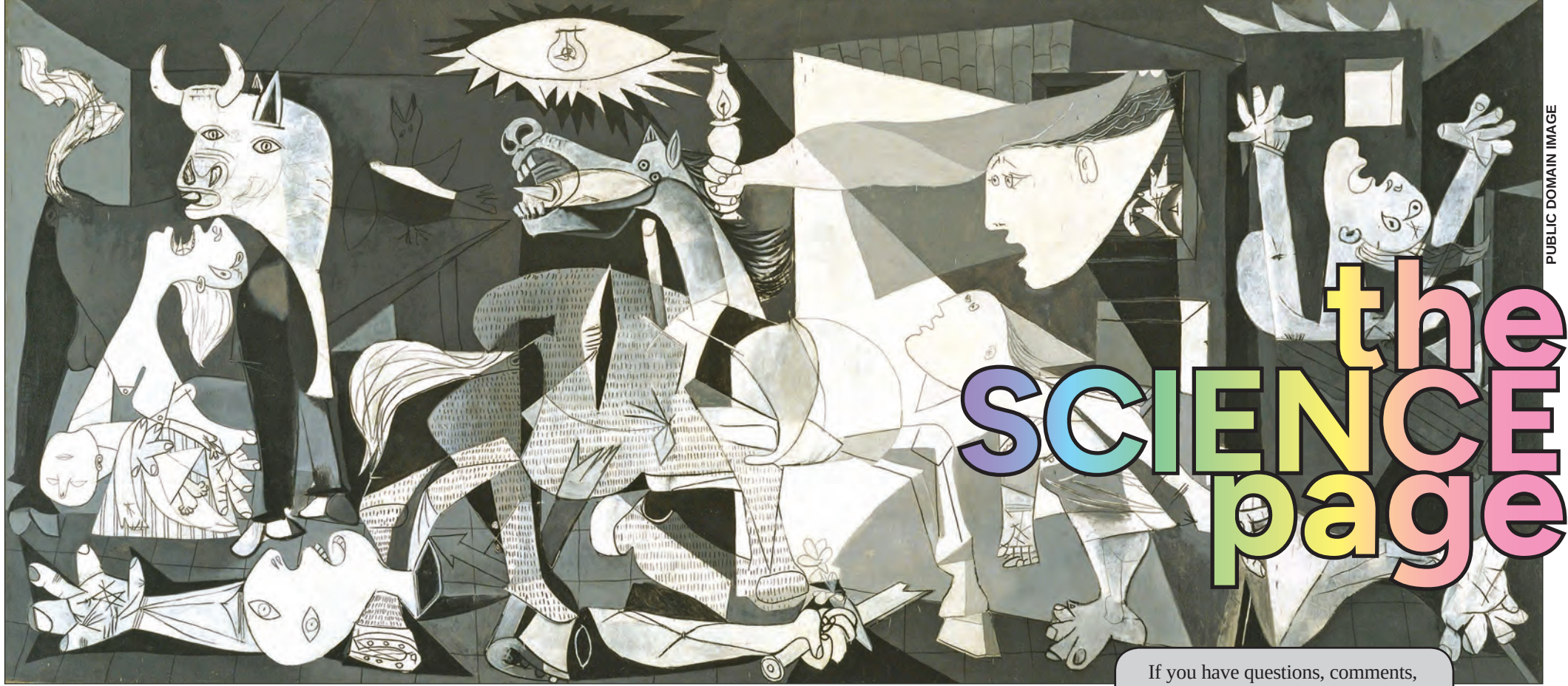
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Above: Pablo Picasso painted Guernica in response to the 1937 aerial bombing of a Basque town by General Francisco Franco’s German and Italian allies. The 25-foot-wide artwork was toured around Europe and the United States to raise funds for refugees of the war.

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Supremacy of the Spiritual

By JOSH WATSON

TURNERS FALLS – Science briefly flourished in Spain during the two decades before the Spanish Civil War. Through the 19th century, scientific methods and areas of research had been beholden to conservative Catholic constraints, and as the century turned, scientists and science historians could not help but note that progress credited to Spain lagged behind the rest of the continent.

“In all the characteristic gestures of Spanishness there is implicit the belief in the supremacy of the spiritual,” journalist and monarchist – and Hitler-admirer – Remiro de Maeztu wrote in the right-wing journal *Acción Española* in 1933. As was common among Spanish conservatives at the time, Maeztu held that science was inferior to spiritual exploration and nationalism, and the wealth that scientific discovery brought to nations was bound to encourage the public to demand a voice in governance.

In 1876, a group of wealthy families funded the Institución Libre de Enseñanza (ILE) to support scientists and professors in providing liberal, secular education from the primary through university levels. “The ILE,” writes historian Antoni Malet, “construed Spain’s decline from its mythical status as a 16th-century superpower to be a consequence of its intellectual, scientific and technologic backwardness.” Roman Catholic and right-wing intellectuals loathed it.

Influenced by the ILE, in 1907 reformists in the Spanish government formed the Junta para la Ampliación de Estudios (JAE), which attracted prominent academics and financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation, and which drove significant scientific progress in Spain over the next 30 years, particularly in the field of physics.

The Rockefeller Foundation had paid to build the Laboratorio de Investigaciones Físicas, and physicist Blas Cabrera, already world-renowned for his experiments with magnetism, was chosen to lead the lab. Cabrera hosted Albert Einstein in 1923, and in 1933 Einstein was offered a lucrative research professorship at a lab that would be known as the Instituto Albert Einstein. (Einstein refused, and went instead to Princeton.)

In 1936 the Civil War broke out, a bloody coup led by Francisco Franco against the democratically-elected Republic. That same year, Cabrera went into exile in Paris, never to return. Maeztu was executed outside Madrid by Republican soldiers.

By 1939, after torturing and murdering hundreds of thousands of people and burying them in mass unmarked graves, the coup had succeeded. Franco named himself

“Caudillo,” a nod to military dictators throughout Spain’s history. Under his personalist regime, science was once more put in service of Spain as a conservative Catholic nation.

In November 1939, after his original Minister of Education resigned for political reasons, Franco named José Ibañez Martín, a lawyer and early coup supporter, to that position. Martín created a new organization to absorb the JAE, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, known as CSIC. In turn, Martín named a soil scientist and applied chemist, José Maria Albareda, with whom he had sheltered in the Chilean embassy during the Civil War, as General Secretary of CSIC.

Albareda had been raised in a conservative and devoutly Catholic family, and by 1936 had begun to associate with Josemaria Escrivá, whose nascent Catholic spiritual organization, Opus Dei, had so far gained about 20 followers. In 1939 Escrivá published *Camino* (“The Way”), a book containing the 999 maxims he considered to be Opus Dei’s guiding principles. That summer, Albareda moved into the compound of several apartments in downtown Madrid where Escrivá, Escrivá’s family, and his early Opus Dei followers all lived.

While Martín himself may not have been a follower of Escrivá, he and Albareda shared a vision of employing CSIC’s enormous budget to fund fellowships and research grants for like-minded technocratic *Opusdeistas*, infiltrating them throughout the university system in order to drive research in service of the glory of Spain and of Francisco Franco. CSIC regulations required it to “insert the sciences in our history and technology and link scientific production with the service of the spiritual and material interests of the Homeland.”

“Our current science,” Martín wrote during a 1941 CSIC plenary session, “in connection with the one that in the past centuries defined us as a nation and as an Empire, wants to be first and foremost Catholic.”

In an essay released as part of a collection of his work in 1971, Albareda wrote:

There is no doubt that freedom of research much be preserved but as in other facets of life, freedom cannot be tantamount to easy-going anarchy, to isolating divagation, to the achievement of unconnected trifles, to whimsical as opposed to systematic pursuits, to individuals unfitted for group collaboration,

to rumbless changes of direction, senseless dancing around.

Albareda was ordained as a priest in 1959, and held his CSIC post until his death in 1966.

In a 1971 essay in the journal *The World Today* discussing the impact CSIC had on Spanish science under Albareda and Martín, the historian Vicente Pilapil wrote, “There is in Escrivá’s maxims the zeal and drive of the Spanish crusader, the mystic, and the conquistador, as evidenced in the following: ‘God and daring!’ ‘Holy intransigence, holy coercion and holy shamelessness.’ ‘You say you’ve failed! We never fail.’”

The physicist Blas Cabrera y Felipe, considered one of Spain’s greatest scientific minds, was exiled to France during the Civil War, then moved to Mexico, where he taught until his death. (Creative Commons illustration by Eulogia Merle)

At the same time that Albareda and Martín were first shaping CSIC, hundreds of dissenting or nonconforming academics, researchers, scientists, and assistants were sent off to exile, or barred from their fields and research, and often stripped of their qualifications. A 2006 study by the historian Jaume Claret Miranda found 18 professors had been murdered.

“By 1940,” write Néstor Herran and Xavier Roqué in their 2013 paper *An Autarkic Science: Physics, Culture, and Power in Franco’s Spain*, “nearly half of the 580 university professors active before the war had died, gone into exile, or been purged, a higher proportion than in Germany, Portugal, or Italy.”

Albareda, Herran and Roqué write, sought to suppress natural science, which he considered materialistic and atheistic, and to revive a “Thomist” science guided by the spiritual and teleological philosophies associated with St. Thomas Aquinas. Blas Cabrera, the physicist, had accepted a position as the Secretary of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, though he expected to return to Spain when the war was over. The Franco regime demanded he resign the position. When it became clear that CSIC didn’t want him, he took a professorship at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, where he would remain until his death in 1946.

“Every vacancy of a defeated created an opportunity for a victor,” Claret writes, “when we speak of the Francoist wasteland, we always have in mind all those lecturers lost to the country; but we forget that the true,

lasting wasteland was created, above all, by those professors who remained in Spain and filled the vacant positions.”

Herran and Roqué tell the story of José María Otero, a mediocre Navy engineer who trained in the optical company Zeiss’s military subsidiary in Germany. Otero’s devout Catholicism, loyalty to Franco, and personal connections in fascistic movements in both Germany and Spain helped him secure university employment, funding, and eventually a position heading the Consejo Nacional de Física (National Council for Physics), which oversaw all of CSIC’s physics institutes.

“No career in the physical sciences provides a clearer instance,” they write, “of the links between political obedience, religious observance, and professional advancement in Franco’s Spain.”

Herran and Roqué argue that during Otero’s tenure Spanish physics research was performed primarily in service to the Franco regime, disdained international cooperation, and stunted physics research in Spain for decades by staffing the universities with his loyalist graduate students.

Generalissimo Francisco Franco died in 1975. (He remains dead.) In 1977, in an effort simply to move on from Franco toward democracy, Spain passed the Amnesty Law, essentially pardoning all crimes committed under Franco and providing the foundation of an informal “Pact of Forgetting,” under which the brutality of his regime would remain unexamined and largely undiscussed. Not until 2007 did Spain pass its Historical Memory Law, which, among other provisions, allowed recognition of Franco’s victims and condemnation of his regime.

Only a few years ago, in 2022, the country passed its Law of Democratic Memory, directing the Spanish government to actively identify victims of the Franco state, and, when necessary, to literally locate and exhume their bodies.

Last month, more than 50 years after Franco’s death, and as a direct result of the 2022 law, CSIC released a searchable online database cataloging the stories and fates of all the scholars, scientists, researchers, and others associated with the JAE whose careers were ruined by Albareda and Martín.

It’s a remarkable website, useful and timely but also sort of a document dump, a reminder of the ways fascist movements try to control how history is understood. It’s a relief to finally acknowledge the lives and careers of the people forced to vacate those seats, but jarring to recognize the world created by the collaborators who filled them.

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Ed Terrault, Owner

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Trees Wage War On Power Lines

Wednesday, 6/3
1:26 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with water rescue at the General Pierce Bridge.
3:29 p.m. Death notification on Boyle Road.
Saturday, 6/6
3:36 p.m. Caller concerned for fawn on the side of Ben Hale Road. ACO advised.
Monday, 6/8
4:56 p.m. South Cross Road caller reports he tried to register a trailer, but RMV told him it shows as stolen.
Wednesday, 6/10
4:44 p.m. Oak Street caller concerned about a dead fox on boat club property. ACO advised.
5:22 p.m. Sinkhole on Riverview Drive. Highway dep't advised.
Friday, 6/12
7:08 a.m. Main Road caller reports large bang, furnace room filled with smoke.
Saturday, 6/13
4:11 p.m. Mount Hermon Station Road party reports possible disturbance. Determined not a disturbance.
6:47 p.m. South Cross Road caller reports shed on fire; equipment and possibly gas inside. Assisted; extinguished.
Sunday, 6/14
6:10 p.m. Delivery driver reports a resident on Horserace View Road acted aggressively toward her.
11:45 p.m. Cow in roadway, Center Road. Owner contacted. Caller stood by until clear.
Monday, 6/15
2:21 p.m. Barton Cove Road caller reports dog missing from campsite.
6:33 p.m. Report of a pickup on fire, Mohawk Trail and Factory Hollow Road. Callers state driver is out of the vehicle. PD on scene; over the town line. No fire; mechanical issue.
Wednesday, 6/17
8:59 a.m. Assisted FD with tribute procession for retiring member, French King Highway.
Thursday, 6/18
4:17 p.m. Barney Hale Road callers report a tree down; road impassable. No wires involved. Highway super *en route*. Road opened.
Friday, 6/19
4:38 p.m. French King Highway caller reports someone sprayed water at him.
Saturday, 6/20
8:38 a.m. Missing dog spotted in a backyard, Setback Lane. Text sent to ACO.
Sunday, 6/21
12:25 a.m. ACO responded to Barton Cove Road for dog in a trap. Canine secured.
Monday, 6/22
8:54 a.m. Caller reports lost wallet. Party called back; wallet located.
Tuesday, 6/23

7:45 a.m. Barney Hale Road caller reports a tree down blocking the roadway. Highway dep't contacted.
Thursday, 6/25
6:02 p.m. Unit out with small fire next to a vehicle, Ben Hale Road.
8:08 p.m. Riverview Drive caller advises alarm is sounding at the pumping station.
10:05 p.m. Call reports party with no shoes sitting on the side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, rocking. Concerned for his welfare.
Friday, 6/26
12:42 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD. Semi-truck hit a pole, snapped it in half.
8:17 p.m. Mutual aid requested for two subjects on island below the Turners Falls-Gill dam; water is rising.
Wednesday, 7/1
6:24 a.m. Two callers report tree on power lines, Main Road. Traffic not impeded; no arcing or sparking. Eversource called.
8:51 a.m. Assisted kayaker with a wire cutter for fish hook in a finger. No medical aid req'd; kayaker removed hook.
Sunday, 7/5
5:23 p.m. Boyle Road caller delivering groceries reports a strong chemical smell.
9 p.m. Fireworks complaint, Mountain Road.
Thursday, 7/9
9:54 a.m. Caller reports a vehicle tailgating and attempting to pass in a no-passing zone, French King Highway.
12:45 p.m. Numerous 911 calls reporting vehicle rollover, French King Highway and Main Road. Car on its roof, parties inside.
7:27 p.m. Main Road caller has stray kitten. Message left for ACO.
Friday, 7/10
6:49 p.m. Disturbance, West Gill Road.
Sunday, 7/12
9:30 a.m. Disturbance, West Gill Road.
12:53 p.m. Officer req'd, West Gill Road.
2:53 p.m. 911 call from Barton Cove campground: a child locked herself in the bathroom. She was able to get it unlocked.
4:06 p.m. French King Highway caller reports canopy blew off a boat on a trailer; could not locate it. Canopy found.
Monday, 7/13
9:24 a.m. Caller reports two abandoned inflatable kayaks in the bushes along the river north of Barton Cove.
8:09 p.m. Assisted state police, Main Road.
Tuesday, 7/14
12:03 p.m. Hickory Hill Road caller reports a loose husky. Staff and owners trying to locate dog. ACO updated.

Wednesday, 7/15
8:37 p.m. River Road caller reports he heard gunshots. Unfounded.
10:33 p.m. Caller advises he struck a cat with his car. Unit stopped and spoke with caller.
Thursday, 7/16
12:45 p.m. West Gill Road caller reports branch on the wires, burning. Officer on scene. Southbound lane closed, fire spreading.
5:34 p.m. Brush fire, West Gill Road.
Saturday, 7/18
11:07 a.m. Driver out of gas, French King Highway. Stood by for traffic; passerby helped.
Sunday, 7/19
1:03 p.m. West Gill Road caller reports a phone pole on fire.
Monday, 7/20
9:27 a.m. Individual at station reports a motorcycle plate was lost somewhere in town.
4:20 p.m. Main Road caller has a skunk in a trap in his basement. Message left for ACO.
Wednesday, 7/22
5:44 p.m. 16-foot outboard with two passengers stranded on Barton Cove near docks. Advised to use paddle or throw anchor. FD towed them to shore.
Saturday, 7/25
12:21 a.m. CO alarm on Oak Street; all evacuated. Faulty detector.
5:33 p.m. Dog bite on Barton Cove Road.
5:49 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on Migratory Way.
8:48 p.m. Grove Street caller advises neighbor is setting off fireworks.
Sunday, 7/26
12:28 p.m. Mountain Road caller reports their dog is missing.
6:05 p.m. Vehicle lock-out, Main Road. Vehicle running, dogs inside. Caller called back: one of the dogs pressed the button opening the window; all set.
Tuesday, 7/28
8:25 a.m. Hoe Shop Road caller and daughter found a lost terrier mix. Finders returned dog to owners.
Wednesday, 7/29
2:32 p.m. Caller reports tree blocking the road, Barney Hale and River roads. Wires down, not sparking. Power company advises a 45-minute ETA. Road is open.
10 p.m. Boyle Road caller advises party walked through his yard several times, continuing to hang around area. Could not locate.
Thursday, 7/30
6:55 a.m. Bascom Road caller reports tree on the wires, smoldering.
Friday, 7/31
3:07 p.m. Caller reports dead animal in the road keeps getting run over, French King Highway. MassDOT advised.

WEST ALONG from page B1
thoughts bring right actions, and right actions bring you back to peace of mind, at least according to those Zen teachers and Dharma Bums of Jack Kerouac.
So inspired, and speaking of which, this feels like a Do-Nothing Day. Maybe you should focus on the right thoughts part, and put off the right actions part for perhaps tomorrow. Or the next day.
August is fleeting. You should enjoy the cool and calm for now. Painting the porch, fixing the woodshed roof, cutting firewood, all that can wait!
Right now, you spend the rest of the morning reading your summer book collection. Same books as last summer. You have an inordinate love for old things, and that extends to old books.
Old books are old friends, and

take you back to other summers of the past, you like it there. In those books you find old nuggets of wisdom or quaint turns of the phrase that have been tucked away in some deep corner of the mind for a year or so.
The House on Nauset Marsh or *The Outermost House* will take you to the Cape, without having to drive there, and never leave your shade under the old apple tree.
The Last Time I Saw Paris is another armchair road trip. You can go there and come back in the same day.
Then there's the summer book of Zen sayings that help you start things with the right thoughts, on a summer morning. Casey Stengel turns up on one of the pages.
Given the unexplainable surge of the Red Sox this summer, plus the whiplash of their nosedive losing streak this week, Casey poses a Zen

puzzle for you to ponder:
Good pitching will always stop good hitting, and vice versa.
That may explain what happened to the Sox at Pittsburg, or what will happen against the Diamondbacks.
The Do-Nothing Day has been proclaimed, so all that New Englander mindset of a work ethic, like rolling up your sleeves and continuing to run the country or at least your household, all that can wait.
You will finish the morning in the shade, and contemplate a peaceful siesta in the mid-afternoon heat, with you stretched out on the couch.
The Zen of the ancient electric fan will be whirring and turning its head towards you at slow and regular intervals.
That seems to be the right thought that will produce the right peaceful action, on a summer day like this.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – What a summer, eh readers?
There's cyclospora in our Taco Bell, screwworm in our beef, glass in our bread rolls, salmonella in our eggs, wildfire particulates in our air. Nationally, we're seeing ongoing outbreaks of measles, black lung disease, and COVID-19. Dangerous heat, fires, floods, storms, and drought have wreaked havoc on both human and non-human life across the world.
What do all these crises have in common? In a word: capitalism – but I won't leave it at that. The neoliberal order ushered in by the end of the Cold War raised a generation of politicians to see government regulation of things like workplace safety standards, environmental protection, food and drug safety, and even public health as unnecessary limits on "the free market." In other words, they traded the health and wellbeing of ordinary people, the world over, for their right to pursue profit at any cost.

The rush that began in the 1980s to deregulate almost every facet of human society has metastasized into the world of polycrisis that we now live in. As the world welcomes its first-ever trillionaire, suffering increases exponentially.
And, of course, Trump and his ghoulish administration has only made things worse. What little government oversight was left when Trump 2.0 took office seems to have been DOGE'ed out of existence.
Case in point: According to Sasha Abramsky in *Truthout*, the Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency "cut eight of the 11 jobs at the CDC lab specializing in cyclospora. Meanwhile, the rapid dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which shared facilities and personnel with the State Department and CDC, also led to the loss of many of the experts and labs dealing with exotic diseases stateside, such as cyclospora."
Between the damage DOGE did and the ongoing medical malpractice being done by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, RFK, Jr., "public health" has been left for dead.
But let's not forget that Joe Biden and his administration played a significant role in killing public health, too. In April 2023, Biden announced the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. As a direct result, that month an estimated 22 million people – an estimated 7 million of whom were children – lost their access to health insurance. Keep in mind, this happened at a time when we were still seeing 1,500 to 2,000 Americans die of COVID each week, and when Moderna had just announced its plan to charge \$130 a shot for its vaccine.
Liberals who once scoffed at anti-vaccine and anti-mask sentiments now peddle disproven and unscientific concepts like "immunity debt" and make fun of those of us who still wear masks. The *Sunday Times* just published an article by Kathleen Stock asking

why there has been an increase in young women using mobility aids, theorizing that they are victims of a "social contagion."
The true cause of this very real rise in disabled young people is glaringly obvious: they are victims of a *literal viral contagion*, COVID-19. Stock's article completely disregards the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic is the largest mass-disabling event in history, and the fact that Long COVID disproportionately affects women. In fact, Stock doesn't mention COVID-19 at all. It's as though the pandemic never happened.
Far too many liberals and leftists were willing to return to "normal" when Biden gave them the "all clear." People with whom I share views on nearly every other issue, from prison abolition to Palestinian liberation, have their heads firmly in the sand when it comes to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and Long COVID.
And the irony is, as with the polycrises I enumerated above, these things are all connected.
Prisons are "corridors of contagion," as Victoria Law so incisively puts it in her book on the disastrous impact of COVID-19 on America's vast prison population. Palestinians were denied access to the COVID-19 vaccine by the genocidal Israeli government, and all healthcare infrastructure has been systematically destroyed in Gaza since October 2023. Viruses have always been part of the settler-colonial arsenal. The CEO of Delta Airlines told the CDC to shorten COVID-19 quarantine protocol from 10 days to 5 days, not due to any scientific or medical breakthrough, but because he didn't want employee sick time cutting into his bottom line.
Pick a cause and I can show you pages of research showing how and why COVID-19 connects back to it. This wholesale abandonment of the medically vulnerable and the normalization of COVID deaths and debility have helped pave the way for the acceptance of genocide in Congo, Gaza, Sudan, and Lebanon; for ICE kidnapping, torturing, and murdering civilians; for lynchings of Black Americans across the country; for the destruction of the environment and the murder of those brave souls who protect the land and its inhabitants; and for the imprisonment of anarchists and communists for as little as possessing reading material critical of the government.
I could go on. The last six years have been brutal. COVID-19 didn't cause the shitshow of terror unfolding all around us, but ignoring it and the way it has changed our world has made every other crisis harder to face honestly and fight effectively.
One thing I know for sure is that fighting to make a better world will be a lot harder if we all have Long COVID, which still has no cure or effective treatment.
So – mask up in shared spaces, vaccinate, test often, and clean the air. Care for yourself and others.
With love & rage,
Your Sick Friend

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RECIPES

THE GREEKS' REAL SALADS

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – The phrase “Greek salad” might suggest that this one salad reigns as the sole salad of Greece. Nothing could be further from the truth. Greece has a multitude of salads featuring the widest array of vegetables, including wild ones.

Still, Greek salad, called *khoriatiki salata* – country salad – in Greece, is certainly a favorite, and this season of juicy local tomatoes and tasty cucumbers is the perfect time to enjoy it.

You need thickly sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, a few black olives, and red or white onion rings. It may also include a few green pepper slices, and it’s always crowned with a slab of feta sprinkled with oregano. Definitely no lettuce. One of the diners breaks up the feta into chunks and tosses the salad. Olive oil and lemons sit on every table ready for people to add as they like.

In winter, when the fresh tomatoes of summer have disappeared, salads of carrots, potatoes, beans, arugula, and cabbage, both red and white, take over.

Some of Greece’s many salads

appear among the various *mezedes* – small dishes – that precede the meal. Among these are salads of roasted red peppers, crisply fried zucchini and eggplant slices, marinated mushrooms, and *melitzanosalata*, which almost rivals *khoriatiki* in popularity. It’s made of roasted eggplant, with a little chopped tomato or red pepper for color, and onion, garlic, and oregano for flavor. Its velvety texture, sometimes enhanced by a spoonful of yogurt, makes it addictive.

To American eyes, *melitzanosalata* is more like a dip rather than a salad. But for Greeks it’s a salad that might well hop from the *mezedes* course to appear with meat or fish.

Tzatziki is similar. This mixture of yogurt with cucumbers, garlic, and mint, is a dip when served in America, but a salad in Greece, where it’s often used as a relish with meat or on sandwiches.

Other popular salads, such as the beet salad *pantzararia* or *zokhos*, made from blanched wild vegetables, also conveniently jump from one course to another. Bean salads, however, can easily be a meal in themselves, especially during Lent,

which many Greeks observe by refraining from all animal products, eating instead from a huge array of legume dishes.

The beans used in Greek salads range from the large *gigantes* – butter beans – usually served in tomato sauce, to the tiny *fava*, a yellow split pea that makes a salad that tastes a bit like hummus. Between these extremes there are salads of lentils and various white beans such as cannellini or black-eyed peas.

Greeks have several salads featuring fish, such as sardines or tuna, with chickpeas, but the real glory of their salads is the myriad of vivid vegetables, often simply tossed together but sometimes roasted or charred and often ingeniously paired. We share pretty much the same vegetable array in summer, so Greek salads are easy to copy.

Two notes on Greek food preferences. White pepper, which is more piquant than black pepper, is often used, and basil – typically our herb of choice with tomatoes – is rarely eaten in Greece, though it’s a prestigious pot plant signifying princeliness. Oregano and parsley usually appear with tomatoes. Mint and dill are also common in salads and vegetable dishes.

Note that the quantities in the following recipes are not strict rules; they are adaptable to your taste or what you have on hand.

COUNTRY SALAD

A.K.A. 'GREEK SALAD'



3 large ripe, not over-ripe, tomatoes
one 10-inch piece of cucumber, peeled
1 thick slice from the middle of a red or white onion
about 12 black olives
half of a green pepper (optional)
1 thick slice feta cheese (3 or 4 oz)
1 tsp. oregano
olive oil for serving
lemon halves for serving

top it with a layer of cucumber. Repeat these two layers, tucking the olives here and there.

Separate the onion slice into its rings, add two or three to the tomato and cucumber layers. Scatter the rest on top, along with the thinly-sliced green pepper and any remaining olives. Place the slab of feta on top and scatter the oregano on it.

To serve, one diner breaks the feta with the salad server and tosses the salad. The diners add olive oil and lemon juice to their taste.

Serves 3 or 4.

MELITZANOSALATA



one 1½ to 2 lb. eggplant
juice of 1 lemon
2 Tbsp. chopped flat-leaf parsley
1 tsp. oregano, or to taste
1 small onion, grated
2 garlic cloves, minced
salt and white pepper
1 medium tomato
1 to 2 Tbsp. olive oil

Turn the broiler of the oven to 525 degrees and place a baking sheet under it. Put the eggplant on the sheet and broil, turning often until the skin is charred and the interior very soft – about 30 to 45 minutes. Remove the eggplant with tongs and set it under cold running water. Take off the

charred skin, scraping any eggplant sticking to the underside into a bowl.

Chop and add the rest of the eggplant flesh. Squeeze the lemon over it. Stir in the parsley, grated onion, garlic and salt and pepper.

Peel and deseed the tomato, cut it into half-inch bits, and stir into the mixture.

Finally, stir in the olive oil a little at a time. Taste for flavor and add more lemon juice, oil, parsley, or oregano until it tastes as you like.

Serves 4 or 5 as a dip with chunks of bread, or 3 or 4 as a side dish with chicken or other meat.

ARUGULA & CARROT SALAD

This salad appears in winter or early spring when flavorful local tomatoes are not available.



5 oz. (3 or 4 cups) arugula
1 medium-to-large carrot
10 or 12 kalamata or other black olives
1 thin-sliced red onion
1 lemon
3 Tbsp. olive oil
salt to taste

Thoroughly wash and dry the arugula. Pile it in a mound in the center of a shallow dish or large plate.

Grate the carrot on the

large holes of a grater and place on top of the arugula. Tuck the olives here and there. Separate the onion slice into rings and scatter them on top.

For serving, whisk a tablespoon (or more to taste) of the lemon juice with the oil and add a little salt. Pour onto the salad just before eating it and toss lightly.

Serves 4.

BLACK-EYED PEAS & TOMATO SALAD



1 very large tomato, or 2 smaller ones
one 15-oz. can black-eyed peas or Great Northern beans
1 stem celery
about 8 tender mint leaves
1 tsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, or 1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. oregano
2 Tbsp. chopped scallions
2 bay leaves
salt and black pepper to taste
2 or 3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 or 2 Tbsp. lemon juice or wine vinegar

Lightly score the tomato skin all round. Put it in a bowl and pour boiling water over it. Leave for a minute, then cool under the cold tap and peel off the skin.

Put a sieve over a small bowl and halve the to-

mato, gently squeezing it over the sieve so the juices run into the bowl. Cut the tomato into approximately 1-inch pieces. Set aside.

Drain the beans and rinse them with cold water. Trim the celery and chop it. Tear the mint leaves and sprinkle them with the sugar. Chop finely.

Put the celery, mint, thyme, oregano, scallions or onions, and bay leaves in a salad bowl. Add the beans. Season with salt and pepper.

Whisk together 2 Tbsp. of olive oil and 1 Tbsp. of lemon juice or wine vinegar.

Pour over the beans and toss. Taste and add the reserved tomato juice, seasoning, or herbs as you see fit.

Serves 2.

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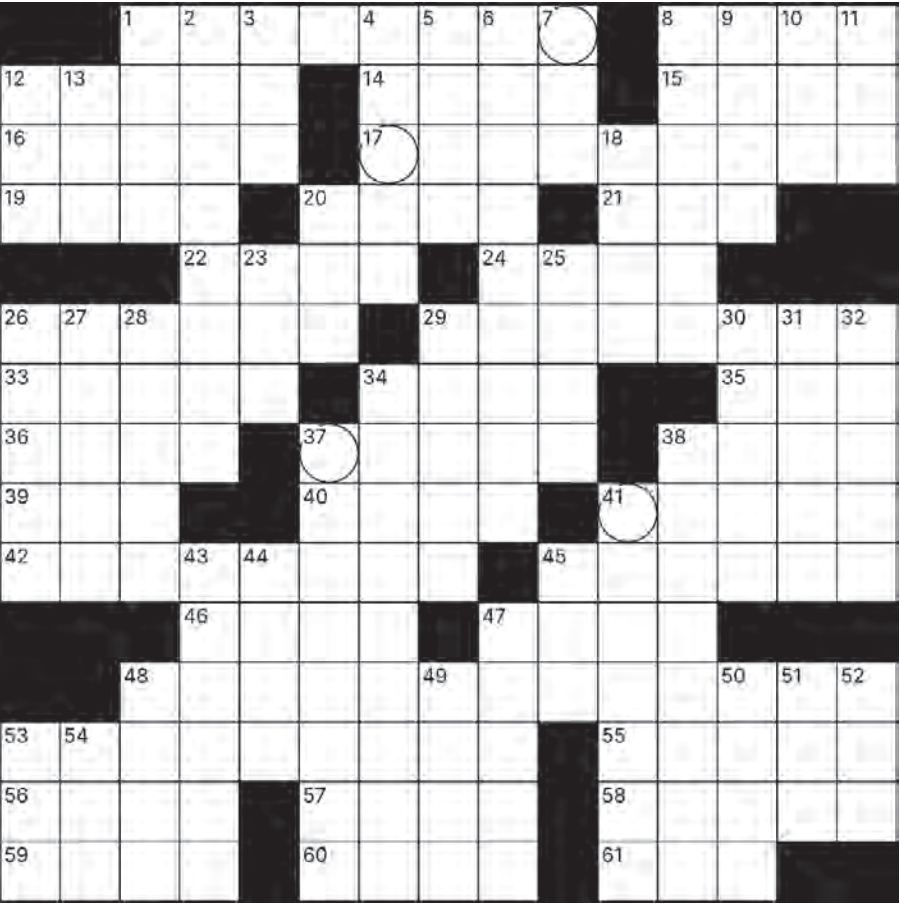
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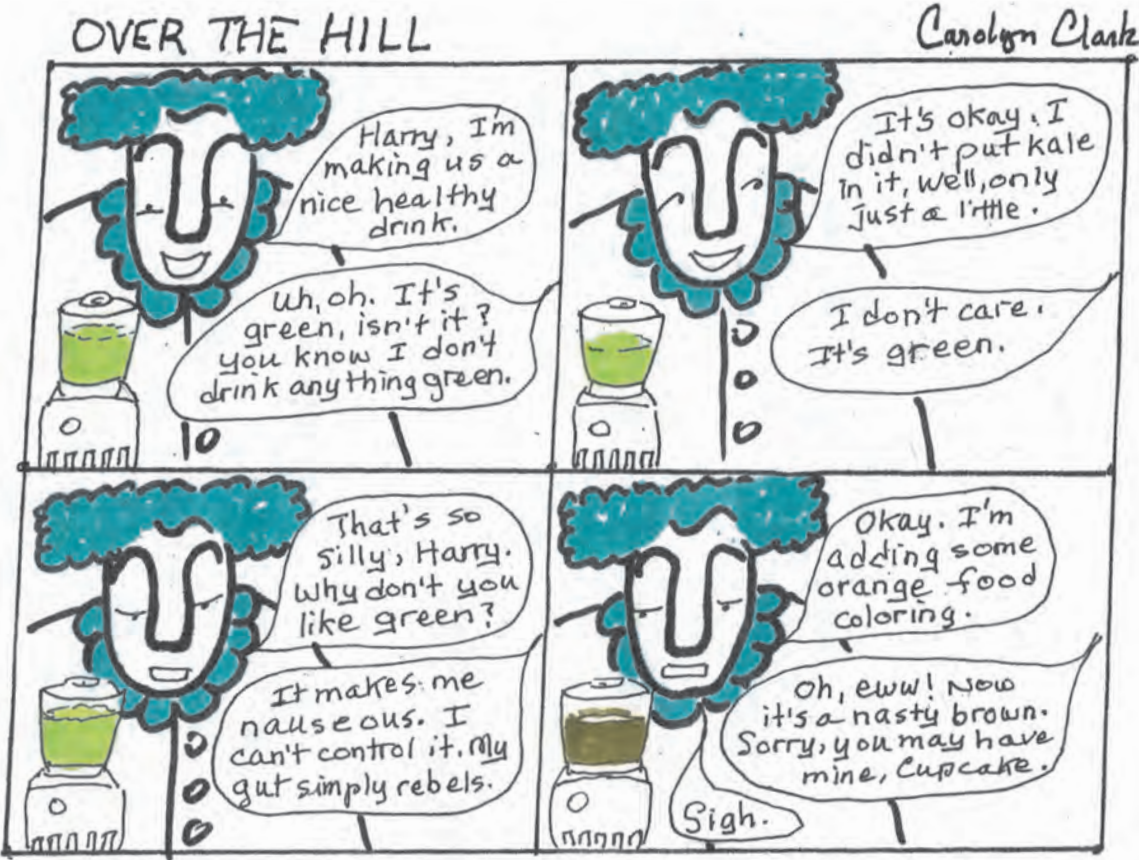
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- Across
- 1 Judith Lorei, chair of the ____ Commission
- 8 Performer famous for her Poker Face
- 12 Beach in Nicaragua
- 14 The E in H.O.M.E.S.
- 15 Mystic who wrote "You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean, in a drop."
- 16 Like heads in prayer
- 17 Position held by Elizabeth Margaret Irving
- 19 Joke or jest
- 20 Church recess
- 21 Musician who coined the term Ambient Music
- 22 "That's terrible"
- 24 Respond on the fly?
- 26 First woman elected governor of Massachusetts
- 29 Tools for quick cuts
- 33 More peculiar
- 34 Outer hard layers of a cereal grain
- 35 Local bassist and improviser Baldwin
- 36 The Brick House and the Survival Center, in brief
- 37 Role for Wendy Bogusz
- 38 Second-best-selling music act from Ireland
- 39 Fist bump
- 40 ____ & Olive, local restaurant
- 41 Roberta Potter, director of the Council on ____
- 42 Creative community space in Greenfield
- 45 They kill us softly with their song
- 46 Space overseen by Jon Dobosz
- 47 Escort company?
- 48 Singers of the hit song in the circled letters, or a hint to the italicized clues
- 53 Responded unkindly
- 55 Live
- 56 Someone's je ne sais quoi
- 57 Prefix of trailer or circle
- 58 Rules over
- 59 Texting adios
- 60 Carded
- 61 Epic epoch
- Down
- 1 Jackdaw hollers
- 2 Important feature of balaklavs
- 3 Cuckoo
- 4 Rate or rhythm
- 5 Cupid to the Greeks
- 6 Commute communally
- 7 Cry before "haw"
- 8 Ulysses and Hugh, for two
- 9 Car
- 10 Biotech crop, in brief
- 11 French electronic band who wrote "Playground Love"
- 12 Sandwich inits.
- 13 Head or john
- 18 Harvest
- 20 At least one
- 23 2013 film starring Joaquin Phoenix
- 25 Pundit
- 26 Maker of the Odyssey
- 27 Annual mystery award
- 28 Take on
- 29 Thin pancake
- 30 Famous orphan
- 31 Garth's TV/movie buddy
- 32 Deer sirs
- 34 Manned the barricades
- 37 Beheaded head of England
- 38 Visitor to a fertility clinic
- 41 Corona or halo
- 43 Galaxy shape
- 44 Cloth over a coffin
- 45 Dandy
- 47 Foul and sulphorus
- 48 Differ
- 49 Up for it
- 50 Prefix of graph or legal
- 51 Top
- 52 Hosp. depts.
- 53 Perched
- 54 Brazil, for one

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Solution in the September 10 Montague Reporter



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H P E J
A V Y

REBELLION from page B1

continuously operating town hall in the nation in terms of usage for town meetings. A town meeting is still held in the hall each year.

I noticed a flag depicting a hemlock branch on a white background. The docent explained to me that the hemlock branch was the symbol of Shays’s men – aptly named Shaysites – and was worn in their caps as an identifier. He also showed me an old Massachusetts state flag, which on one side had the seal we know today, but on the other had a mirror-image seal containing a pine on a blue background, reminiscent of the “Appeal to Heaven” flag and a nod to New England colonial roots.

Busy citizens rushed back and forth, erecting tents on the common and setting up chairs inside the town hall in preparation for Pelham’s Old Home Day celebrations, including a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

It was on this common that Shays’s men would muster, intent on disrupting and overthrowing a government that was allowing merchants to demand that hefty credit balances be paid down, in cash, causing resentment by the war pensioners and farmers of the region who saw little hope of escaping the weight of crushing debt.

A letter outlining their grievances would be published in the newly founded *Hampshire Gazette*. Shaysites would shut down the county court in Northampton, would attempt to shut down the Supreme Judicial Court in Springfield when it was set to indict the co-conspirators of the rebellion, and would even attempt a siege on the federally-owned Springfield Armory, before ultimately being tracked down by General Benjamin Lincoln. Lincoln led an army of 4,400 militia funded by eastern Massachusetts merchants who wanted their money and were disgusted by the open rebellion of Shaysites.

As I looked out over the common, children hopped across its grass in potato sacks, in a fun Old Home Day race. But I left know-



Left: The entrance stone to Conkey’s Tavern, relocated to the Pelham Historical Society building.
Right: A monument in Petersham, where the Shaysites took refuge, commemorates their defeat.

ing that the memory of Daniel Shays is alive and well in Pelham.

We then drove 20-odd miles, up Route 202 and across Route 122, to Petersham, where a memorial marks the surprise ambush Lincoln launched on Shays’s troops, who had set up camp there while being pursued.

We had missed Petersham’s July Fourth parade earlier in the day, and the common lay quiet with its white historic buildings and church standing as constant sentries. Here, next to the unimposing brick Petersham Historical Society building, stood a memorial, which notes:

IN THIS TOWN
ON SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY FOURTH
1787
DANIEL SHAYS
AND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY OF HIS FOLLOWERS
IN REBELLION AGAINST THE COMMONWEALTH
WERE SURPRISED AND ROUTED BY
GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN
IN COMMAND OF THE ARMY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AFTER A NIGHT MARCH FROM HADLEY
OF THIRTY MILES THROUGH SNOW
IN COLD BELOW ZERO...

In 2025, a record was discovered in the Hampshire County Sheriff’s Office that list-

ed prisoners in custody, many of whom were Shaysites, and some of whom were, not surprisingly, from Pelham.

Wendell historian Pam Richardson has documented that Shays’s Rebellion was not popularly received in Wendell, however, with most supporting the government rather than Shays’s men, who called themselves regulators. And, in fact, I did not find any Wendell residents on the newly resurfaced prisoner list.

However, one name did stick out – a man from Montague – and led me to look further. Moses Harvey was Montague’s representative to the Massachusetts General Court, and, according to a biography by Springfield Technical Community College, one of his first political acts was to refuse in 1772 to pay money for the repair of his town’s Congregational meetinghouse. He served in the Revolution, and later became disgruntled by the high taxes and huge debts imposed upon his compatriots.

Harvey is listed in the arrest record as being released on bond, after paying a fine and standing on the gallows, rather than being

hanged to death as a traitor.

The rebellion led by Shays was an impetus toward the adoption of the US Constitution in 1789, as it revealed aspects of the Articles of Confederation that were unworkable and showed the weakness of federal response to the rebellion.

The founding of the US Treasury later that year relieved states of the debts they had accumulated during the Revolution, which in turn helped improve the status of farmers and pensioners impacted by debt collection by allowing the states to reduce their taxes.

Vermont, which had ambitions to separate from New York, was eventually granted statehood in 1791, and out of fear of angering Massachusetts, Vermonters expelled some Shaysites from their state, to whom they had been providing safe haven at worst or a “look the other way” mentality at best.

While Shays’s Rebellion was unsuccessful in its immediate goals, the impact it had on a fledgling nation struggling to determine how to govern itself should be neither over- nor understated. Its echoes whisper in our region even today.



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Montague Community Television News Fest Vids Up Already

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – MCTV’s coverage of the 2026 Pocumtuck Homelands Festival is now available to view, and you can find previous years’ recordings of the festival in our online archive!

Remember, our Vimeo page can easily be found by clicking the “Videos” tab on our website, MontagueTV.org. You can also find folders there directing you to all of our Montague and Gill selectboard recordings.

To search the archive, you need to find the small black magnifying glass below the title “Montague Community Television’s Videos”

and click there. If you use the search bar at the top of the screen, you will search “all of Vimeo,” and you will have a harder time finding what you are looking for.

Speaking of meetings... We are still looking to fill one board seat! The commitment is low – just one meeting a month – and food and drink are provided. No experience is necessary. Please reach out by emailing a letter of interest to infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com, calling us up at (413) 863-9200, or stopping by the station at 34 Second Street to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. And if you see us out there filming, say hi!

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT This Saturday: The 21st Annual Stone Soup Harvest Supper

GREENFIELD – Stone Soup Café invites neighbors from across Franklin County and beyond to the 21st Annual Harvest Supper this Saturday, August 22, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the Greenfield town common. Appetizers begin at 4:30 p.m., and the food tent opens at 5 p.m.

More than 1,000 guests from near and far are expected to enjoy a chef-prepared meal made almost entirely with ingredients grown and produced in western Massachusetts. Over 30 local farms contribute vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy, herbs, and other ingredients.

The event transforms the com-

mon into a shared dining space with 40 communal tables, and 150 volunteers chop vegetables, prepare food, set tables, serve meals, welcome attendees, and clean up. Guests are encouraged to bring reusable plates and utensils, though compostable dishware will be available.

There will be live bluegrass music, banjo, and guitar from Michael Nix, the Mill River Rounders, Matt Goulet, Annie Hassett, and others.

The Harvest Supper remains a pay-what-you-can event, and everyone is invited. Guests are encouraged to RSVP or donate online by going to bit.ly/harvest-supper-26.

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Design a 22" by 20" page for our fifth Wrapping Paper Edition! Submit up to three proposals by September 1. Seven winners will have until early November to finish their pages, and will each receive a \$200 stipend upon completion.

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jim Eagan, Jennie McAvoy, The Klines Band*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton: *Christa Joy and the Honeybees*. 6 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown Quartet*. 7 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *John Toot and the Great Metastization*, puppet show. 7 p.m. \$.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Modest Mouse, Califone*. 7 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kaki King, Mark Schwaber*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Who Lives in a River?* For ages 3 to 6. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *Whiskey Treaty Roadshow, Cheese Priests*, square dance with *Falltown String Band*, horse pull, tractor parade, more. See heathfair.org for details. 5 to 11 p.m. \$

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

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Ballot Information Session*. Learn the meaning and potential impact of November ballot questions. 6 p.m. Free.

Sunderland Public Library, Sunderland: *Chick'n Wire*. 6 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Recover Project Open Mic*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Riverfront Park, Erving: *Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *High Tea, Cloudbelly*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam S.Z. & The Inner Fiyah*. 7 p.m. No cover.

118 Elliot, Brattleboro: *Conor & Kalo, Irman Peck, Emmanuelle Zagoria, Matt Weston, KaneLoggia Hypothesis*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *Brooke Batteau & the Party Emergency, Escape Pod, Shokazoba, Dan Blakeslee, Snap Dragons, Dead Man's Clothes*, cattle show, scything demonstration, truck pull, much more. 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. \$

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

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Riverboat Cruise*, with a presentation on Indigenous perspectives on the river by David Brule (Nehantic) and Rich Holschuh (Elnu Abenaki). Register at booqueo.com/northfield. 11 a.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lady Pop, Jan & Bo Henderson & Friends, Space Bar*. Raffle, taco truck. Fundraiser for Wendell resident Bob Bowers. 4 p.m. By donation.

Town Common, Greenfield: *Stone Soup Harvest Supper*. Farm-to-table community meal with live music, more. 4:30 p.m. By donation.

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: Food by Patch Burger, music by *DJ Gusto*. 5 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn, Allegra Hyde*. Readings. 6 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Dan Belmont Jazz Quartet*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

THCC, Easthampton: *Bellow, The Spiral Continuum, Funeral Thirst*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Winged Wheel Trio, Gold Dust*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Sable Island Pony*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Couchboy, The Same Old Same Olds*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *Jax Hollow, Precipitation Notification, Shelburne Falls Military Band, Ed The Wizard*, goat shows, oxen parade, chainsaw demonstration, classic cars, parade, more. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$

No Fun, Troy: *Dropdead, Agonista, Life Abuse, Mental Weather*. 1 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brian Dickens, Hazel Basil, Rachel Davis*. 8 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

Leverett Library, Leverett: *French Press*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Living Room, Florence: *Aisha Burns, Claire Ozmun, Max Knouse*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

Palladium, Worcester: *Down, Helmet, Spirit In The Room*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.



This Saturday at Northampton's Parlor Room: the Winged Wheel Trio, a touring subset of the supergroup Winged Wheel with members of Spray Paint, Tyvek, and Sonic Youth, plays heavy psych or post-rock or grungegaze or kraut or whatnot. Another band made up of now-older people from earlier bands opens.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Suspension Bridge*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Laura Jane Grace, Brendan Kelly*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

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

18 Park, Belchertown: *Mal Devisa, Gods Wisdom, barbie.ai, Frogtones, Strawberry Hands, Lily Bix-Daw*. 5 p.m. \$.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *133 Skeelee, Little Wild Bouquet*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Magic Wings, Deerfield: *Magic Wings After Dark*. Adults only. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Brewster Court, Northampton: *Lonesome Brothers*. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Town Hall, Wendell: *Community Forum* for selectboard candidates Chris Kranz and Marina Apostol. 6:30 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Sleeping Giant*, new work by Jae Southerland. September 3 through 27, with a reception Friday, September 4 at 5 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Stitched Through the Seven Sisters*. Kerry St. Laurent layers matte hot press photo prints with gouache, ink, and colored pencil stitching. September 4 through 29.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Vivian Gay*, ceramics, and *Jey Weisgerber*, block-printed and tie-dyed wares, through August.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *LCA Artists*, group show by artists with studios at the building, through August.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Marlboro Reminders*, group exhibit of ceramics, painting, photography, and printmaking by Marlboro College alumni, through August.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Unmasking the Monstrous*, ceramic and mixed-media sculpture by Wade Boswell, through August 28.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Minor Cosmologies* by Eva Lin Fahey, through September with a reception Friday, August 28 at 5 p.m.

GCTV, Greenfield: *slow, down river*, photographs of the Connecticut River by Alix Kaplan. Opening reception Friday, August 28 at 6 p.m.; through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston: *Members Summer Show and Grand Opening*, first exhibit at the new location at 1 Brattleboro Road, through August.

Deerfield Community Center, Deerfield: *Reflections*, paintings by members of the Old Deerfield Painting Group, August 23 to 30.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Celebrating the Year of the Horse*, equine paintings by Sara and Fabio Deponte, through August.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: Illustrations by *Margot Apple* and fiber art by *Kate McClelland*, through August.

Gallery in the Woods, Brattleboro: *William Hays and Nina Rossi*, featured artists for the month of August showing linocut prints and mixed-media artworks.

CALLS FOR ART

Fiddleheads Gallery, Bernardston: Submit naive, fanciful, humorous, and curious art for *A Touch of Whimsy: Art that Makes You Smile*, opening September 5. To register, contact margedvaa@gmail.com by August 28.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Seeking an artist or team of artists to design, create, and install the front window display from late November to mid-January. Materials budget and stipend provided. Bonus points if you source materials from local businesses. Holiday-specific imagery not necessary. Apply by August 31 at tinyurl.com/waterwaywindow.

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CALENDAR



Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Kwartetto Mambo*. 7 p.m. Free.

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Indigo Girls, Lucy Wainwright Roche*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

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

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Laura Jane Grace, Brendan Kelly*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

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

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Vimana*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Indigo Girls, Lucy Wainwright Roche*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, Palmer: *Debilitation, Gnawed Off, Giftkrieg, Shunyata*. 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *HWY 91*. 7:30 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Griffin Miller, Kate Aultman, Walt Harms*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Cloud Nothings, Knifeplay*. 8 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Coffin Flop, Veinmelter, Tough Guy, The Intangible Man*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jamey Wolff, Luke DeRoy*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

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

Shelburne Grange, Shelburne: *Grange Fair*. Music, vendors, crafts, kids' activities, tag sale, planetarium presentations, barbecue, bake sale, more. See shelburnegrange.org for details. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Baron Walk*. Experience America's longest log drive through photos and stories of locals, laborers, and infamous River Baron George Van Dyke. Easy 1.25-mile hike along the Canalside Rail Trail. Ages 9 and up. 10 a.m. Free.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: *Allison Russell, The Milk Carton Kids, John Craigie, Fantastic Cat, Caitlin Canty*, more. 10:30 a.m. \$\$.

New Salem Library, New Salem: *When Good Feet Meet Bad Shoes*, presentation by Nan Mead, RN. 1 p.m. Free.

First Churches, Northampton: *Soul of Gaza*, fundraising dinner with presentations, short film, more. 3 p.m. By donation.

Lupinewood, Greenfield: *Dani-Rae Clark*, open mic. 6 p.m. \$.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Marcia Gamache Band*. 7 p.m. \$.

Wilder's Barn, Conway: *Hush Puppy, Zoe Pete Ford, NASCAR Mimosa*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *High & Loathsome, Max Knouse*. 7 p.m. \$.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Carrie Underwood*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *June Millington and the IMA Allstars*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Leverett Library, Leverett: *On the Lam*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Elliott Sharp*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Reprise*, Phish tribute. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fizzpaste, Different Plants*. 8 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Brick House, Turners Falls: *A Day Without Love, Olivia Nied, Carly Lar*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *David Liebe Hart, McAsh, Piss Sipper Lvl 6 Goblin Wizard*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Mystra Ooze Fest*. 1 p.m. By donation.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Letters of Marque, Tree, Trophy Hunt, Daisy Chain*, more. Masks req'd. Benefit for Palestinian Children's Relief Fund. 7 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Jessie Murph*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Magic Wings, Deerfield: *Magic Wings After Dark*. Adults only. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods, Curly Castro*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Inside/Out Dance Company, Star Lane Sox, Wallace Field, Stoner Will and the Narks, Christa Joy and the Honeybees*, more. Food, vendors, kids' activities, demonstrations. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Randy Travis*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

No Fun, Troy: *Unsane, Prize, Life Abuse*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Ballaké Sissoko & Piers Faccin*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Horse Lords, No Thankyou, Silk Fence*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Earl Sweatshirt, MIKE*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Palladium, Worcester: *American Football, She's Green*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Left to right: Dan DeWalt, John Clark, Julian Gerstin, and Wes Brown, all accomplished composers and performers in their own right, form the supergroup Kwartetto Mambo, which brings elements of African, Cuban, and jazz traditions into new configurations. The quartet will play a free show at the Peskeompskut Park bandstand in Turners Falls next Thursday, August 27.



Submitted Photo

looking forward...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

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REVIEW from page B1

and relatives, cooking, cleaning, keeping the home fires burning. This while men did the “real” work, the work that paid and supported the family, the work that was included in measurements of production and value to the economy.

Folbre writes of a letter sent in 1878 from the Association for the Advancement of Women to the US Congress protesting the official Census notion that “homekeepers” were not gainful workers, and quotes physician and suffragette Anna Howard Shaw in 1899: “A gentleman opposed to their enfranchisement once said to me, ‘women have never produced anything of any value to the world.’ I told them the chief product of the women had been the men and left it to him to decide whether the product was of any value.”

Another example Folbre offers is a gender-related question in the US General Social Survey – not a government survey, but one based out of the University of Chicago that is used by numerous universities, agencies, and organizations. The survey asks whether one agrees or not to the statement: “It is better for everyone if the man is the achiever outside the home and the woman takes care of home and family.”

Talk about a loaded question! Better? For everyone? Man is the *achiever*? While wife doesn’t *achieve* anything, just does care stuff?

Folbre’s book dives into the history, in this country and elsewhere, of care economies and the effects of care work undervaluation in government measurements, including the all-powerful gross domestic product (GDP). These measurements determine and influence government policy and views on social programs, funding, wage policy, and more.

Chapter titles include *Defining the Gainful: Who Are “Workers”?*; *Living Standards: Who’s Better Off?*; *Valuing People: What’s Your Life Worth?*; and *Public Social Spending: Waste or Investment?* Again, not a light summer read – but a serious look at a very important issue, and especially timely given the current regime’s priorities.

Close to Home

Many of us know someone who is either doing care work or needs care work. A friend, a parent, a neighbor. I see a daughter caring every day for her mom, and a friend who at 73 adopted her beloved grandson, altering her retirement plans.

One example stands out for me: my 44-year-old niece Sage, who developed multiple sclerosis at 29 and has been completely disabled for about eight years now.

As Sage says, she is incredibly lucky; she has a nearby family and an amazing partner who care for her, as well as paid caregivers 24/7. She knows the sacrifices made for her financially, timewise, and physically – she is 6’4”, and has had personal care helpers get injured. Her partner Mark “loves her enough that he throws out his back” for her, her mom provides daily care, and her contractor dad built a special, accessible apartment.

Not everyone who needs care has that.

Sage and Mark are activists in the Hudson Valley. Sage is on the board of The Caring Majority, whose website explains that they are “organizing to build a sustainable and just caring economy.” Sage has been arrested three times at the State Capitol building in Albany – she couldn’t be put in the jail right there in the building, because it wasn’t accessible – and has friends



Local economist Nancy Folbre.

who are fighting battles every day with insurance companies, with the state of New York, and with Public Partnerships, LLC, or PPL, the company the state has contracted to handle caregiving.

PPL has already been sued for millions by the US government, and recipients of its “care” tell of a company that charges a flat fee per person and tries to deny aid to those with expensive needs, encouraging the cheaper cases.

Sage told me that most people don’t realize the skills, training, and physical strength needed to be a caregiver. To give good intimate care, one wants someone compassionate and strong, but there are emotional and physical tolls on the caregiver. She said that the state values her life, and those of her caregivers, at minimum wage.

Her final words during our recent discussion were: “What I do still have is a voice, and I decided to use it to help others like me.”

Her Booted Toes

I asked Nancy Folbre some questions about her book and research. When I asked what drew her to this work, which she has pursued for decades now, she cited her childhood, when she saw firsthand the polarized economic environment in her Texas upbringing: her father worked for a very wealthy family, and she was cared for by the same Mexican nanny, Tia, who had cared for him.

“So,” she explained, “I got ensnared by the connection between care and economic inequality.” She also stressed that her cohort of women were the first to gain reproductive rights. I remember it well!

What is Folbre’s target audience? She hates the question – but said she tries to attract a diverse readership that recognizes that care is work, and feels it should be recognized as that.

And no, she doesn’t feel like she’s banging her head against a brick wall.

“I just try to kick rocks off the road, and stick my booted toes into doors that might be openable,” she told me. “Yes, sometimes I get tired of this, and have to go for a long walk in the woods.”

I asked if there is hope for the care economy.

“I tend to think hope is overrated compared to plain old stubborn hard-headedness,” she said. “Forty years ago, only women were listening. Literally, there were no men in the room. That has changed. Younger men, in particular, are more mindful of the need for more space for family, community, and social well-being. The activism of the younger generation cheers me up.”

The Boomer generation is aging – hearing aids, bad knees, all that fun stuff – and there is a growing need for care helpers. Ah, but low pay, caregivers themselves aging out of care work, immigrants who may often be caregivers being grabbed or frightened away from work, a government of individuals hostile to those who they deem less than, well, themselves. All while there is already a huge shortage of caregivers. Who can live on – *maybe* – \$15 an hour?

As a society, those of us who get it, who care, and who understand the need for a care economy that works for people first can hopefully change the entrenched model into a place where everyone is valued.

Nancy Folbre has a presence online; just search and you’ll find all kinds of info. Check out www.CareThink.org, her books, her blogs, and more.

“I tend to think hope is overrated compared to plain old stubborn hard-headedness... Forty years ago, only women were listening. Literally, there were no men in the room. That has changed.”



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