TURNERS FALLS MILLERS FALLS LAKE PLEASANT MONTAGUE CITY MONTAGUE CENTER GILL ERVING WENDELL LEVERETT

# The Montague Reporter

Year 24 – No. 44 NOVEMBER 12, 2026 $2

editor@montaguereporter.org THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES montaguereporter.org

PRECEDENT

## The Efforts, Through the Ages, To Make One Village's Streets Safer, Calmer, More Complete




*The electric streetcar, in a 1906 postcard photograph, turning left at Court Square toward the village center.*

**By WILL QUALE**

**MONTAGUE CENTER –** After two months of construction, this year's Complete Streets project in Montague Center is largely finished. While town officials describe it as a response to "numerous concerns expressed over the past several years regarding speeding through this area, as well as pedestrian and bicyclist safety," these concerns have a much longer history.

Many are aware that this was the second Complete Streets project undertaken in the village in this decade, but that's just the most recent chapter. Attempts to balance transportation needs with safety concerns on the main road passing through Montague Center, through both infrastructure and policy, began over 200 years ago.

The origins of traffic safety in Montague are in 1820, with "An Act establishing the Law of the Road." (Sleigh bells ring – are you listening?)

Back then, a horse-drawn wagon traveled at about four miles per hour – any faster on dirt roads and there was danger of breaking an axle. But when wheels were exchanged for runners, "a bob-tailed nag, two forty as his speed" could travel a mile over packed snow in two minutes and forty seconds – i.e., over 22 miles per hour.

The Commonwealth acted to protect pedestrians from being caught unawares by this winter menace, and part of the law remains on the books to this day virtually unchanged, as M.G.L. Chapter 89, Section 3: "No person shall travel on a way with a sleigh or sled drawn by a horse, unless there are at least three bells attached to some part of the harness."

In 1890, a local newspaper lamented that this law was generally unenforced.

By that time, transportation had become multimodal. Bicycles were

see **COMPLETE** page A6

## Water Authority Hires New Exec, Withdraws Big Quabbin Ask

**By SARAH ROBERTSON**

**BOSTON –** Before the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) withdrew its application last week to extract up to 20 million more gallons of water per day from the Quabbin Reservoir, interim executive director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi named his successor.

Jonathan Gulliver, an undersecretary for the state Department of Transportation, was selected in late October to lead the MWRA, a quasi-public agency that provides water to the greater Boston area and manages a $922 million annual budget. The decision to appoint Gulliver, a civil engineer and state employee of 28 years, comes as the MWRA plans to finance major infrastructure upgrades and potentially expand its membership.

After contentious public hearings and sustained pressure by western Massachusetts lawmakers to reject the MWRA's request, Estes-Smargiassi wrote a letter on November 5 rescinding the application under review by the state Water Resources Commission. However, he told the commission, the MWRA still intends to expand its water and sewer network to more cities and towns.

"The analyses and technical information developed for the prior submission remain valuable and will inform subsequent submissions," Smargiassi wrote. "[Gulliver] supports withdrawing the current analysis and pursuing a more focused submission that addresses the demonstrated needs of the communities currently seeking admission to the MWRA system."

see **WATER** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Waste Director Warns Against Price Hike on Trash Stickers

**By JEFF SINGLETON**

"I always say, people will find the path of least resistance when they have to pay for their trash," Jan Ameen, director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, told the Montague selectboard at its Monday meeting.

The brief weekly meeting lasted just over an hour, but nearly three-quarters of it was devoted to a discussion of trash, and the cost of stickers required to be purchased by residents for the hauling and disposing of it. Much of it consisted of a presentation by Ameen, who had been invited to comment on a proposal made two weeks ago by town administrator Walter Ramsey to raise the price of a basic sticker from $3 to $5.

The board also approved an $11,000 increase in the contract with the company overseeing the Montague Center traffic-calming project, signed a $4,000 grant for

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## A SOLID REMINDER




*On Wednesday morning, a crowd of about 60 gathered at the veterans' memorial on Main Road in Gill for a ceremony honoring US military veterans and dedicating a new stone marker to veterans of all the country's wars since 1975. Gill's Memorial Committee hosted the event, which featured speakers and music representing each service branch, a prayer, a four-gun salute, and comments from state senator Jo Comerford and a representative of FirstLight Power, which contributed $5,000. (See Page A5 for another local Veterans Day report.)*

## *High School Sports:* Four Knockouts

**By MATT ROBINSON**

**TURNERS FALLS –** The Turners Falls High School volleyballers, the Franklin County Tech football and boys' soccer teams, and the hybrid girls' soccer team were all elbowed out of the playoffs this week, leaving only the Volleyball Eagles still in the hunt.

For Franklin football and the cheerleaders, they will play on – first against another Eastern Mass powerhouse on Friday, and then against the Smith Vikings on Turkey Day. For Turners, the players will celebrate and share memories this Thursday at the fall sports banquet.

**Volleyball**

*FCTS 3 – Greenfield 1*
*Salem Academy 3 – TFHS 0*
*FCTS 3 – Madison Park 2*

Last Thursday, I split my time between two volleyball games. The 8th-ranked Tech Eagles hosted 25th seed Greenfield in the Division 5 Round of 32, while the 35th seed Salem Academy Navigators traveled to face 30th seed Turners in a preliminary contest.

Not a lot of Green folks were in the audience at the Tech battle, probably because there was also a home football game. The Eagles shot out to a 15-3 lead in the first set, but not because Greenfield was playing badly; there were long volleys and battles at the net, but Tech was shooting aces, making kills, and blocking

see **SPORTS** page A4




*Franklin Tech's Sarah Beckwith sends the ball over the net to Madison Park defenders (left to right) Noelia Guerrero, Emely Velasquez, and Suleuny Rodriguez during the MIAA Round of 16 tournament game at Franklin Tech on Monday.*

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Board Getting Started Into FY'27 Budget; Hires First-Ever Hired Treasurer

**By KATHLEEN NOLAN**

On Monday night, a parade of Erving department heads and committee and commission chairs marched up to the microphone to present the selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee with brief overviews of their expenditures in fiscal year 2026, which ended on June 30, and the current status of FY'27. These presentations were scheduled as a foundation for planning the town's FY'28 budget.

Town accountant Deborah Mero, community planner Glenn Johnson-Mussad, fire chief Philip Wonkka, and police chief Robert Holst all reported spending less than their budgeted amounts in FY'26, while newly-appointed IT director Jared Barney and highway supervisor Glenn McCrory reported going over budget. Most of the presenters said their spending so far in FY'27 was within their budgets.

The largest reported FY'26 deficit was for legal services. In a November 6 memo, town administrator Bryan Smith wrote: "Legal services experienced a significant deficit, with costs exceeding an initial budget by approximately $131,000."

see **ERVING** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Feeling Close To Levy Ceiling, Officials Decide To Request 1% Budget Growth

**By GEORGE BRACE**

On Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard held a hearing to set a preliminary property tax rate and joined with the finance committee to provide guidance to town departments for next year's budgets. Among other business, the board also heard highlights of a report by a four-town group examining local municipal budgets and appointed a perambulator.

Board of assessors chair James Staros recommended continuing with past practice and keeping a single property tax rate for residential and commercial property. The amount of commercial property in Leverett is so small, he said, that taxing it at a higher rate would have little effect on the residential rate.

Staros said the town must levy $7.43 million to fund the current year's budget, and therefore recommended a property tax rate of $16.29 per $1,000 of value, an increase of 6.13%, or an average of $500 per home, over last year.

Staros warned that the "buffer" between what Leverett needs to collect to cover its current budget and the "levy limit" – the maximum

see **LEVERETT** page A5

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# Good Tidings

In case you missed it: One of the implications of last week's strong showing by the Dems is that massive reform of American elections is now within reach: the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. So far 19 states have passed legislation agreeing that once states representing an Electoral College majority have joined, they will all instruct their electors to vote in accordance with the national majority.

It stands at 222 electors, with Minnesota, Maine, and Virginia signing on in the last few years, and it needs 270. Democrats just consolidated control of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Arizona, Nevada, and Wisconsin, representing 61 more.

The end of "red states" and "blue states" overnight? It sounds almost too good to be true... Here's hoping!

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



*Kevin Williams holds up a five-month-old puppy at Diamond Match German Shepherds, the breeding and training facility he and his wife Janet operate in Leverett. Diamond Match makes several litters available each year. Many of the puppies are destined for service work, such as helping veterans with PTSD or people with mobility issues, but the couple also sells young companion dogs that are trained at various levels of obedience. They offer personalized training for other dogs – no classes – with many options including a month-long board and train program. To learn more, see* www.dmgsk9.com.

## Letters to the Editors

# Moving Ahead...

Dear Montague-rs of our five villages,

To quote Maury Giles, a conservative Republican from Utah and the new CEO of Braver Angels: "...some of [us] woke up Wednesday elated. Others felt disappointment, even fear. Both are real, and both belong in this community. What unites us is not how we voted. It's the conviction that self-government only works when we build with people who see the world differently… Many of the hardest races were won by candidates who ran on bringing people together."

*What now?*

In December 2019 my husband and I moved to Turners Falls to be near our daughter and granddaughter. We were such newbies! We didn't even know that Turners Falls is actually one of five villages in the Town of Montague. There's no way we could have known what these seven years would be like! You have to wonder what the next seven will bring.

In looking ahead, I want to briefly share with you a few resources which I am thinking may be helpful as we go forward:

1. *Braver Angels*: A "Red/Blue" organization, specifically created to help folks who want to understand and connect across the political divide. There are in-person activities available for local communities, as well as online resources for people of all ages. Founded in 2016 by a "Red and Blue," it links with an organization called Finding Common Ground. Some amazing stuff!

Go to *BraverAngels.org* to see what is possible.

2. *The Movement Voter Project*: A nationwide group that is determined to stay involved and keep on supporting grassroots community activities like Neighbor to Neighbor between elections, linking local helpers and local movers and shakers so that election season is a continuation of the good work already being done in local communities. See *www.movement.vote* for more.

3. *Leaving MAGA*: I just discovered this! Having myself been a devoted member of a group for 11 years which I believed in no matter what my parents or anyone else thought, I was so glad to find this website founded by Rich Logis, who was a MAGA leader for six years. He's now running a project that is putting up billboards that say: "Having Doubts? You Are Not Alone – *leavingmaga.org*." Here's a safe and confidential resource.

And finally,

4. *The research and writing of Christopher Armitage,* who explains how states can legally stop the robber billionaires who are not paying attention to the lives of everyday Americans. Some of it sounds radical, but it is all fully legal within already existing laws and structures. Sometimes he's too complex for me to read, but he outlines clear action steps that we can support. See *www.theexistentialistrepublic.com.*

I sure don't know how the next years will unfold, but I know we can't just sit back and hope.

With only good wishes for us all,

**Joanna Rueter**
**Precinct 4 Town Meeting member**
**Turners Falls**

# County's AI Training Should Show Its Work on the Shop Floor

Franklin County has a solid foundation for practical workforce education. Greenfield Community College's Pathways to Advanced Manufacturing program partners with Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls to teach blueprint reading, metrology, CAD, and machine operations. Its training model links classroom instruction with employers and job-placement support.

Massachusetts's October 20 Pathmaker expansion creates an opening to introduce AI into technical career training without weakening the hands-on skills that employers need.

Consider a new quality-control trainee. A supervisor could supply a fictional inspection record and ask the trainee to compare an AI-generated summary against the measurements and the approved specifications. The trainee's work would be to find discrepancies, explain which source is authoritative, and identify when a qualified person must intervene. No AI suggestion would become an instruction to operate equipment.

A second exercise could involve a parts inventory: reconcile an AI-prepared list with source documents, mark omissions, and explain why every correction matters. The outcome is a record of judgment, not a demonstration of how many buttons a learner can press.

The state announced new worker-training grants on October 23, including awards in the Franklin/Hampshire workforce region. Employers working with local programs should define the actual errors a new hire must learn to catch.

Technical education has long combined measurement, practice, supervision, and accountability. Franklin County's AI instruction should follow that tradition. A trainee who can prove an AI answer wrong, document the correction, and explain the next step is gaining a skill that will survive the next software upgrade.

**Gleb Tsipursky**
**Columbus, OH**

# Your Brain On Colonialism: *Wired to Steal* Authors Speak in Greenfield Nov. 19

A special town meeting majority in Montague declared the town an apartheid-free community last October, making it the first municipality in Massachusetts to join the Apartheid-Free Communities network.

Despite that vote, worldwide opposition to Israeli violence, and a "cease-fire" that began that same October, the pain, suffering, and death in Gaza and beyond continues. Rains preceding winter cold have flooded flimsy tents, increasing misery from hunger and intermittent military attacks. Promised supplies are blocked. Rebuilding is out.

What causes such genocidal hatred of one community against another, and how can this end?

Experts in these questions present their new book, *Wired to Steal: Zionism and the Shaping of the Western Mind*, this month from Boston to New York – with a stop in Greenfield on Thursday, November 19, at 7 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church at 399 Main Street. Find details at the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice website, *traprock.org.*

"*Wired to Steal* approaches the study of colonial violence from a novel angle, bringing neuroscience to our understanding of power and domination," writes Harriet Malinowitz, author of *Selling Israel: Zionism, Propaganda, and the Uses of Hasbara* (2025).

Lead author and neuroscientist Yoav Litvin is joined by renowned Israel/Palestine historian Ilan Pappé. With Palestinian book publisher Michel Moushabeck moderating, the authors will present the book's themes – live! – and respond to audience questions.

Their Franklin County stop follows programs in Brattleboro and Amherst. Find more info, reserve a ticket, and donate if possible at the *traprock.org* website. All are welcome to this special event, co-sponsored by Apartheid-Free Western Mass. and others.

**Anna Gyorgy**
**Wendell**


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# TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

**Compiled by MIKE JACKSON**

Rain and **gloom**! And some really spectacular, bright mornings.

This month's First Friday seemed fairly well-attended here in downtown Turners Falls, but amazingly well-attended considering the rain, which usually dooms events like that. The grand opening of Mystic Cat Pinball pulled a lot of people into town, but my favorite was **that show at the Music Connection**. Free, all ages, seven loud bands. What more can you ask for?

If it can be sustained, i.e. if relationships with any neighbors in earshot are positive, etc., I believe that puts us at 11 venues downtown.

The flip side of that coin, of course, is that I think we might be heading into one of those heavier sick seasons. Anecdotally, people are dropping left and right...

One of the big trends in public health communication seems to be to emphasize that there are multiple other respiratory viruses (flu, RSV) we should think about, and that's good and all, but it's also pretty weird that **every quantitative indicator of the circulation of COVID here** has been taken away, right?

I was keeping up for a long time with *westernmasscovid.org*, a locally produced resource which provided population-weighted curves of the wastewater testing data gathered by the state Department of Public Health. This summer, though, DPH's data disappeared, and since it came back, no western Mass plants have been contributing measurements.




*Cleansed, ripping it at the record store, in one of their declaredly last three shows.*

Weird, right?

This time last year there were 28 or 29 sewer systems gathering data around the state. Now there are five: the northern Boston metro plant; the southern Boston metro plant; Salem; Uxbridge; and Worcester. Combined, their data currently tells us the incidence of RSV is "very low (stable)," influenza A and B is "high (increasing)," and COVID is "very high (increasing)."

How high? Well, about 110,200 copies of the virus per liter. By comparison, it was about 26,300 a year ago this week, and reached a winter peak at 117,100 last New Year's. A more pertinent indicator is the Wastewater Viral Activity Level (WVAL), which is up to 12.1.

If you're curious about some closer data – we could be insulated from eastern Mass's contagion, after all – *westernmasscovid.org* now recommends users check out *examinedmd.gitub.io/wastewater-report/* where you can plug in your ZIP and get served estimates based on proximity of data gleaned through the federal Centers for Disease Control.

The CDC keeps the locations of the wastewater plants anonymous in its data, but there's one in southwest New Hampshire (Cheshire County) where the WVAL is at 5.7 ("moderate") and rising, and one in southeastern Vermont (Windham County) where it's at 8.3 ("high") and rising.

I really do believe this stuff is worth keeping track of. Callibrate your own risk, and I suppose your own risk to others. If you're annoyed that I'm putting this stuff in the paper, go take a cold shower bud.

Last week we ran a public service announcement for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District in our B section about compost bins. You can get them!

Given the space I was trying to fill, I abridged the living daylights out of that PSA. "Maybe we can follow up soon with some info about **municipal compost programs**?" program director Amy Donovan asked me the next day.

Sure thing, Amy!

"Large-scale compost facilities go beyond the backyard compost bin by accepting items not recommended for home composting, such as meat, bones, cheese, and BPI-certified compostable tableware (*bpiworld.org*).

"Municipal compost programs at 15 Franklin County transfer stations accept separated food waste from residents or paid permit holders: Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. An annual permit or access fee may be required, but there is no charge to deposit food waste.

"In addition, Gill residents have access to a free food waste drop off program; contact Gill Town Hall to learn more. In addition, any Franklin County resident can bring organic waste to the Greenfield Transfer Station's compost dumpster, after paying the $5 host fee per visit. To learn more, visit *franklincountywastedistrict.org*."

Good stuff.

The Wendell Historical Society cordially invites the public to check out their beautiful new website at *www.wendellhistoricalsociety.org*.

Check it out.

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

AT LARGE

# The Blessing of the Goats

**By CHIP AINSWORTH**

**NORTHFIELD –** The *Wall Street Journal* reported recently that within two decades the solar industry will be responsible for "millions of tons of junk panels." In Northfield, Boston-based Blue Wave Solar in cooperation with local and state officials together with landowner Gene and Bonnie L'Etoile have assured the town of its eventual share.

Earlier this month, in what a former planning board member dubbed the "blessing of the solar panels," a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate 1,400 solar panels on 28 acres of precious farmland along Pine Meadow Road. There's a law against putting solar panels on farmland, but Blue Wave circumvented it by using "dual-use" panels which allow goats to graze amongst the stanchions.

The solar farm will be managed by Jesse Robertson-Dubois of Finicky Farm on Route 63, who neighbors got to know after his daughter's dog got loose on December 13, 2024. A four-and-a-half-year-old Great Pyrenees mix, Anna busted through a fence at Finicky Farm and has been harder to catch than Bigfoot.

Anna was purchased for $1,000 to guard the goats but was spooked by a passing train, broke through the fence, and evaded capture. Neighbors wouldn't have cared as long as Anna stayed quiet, but as the breed profile on the Wag! website puts it, Great Pyrenees "can be stubborn [and] are also very vocal and have a tendency to bark."

That's an understatement. Over two dozen complaints were filed after she escaped. Anna went out walking after midnight "and barks nonstop through the night keeping my kids up," according to a report filed on January 8, 2026.

When someone on the selectboard wondered how Anna was able to sustain herself in the wild, a neighbor said to Robertson-Dubois, "She's eating off your compost pile. I found a leg quarter that was rancid and full of maggots."

The solar project was delayed by more than two years by a lawsuit filed by Pine Meadow Road resident Chris Kalinowski, who thinks Anna's not the only dog at Finicky Farm. "He's trying to come off as hippy, earthy-crunchy," Kalinowski said of Robertson-Dubois. "I got threats and texts from him saying if this doesn't go through, he'll put his sheep and goats as close as he can to my yard."

Blue Wave said the array will provide the town with $2.39 million in tax revenue over the next 20 years. Sounds good, until you figure that comes to $119,500 a year – about half of what it'll cost to put those two new bathrooms in town hall.

**Incumbents Sweep Midterms**

A clerical oversight by the Pioneer Valley Regional School District caused a molehill to turn into a volcano during the midterms. Simply put, the district missed an August 25 deadline to submit the names of three school committee candidates who'd gathered enough signatures to be certified and on the ballot.

"The second we found out, we acknowledged it and notified the relevant people," PVRS superintendent Patricia Kinsella said in a telephone interview. We were told, 'It's a law. We needed it by 5 p.m. You're out of luck.'"

Consequently the three candidates, who were all incumbents – Bernardston's Melissa Gerry, Leyden's Sharon Fontaine, and Northfield's Reina Dastous – were required to run as write-ins. To make matters worse, members Stephanie Arroyo and Michele Giarusso were required to run again due to "historical errors."

The snafu enabled Kinsella's detractors, most of whom were still seething that the October 6 ballot measure to merge the district with Gill-Montague was soundly defeated, to pounce on her using NextDoor and other social media.

All was well that ended well. Results were unofficial at this writing, but all incumbents but one won their respective seats. In Leyden, Fontaine and Arroyo garnered 57 and 39 write-ins to Giarusso's 24. "All others" received 46 votes, and there were 1,515 blank votes.

In Northfield, Dastous got 64 write-ins to Anna Bassett's 51, with "all others" getting 40 and 1,526 left blank. And in Bernardston, 85 residents wrote in Gerry and 45 fellow incumbent Gretchen Kelton. All others received 108, with 1,443 blank.

The results of the Franklin County sheriff's race were predictable. Interim sheriff Lori Streeter rolled to an overwhelming victory by garnering 22,181 votes to Northfield police chief Jon Hall's 5,842 votes, with Montague's Gary Gagnon getting 3,621.

Hall and Gagnon didn't understand they were up against a Democrat machine that assures victory to whomever it backs. Hall posted on Facebook: "To everyone who displayed a sign, shared a post, made a phone call, encouraged a friend to vote, volunteered their time or simply offered words of encouragement, we are incredibly grateful."

The popular chief can take solace knowing he prevailed over Streeter in his hometown, 779 to 766 – but alas, as Northfield goes, so doesn't go the rest of the county.

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

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**WATER** from page A1

State senator Jo Comerford was among a vocal group of officials who argued that the application did not meet the requirements set by the 1984 Interbasin Transfer Act because it offered a single environmental analysis of impacts on the donor watershed without specifying where the additional 20 million gallons per day would go.

"Each community application for admission to the MWRA water system," Smargiassi wrote, "will include a specific donor basin analysis and a discussion of the demonstrated water needs of that community, providing the same meaningful consideration that has historically been provided when evaluating interbasin transfers."

At a September 30 hearing in Belchertown, Comerford argued that western Massachusetts communities make sacrifices to protect the Quabbin watershed, and struggle economically due to limited access to water and sewer services, but cannot join the MWRA.

"The MWRA's proposal points to substantial projected economic growth in the communities that would receive this water over the coming decades," Comerford said, "while the communities surrounding the Quabbin, though beautiful, continue to confront a very different future."

At least a dozen communities in eastern Massachusetts are trying to join the MWRA, incentivized by its decision to waive its admission fees, which can total millions of dollars, from 2022 through 2027.

The towns of Sherborn and Wayland have applied to join, citing the need to address PFAS contamination in their water supplies and support future economic development.

A planned redevelopment of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station, meanwhile, is contingent on an approved MWRA interconnection agreement. It would be the largest mixed-use development project in Massachusetts, with 6,500 housing units and two million square feet of commercial space. The developer has received at least $35 million in state money to cover engineering studies and preliminary construction for a 6.7-mile pipeline linking Weymouth to the system. This line would allow for future expansion to other communities in the South Shore, according to Weymouth officials.

"Potential new MWRA communities have undertaken meaningful planning efforts and committed significant resources toward this effort," Smargiassi wrote. "MWRA is committed to working directly with these cities and towns to ensure that the work already completed is not lost, that applicants have the information and assistance they need, and that this withdrawal does not result in unnecessary delays."

In recent years the MWRA has studied the feasibility of expanding service to more than 40 municipalities in the Boston area, and to 12 communities in the Quabbin watershed itself. The Quabbin watershed study determined that providing reservoir water to these communities could cost half a billion dollars, as moving the water uphill would require building a new network of pumps and pipes. It also determined that under drought conditions, the northern section of the Quabbin could become too shallow to withdraw water from.

Despite state experts declaring an end to the multi-year drought in western and central Massachusetts last month, water levels in the Quabbin measured 76% of its capacity on November 1, the lowest level recorded in over 20 years.

An MWRA spokesperson declined to comment on Gulliver's hiring before he formally begins the job in January.

**SPORTS** from page A1

shots – and even benefited from some lucky bounces. Green made a late run, but the Birds won it 25-10.

Greenfield took a large lead in the second set, but Tech battled back, and that's when I left for the Turners game. Tech went on to win it 3–1, advancing to the Sweet Sixteen.

Sarah Beckwith finished with 18 kills, 11 digs, and three aces, and Charley Knight gave 28 assists.

I arrived at the Turners gym before the Salem team showed. Because the game was delayed and it was a half day at Turners, there were very few students in the stands, but many teachers joined the fray fresh from parent-teacher conferences and gleefully cheered on the team.

The visitors only had four adults and three kids in the stands. One player's father told me he beat the traffic because he works from home.

The first set went nose-to-nose, but the Gators scored the last three points. The visitors also took the second set 25-22. In the third, with the score 24-20, the ball hit the ceiling on Turners's side, giving the Gators the set and the match.

Although the Thunder lost all three contests, their smiles never faltered. They played relaxed and genuinely seemed to be having fun. Jakhia Williams finished with 12 digs and seven kills, Abby Moffatt made 16 digs, and Maddie Haight gave 11 assists.

On Monday the Tech Eagles outlasted the Madison Park Cardinals in a five-set kerfuffle and advanced into the Elite Eight.

Because the bus was over an hour late, I was able to watch the entire boys' soccer match before heading to the gym. According to their driver, the bus door would not close so they had to call for another bus. Very few visitors made the trip from Boston, but their players clapped and chanted after every ace, kill, and fault.

All five sets were incredibly intense. In the first set the teams took turns on three-point streaks, keeping the score tight until Tech went ahead 23-17. After a timeout, the Cards went on another streak to narrow it to 23-21. A tip gave the Eagles 24 points, and after an extended volley, a kill shot gave them a one-set lead.

The Eagles fell behind early in the second set, but clawed their way back to 24-23, though the visitors scored the winning point. Both teams dug deep in the third, featuring dueling blocks and kills shots saved by digs. With the score at 25-24, after one of the longest volleys of the night, Tech hit the soft spot in the Cards' defense to eke out the win.

In the fourth, Tech let an 8-2 lead slip through their fingers and lost it 25-14, setting up a fifth and deciding match to 15 points.






*At left: Turners Falls Addison Talbot serves to Salem Academy Charter School during the MIAA Division 5 state tournament preliminary round game in Turners Falls last Thursday. At right: Franklin Tech's Charley Knight (right) sets the ball for outside hitter Emma Petersen during the Round of 32 game against Greenfield High School the same night.*

Tech shot off to a commanding 13-8 lead, but the visitors wouldn't go away, bringing it to a 13-12 nail-biter. The crowd began banging on the bleachers and the reserve players held hands as the game dragged on. Tech scored the next two points to take the well-deserved win. Emma Petersen had five blocks and seven digs, Taylor Underwood had eight digs, Lilyann Baldwin made four kills and six assists, and Laura Fuess six kills and four blocks.

Tech travels to Springfield this Thursday to challenge the top-seeded Pioneer Christian Eagles.

**Football**

*Lynn Voc 38 – FCTS 32*

The Football Eagles' playoff hopes were dashed last Friday by the Lynn Voc Tigers in the Division 8 tournament. I didn't go, but I was told it was rainy and cold and that Lynn had a small, fast running back Tech had difficulty catching.

Wyatt Whitman led the team in rushing yards with 56, while Nolyn Stafford scored the most points with 12, followed by Brady Gancarz (10), Mason Bassett (6), and Hunter Donahue and Justin Lent (2 each).

This Friday, the Eagles take on the visiting South Shore Vikings.

**Girls' Soccer**

*FCTS 5 – Tech Boston Academy 1*
*Hull 7 – FCTS 1*

On Sunday, the Franklin Tech hybrid girls' soccer team ousted the Tech Boston Bears in the Division 5 preliminary round. The game was originally scheduled for Friday, but was rained out. Not very many Bostonians showed, so the Bears' cheering was done strictly by the players, while the sidelines were ringed with regulars shouting encouragement to the Eagles.

Franklin's players were organized and in good spirits. The substitutes were forced to wear neon jerseys so the officials could tell who was about to enter the fray. This led to several jokes about how ripe the jerseys were.

The Eagles attacked in formation, and players frequently kicked the ball between the defenders' legs to advance into Bear territory. The Bears goalkeeper had difficulty catching and made some weak kicks, keeping the Eagles in control. When I mentioned how organized his team was, coach Jason Butynski smiled and said, "Looks can be deceiving."

Tech drew first blood at 29:55, when Melyn Ramirez-Martin scored her first varsity goal, and at 10:35 Indira Wiles fed the ball to Faythe Sobieski who made it 2-nil. At 4:49 of the first half, Lillianna Miller found Summer Williams, who kicked it into the net to make it 3-0.

During the halftime break, the officials said that if Tech went up by five goals, the clock would run uninterrupted.

Tech made it 4-0 at 37:43 of the second half when Kim Ramirez-Martin scored her first varsity goal off a Sobieski assist. The fans began to comment that the Eagles were getting a little complacent, and sure enough, the visitors scored at 26:15 to prevent a shutout.

Seven minutes later, Melyn Ramirez-Martin scored another goal, assisted by Carly Walsh. That's when Butynski emptied his bench. In goal, Sheyenne Ballentine made a single save to ice the 5-1 win.

The Eagles were eliminated on Tuesday in the Round of 32 by the 3rd seed Hull Blue Pirates. I didn't make the trek, but I showed a player the images of the Hull pitch. "I'll bring a hoodie," she responded when she saw the ocean surrounding the field. One mother said she planned on going because she had the next day off for Veterans Day.

The players were all smiles as they boarded the coach, though they made no illusions about their chances. Sobieski scored Tech's goal, assisted by Kaelyn Mclean, while Ballentine made an incredible 26 saves in goal.

**Boys' Soccer**

*FCTS 4 – Old Colony 1*
*Keefe Tech 6 – FCTS 2*

The boys' Soccer Eagles outkicked the Old Colony Cougars on Monday in the Round of 32. The Birds were extremely aggressive and seemed much quicker, keeping the ball in the Cougar end and waging constant barrages against the visitors' net. When I mentioned the shots on goal to coach Dan Prasol, he said, "If you keep throwing mud at a barn, you hope some of it sticks."

Tech made their first goal at 20:14 and their second at 23:25, both scored by Cody Yetter.

As I walked the track at halftime, a cameraman from Old Colony tried to explain where in Plymouth County the town of Rochester is located. He laughed and said, "We're the armpit of Cape Cod."

Early in the second half, Old Colony made it a 2-1 game. His players began to hang their heads, but Prasol called out, "It was just a turn and kick!"

The visitors maintained their momentum, sending a couple shots over the Eagle net, but at 10:46 Yetter earned a hat trick to make it 3-1. He then kicked the ball to Santiago Buri Rosales, getting an assist as Rosales put the game out of reach, 4-1. Carter Leete and Nathan Gheorghita also scored assists in the win.

The victory propelled the Eagles into the Round of 16 against the Keefe Tech Broncos of Framingham. On Veterans Day, the Broncos kicked Tech out of the playoffs by a score of 6 to 2, though full details were not available as of press time.



*Franklin Tech's Cody Yetter fires into the goal of the visiting Old Colony Cougars in the Division 5 Round of 32 game on Monday. Yetter scored three goals for the Eagles.*

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# Veterans' Day Scene Report...

**By JEFF SINGLETON**

**TURNERS FALLS –** Approximately 35 people showed up at Soldiers Memorial Park on Avenue A to celebrate Veterans Day, as has been the tradition in recent years. Attendees included members of the Soldiers Memorial committee, members of the Montague Elks, who always play a role in the ceremonies, and town officials.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz thanked the members of the memorial committee and the Elks. He said the fact that this ceremony was taking place on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution added to its significance.

"Seeing our friends and relatives here, and on these memorials, tells us that service is not just a thing we read about in history books," he said.

Elks Exalted Ruler Allison Cooke rang an amplified bell 11 times and made a brief, poetic statement about the significance of the number to members of the order.

The holiday was originally declared in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson to commemorate the cessation of hostilities between Germany and its opponents on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. It was made a national holiday by a 1938 act of Congress, but was known as Armistice Day until after the Korean War, when it was renamed at the urging of national veterans' organizations.

In 1971 Congress made it a Monday holiday, causing confusion and strong opposition in some states, and in 1978 it was restored to its original November 11 date.

*The reporter is a member of the Soldiers Memorial Trustees.*



SINGLETON PHOTO






## LEVERETT from page A1

it can levy in property tax without overriding Proposition 2½ limits – was narrowing from $600,000 last year to only $278,948. This increase in the levy was "not sustainable," he said, and the selectboard and finance committee needed to take a "hard look" at the budget. "Every town around us is in financial stress," he added.

The board voted to maintain a single tax rate.

**Department Guidance**

Following the tax hearing, the fin com discussed its recommendations for FY'28 budget "guidance" to departments. Fin com chair Phil Carter said the town's operating budget had risen by 4.4% and property taxes by over 6%, and reiterated Staros's concern with levy limit. The "bottom line is that the town needs to do a better job restraining spending," said Carter, initially suggesting a 1.5% or 2% maximum increase in department budgets.

Fin com member Geoff Allen pointed out that salaries account for roughly 60% of Leverett's budget, and many are contractually negotiated. He said the town needed to recognize that last year's 3.5% cost-of-living-adjustment for employees was likely to be repeated, and guidance to departments of a 1.5% cap could balance this out. He added that the cost of employee benefits, such as health insurance, will also continue to rise.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy commented that it would be helpful to "figure out a way to deliver the message" to departments as to "how severe the situation is," and suggested that they focus on public safety spending.

Fin com member Steve Weiss echoed her comments, suggesting that the board include an explanation of what the town is facing with its guidance so as to encourage a "collective," rather than "adversarial," response, and encourage departments to concentrate on "vital services."

After lengthy discussion of a variety of additional challenges, Proujansky suggested a maximum 1% growth in department budgets. The fin com voted 4 to 1, with Weiss abstaining, to recommend this figure, and another year of no personnel growth, either through raises or new hires.

The selectboard voted unanimously to follow these recommendations.

Fin com member Liz Kiebel volunteered to outline the considerations going into the decision, and the "stress" on the overall town budget, for the town newsletter.

**Four-Town Meeting**

Weiss continued the dour discussion with comments on a report recently released by the Four Towns Fiscal Study Group. The unofficial group includes members of the governing bodies and finance committees of the four towns that make up the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, which includes Leverett and Shutesbury. It was formed to analyze financial data and explore strategies to address pressures the towns are facing.

Weiss said the group believes each of the four towns is "facing a growing financial crisis." Adjusting for inflation, residential taxes have grown 150% in the past 34 years and are steadily increasing; state aid has not grown with inflation; and the three smaller towns have had difficulty attracting a commercial tax base, resulting in higher residential taxes.

Unless changes are made, Weiss said, there are two likely outcomes: a need for a Proposition 2½ override, which may lead to layoffs or reductions in service if it does not pass, or higher tax rates, which could drive people from the town and negatively change its character.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson said he wasn't sure the situation was as dire as the report presented, but he agreed it needed to be addressed.

Weiss said the study group has its own ideas of what can be done, but that the report's "overriding purpose" was to begin a conversation within, and among, the towns. He noted that the Pelham finance committee had made it available to all residents on their town's website, and its selectboard decided to formally present it to all departments and committee chairs at their annual budget kickoff meeting.

Proujansky commented that the issues were statewide, and that state aid is needed.

The selectboard agreed to put the report on the town website and discuss it more at a future meeting.

The board appointed Proujansky, Hankinson, and regional school committee member Tim Shores to the group reviewing the regional school agreement.

**Other Business**

The selectboard set May 1 as the date for the annual town meeting.

The board discussed the benefits and costs of using electronic "clickers" instead of paper ballots to record town meeting votes anonymously. Hankinson said it may be possible to rent them from Shutesbury to avoid the $7,300 startup cost and $495 yearly fee.

The board reported it had received three proposals for the future use of the Field building. It will host a discussion of the building either before or during its meeting next Tuesday, and post the proposals to the town website.

Kiebel reported that the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission is reviewing the state's K-through-12 budget formulas and will make recommendations for improvement. It will hold at least four public hearings, she said, and she planned to take part.

Proujansky informed the fin com that the idea of creating a "cultural district" was still in its early stages and unlikely to affect the upcoming budget cycle. He said he did not have cost estimates yet, but believed they would be small and offset by state aid.

Weiss said he would have to see "some real figures" before supporting the initiative, and was concerned about the possibility that money "coming in" from the creation of the district would go into private coffers at the same time money was "going out" from town funds to support it.

Proujansky said he had spoken with Greg Woodard about the town hall driveway right-of-way, and that neither party wants a legal battle. Woodard's current layout for the space was temporary, he said, and overall it may be best for the town to "leave well enough alone."

The board declared 23 chairs and six tables surplus. Carol Heim suggested making a public announcement of when they will be sent to the transfer station.

Eva Gibavic was appointed as the town's "perambulator." She and Hankinson will physically check the town's boundary markers, as required by state law, and prevent a $20 fine to the town for failing to do so.


REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Former Strathmore Mill Demolition
**and Restoration (Prequalification)**

The Town of Montague will receive Responses from qualified individuals, partnerships, or firms for Selective demolition of up to 7 multistory mill buildings between an active canal and a river, constructing new 20′ high concrete retaining walls, multi-story CMU walls, and exterior steel stair tower, processing brick & concrete as backfill, and other site improvements at the former Strathmore Mill site, 20 Canal Road, Turners Falls, MA.

**RFQ documents are available at *www.biddocs.com*.**

A Briefing Session and Site Tour will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Attendance is optional for those interested in responding to the RFQ.

**Responses to this RFQ are to be submitted as instructed in the RFQ no later than Wednesday, December 2, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.**

The Awarding Authority is prequalifying General Contractors for this Project. Therefore, responses to this RFQ will be considered ONLY for the prequalification of General Contractors that, if deemed prequalified, will be invited to submit a bid pursuant to M.G.L. c. 149, § 44E.








LEGAL NOTICE – PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

FY2025 CDBG Program Updates

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. during the Montague Selectboard Meeting. The meeting will be held via ZOOM (please check the Town's website (*www.montague-ma.gov/g/46/Selectboard*) for a link to log in). The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the status of the Town's FY 2025 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. Grant programs being administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) on behalf of the Town of Montague include Avenue A Streetscape Improvement 5.1 Construction Project and 5 Social Service Agency Programs. The Town will also discuss the re-allocation of uncommitted Avenue Streetscape Improvement 5.1 Program funds, or Program Income Funds received, toward a CDBG-eligible project.

The Town of Montague encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. A representative from the HRA will be on hand to discuss program activity and answer questions.

The Town will make reasonable accommodation for any member of the community with accessibility or language needs with seven days prior written notice to the Selectboard's office. Accommodations will be made for handicapped and non-English speaking residents. Additionally, interpreters will be available as necessary (with advanced notice) to accommodate hearing impaired and non-English speaking residents.

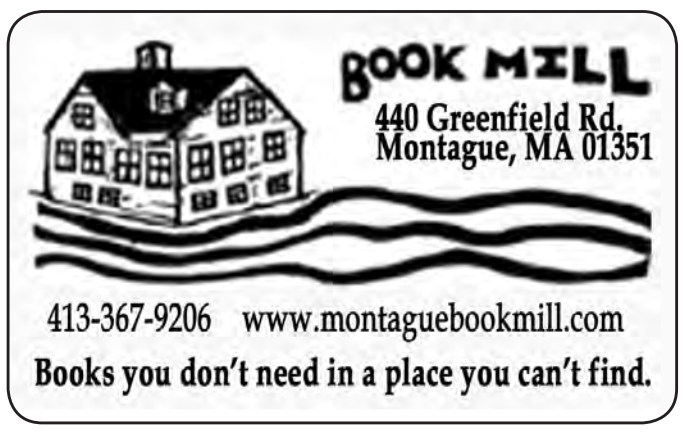
If residents are unable to be present at the Public Hearing written comments can be made to Christopher Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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**COMPLETE** from page A1

all the rage, and Robinson's 1891 "Cyclist's Map of Massachusetts" indicated which roads in Montague were best, including "Turners Falls Rd," though it was still dirt at the time. Local town directories also included lists of "good bicycle roads," and in 1899 the *Greenfield Gazette & Courier* described the popularity of long bicycle coasts in the county, noting their "recklessness" and "dangerousness."

That same year, a large banner on S.C. Lincoln's store in Montague Center – at the intersection of Main and Union streets – advertised "Bicycles and Sundries," according to a surviving photograph. In the foreground of that photograph, however, is the vehicle which would revolutionize travel north out of the village: the first "electric car" to arrive on the Montague Electric Street Railway.


MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES COLLECTION


COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*At left: The streetcar crosses the iron bridge over the Sawmill River as it leaves the village northbound, circa 1908.*
*At right: Traffic on Main Street in 1929, as captured in a still of a 16 mm film restored in 2017 by Chris Clawson.*

**Clang, Clang, Clang**

Four years after streetcar routes had connected Montague's other villages with Greenfield, a branch was extended from Lake Pleasant to Montague Center.

The tracks crossed the Plains, then emerged and hugged the east edge of Turners Falls Road into the village. That road crossed the Fitchburg Railroad on a narrow, recently-constructed bridge, but a second narrow bridge was built for the streetcar.

Anticipating the "Complete Streets are for everyone" mantra, the tracks continued alongside the highway – then called Depot Road, for that section – until they reached the Sawmill River, where the two shared the highway bridge built by the Berlin Iron Company in 1896.

The street railway continued along the verge of the road, which was called Bridge Street until it reached Court Square, where it turned left and became Central Street. As they reached the village center, the rails ran along the grass of the common, then crossed to the center of Main Street for one final block south to the Montague Inn.

The two-mile route opened in July 1899.

In 1900, a street railway seeking to build from Greenfield to South Deerfield met with fierce resistance at a public hearing at Old Deerfield, where prominent resident Jennie Sheldon proclaimed: "It does not need a vivid imagination to depict the changes in the street, should a trolley line be located therein; its quiet and beauty gone forever, the turf ruined, grassy banks cut away to widen the road, the trees injured by cutting their roots and lopping their branches, unsightly poles and wires, and all day long, and far into the night, the buzzing, bumping cars, with their tediously tinkling bells."

To this, the superintendent of the electric road replied using the example of Montague. "An electric road bed takes very little of a street," he said. "In the village of Montague, Mass., the track crosses the Commons. After the track was laid, the turf was replaced and the beauty of the village green is in no way diminished."

In a refrain echoed in responses to public hearing testimony throughout the centuries, he added: "I can but feel that you are inclined to overestimate the ultimate results."

Operating 12 round trips per day between Montague Center and Turners Falls, the street railway immediately increased commercial and pleasure travel to and from the village. By the end of World War I, however, street railways across the nation had fallen on hard times. The Millers Falls and Montague Center lines were kept alive, with reduced service, through a contract to carry pupils to Turners Falls High School.

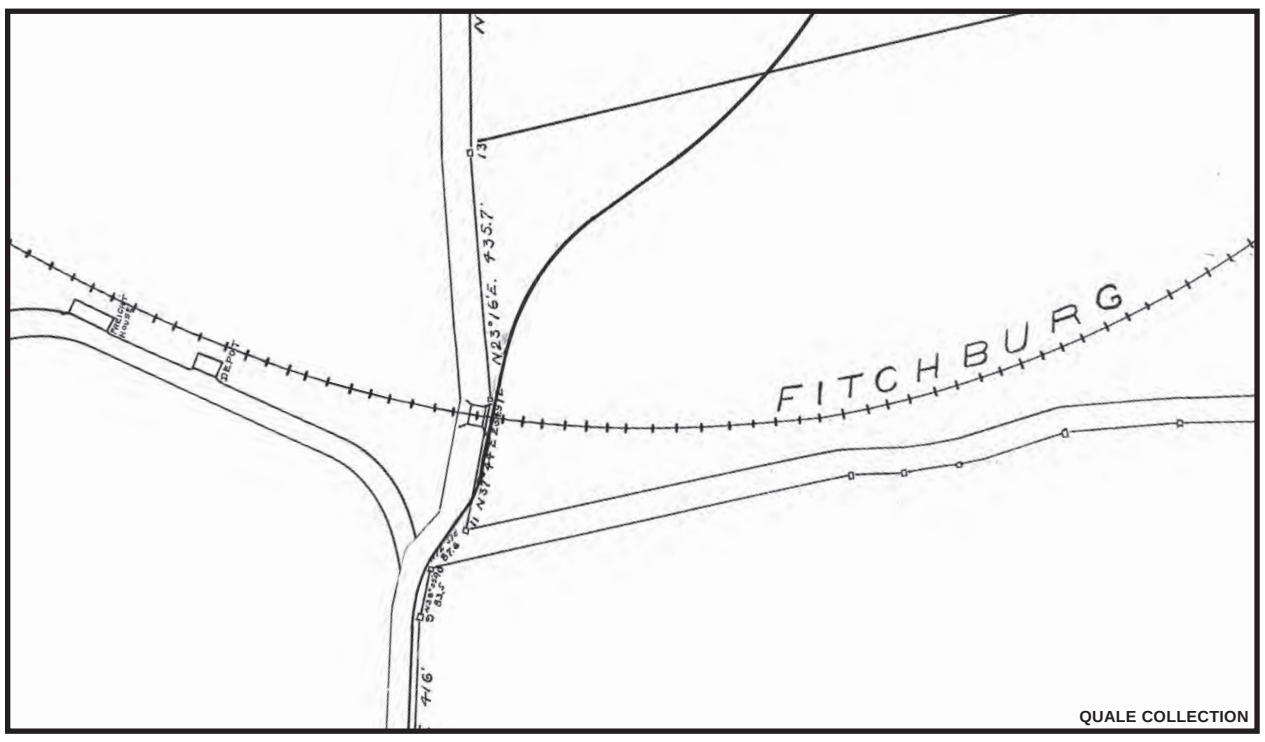
Meanwhile, demand for more and better travel between Montague Center and Turners Falls led town meeting to improve Turners Falls Road from dirt to gravel starting in 1919. The project, fervently supported by those with an interest in caring for the town's many cemeteries on the Hill, took five years to complete. The road was entirely regraded and covered with eight inches of packed stone, across a width of 18 feet. The Montague highway department provided engineering and direction, and the labor kept many of the town's men well-employed during a "very quiet industrial period." The cost was split between the town and state.

As these improvements neared completion, the school committee purchased an autobus. The street railway immediately closed its otherwise unprofitable lines to Millers and Montague Center, and by 1923 a local junk dealer, Michael Blassberg, had removed the rails. All that remains today is the north abutment of the 1899 street railway bridge across the Fitchburg Railroad, just north of the Center.

Automobile traffic increased, and by 1929 the gravel road was already insufficient. Town meeting then authorized a new two-year project to rebuild it, this time with tarmacadam.

And, predictably, traffic increased again – and residents, angered that the newly paved road was being used as a "speedway" by motorists, appropriated money at town meeting to purchase a police motorcycle.

"The speakers were unanimous in the opinion that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and that a motor cycle patrolman would act as a damper on speeding," reported the *Daily Recorder*. Later that year, Officer James McHugh and his motorcycle led a 25-car parade of businessmen and politicians from Turners Falls to the Montague Inn to celebrate the paving's completion.



QUALE COLLECTION

*Detail, "Plan of Location of the Montague Electric Street Railway," from an 1899 survey by Clapp & Abercrombie. Turners Falls Road approaches the train tracks from the north (top), and curves east and then west as it passes over the bridge. The new streetcar tracks, meanwhile, come in from the northwest and cross the tracks on a second bridge just beside the first.*

**Dead Man's Curve**

The Turners Falls Road still crossed the railroad and the Sawmill River on the bridges built in the 1890s, and they were proving inadequate and unsafe. Coming from Turners Falls, the road jogged sharply 20 feet to the left and then right as it rose over the railroad tracks, then took another sharp S-curve on their south side.

Physics and alcohol each worked against motorists, and a number of cars plunged from the bridge onto the railroad tracks or drove straight into trees as the road turned, with gruesome fatalities in 1948 and 1956. The town's response was to affix a large yellow warning sign reading "Danger" to a tree on the bridge's south side.

In 1966, with Chapter 90 funds for the project, a new bridge was built – this time on a straight line with the roadway, with sidewalks and wider traffic lanes. Despite the clear need for improved safety in this location, residents expressed concern that a new bridge would "intensify" speeding into Montague Center as it would enable the road to be "used as a raceway." Some even lauded the old bridge for the way its S-curve approaches required cars to slow down!

The Sawmill River bridge – hailed in 1896 in the *Turners Falls Reporter* as a modern marvel, with iron lattice sides and a floor "of solid concrete, not an atom of wood to enter into the construction at any part" – had also rapidly become an expensive eyesore.

Local printer Carl Purington Rollins wrote in 1913 that the bridge "merits special attention because it is so typical of the misguided building activity of its time." It required major repairs in 1930 and 1952, both of which covered its floor with steel plates and then with wooden planks.

In 1953, the *Recorder-Gazette* reported that the new plank deck was "noisier than it was prior to its repair." When one selectman suggested that there was no point spending more money on the bridge with no guarantee of improvement, another quipped, "Good, some day it will fall into the river and then we can get a real bridge down there." A year later, more major repairs were carried out.

**Big Yellow Taxi**

A quarter mile down the road in the village center, the 1950s brought the first campaigns for traffic calming in their now-familiar form: petitions that the selectboard add crosswalks, and public demonstrations on the town common.

A three-car accident in 1954, after a southbound speeder attempted an ill-advised passing maneuver between the Grange Hall and the common, may have galvanized this first neighborhood campaign. In 1956 three Grange members petitioned the town for the first crosswalks in Montague Center: across Main Street at Station Street and at Court Square; and from the common to the Congregational Church and to the library. They also asked that a white stripe be painted through the village down the center of Main Street, and requested a "Children at Play" sign on North Street.

Their demands were met, but traffic continued to whiz by the common despite the improvements.

When the signs and stripes didn't lead motorists to slow down, three of the village's Explorer Scouts wondered if public art might do the trick. Bob Annear, David Loveland, and Harry Norwood obtained a demolished car from Stone's Garage and placed it, upside-down, on the common across from the Grange Hall. A large sign on the installation read "Taxi To Eternity."

In September 1976, the state law requiring all motorists to stop for a school bus with flashing lights went into effect. Following numerous "near misses" between speeding cars and disembarking children, concerned parents described to the selectboard vehicles traveling so fast their plates were unreadable. Police stepped up patrols in Montague Center the following May, often driving through the village directly behind the bus.

**Troubled Bridge Over Water**

By 1978 the structural members on the Sawmill River bridge were actively deteriorating, leading to its closure for seven months in 1980. While state policy was to only fund replacements, not temporary repairs, of town-owned bridges, state highway commissioner Dean Amidon made an exception because Montague was a "special case." The bridge was repaired to the point it could open again for cars, but not trucks, later that year.

In January 1989, the bridge failed a state inspection and was abruptly closed. Just two weeks earlier a bookstore had opened in the old Montague Mill, and the closure instantly rendered it "a place you can't find."

Construction of a new bridge finally began in August 1990, and as its opening approached late in 1991, the question of how to handle traffic safety again became the talk of the village. After all, a

see **COMPLETE** next page

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE




*The traffic on Main Street, Sunday afternoon.*

**COMPLETE** from prev. page

generation of children had played, biked, and skateboarded on truckless and nearly car-less village roads, and would need to be reeducated rapidly.

Selectmen received three competing petitions: one asking that the triangular town common effectively be made into a roundabout, with three one-way streets; another requesting a stop sign at the Sawmill River bridge; and the third, with the most signatures by far, requesting no changes to the traffic pattern.

Town leaders settled instead on a fourth option, authorizing three stop signs in the village center. After receiving numerous complaints, they ordered the signs removed later that month – but vandals had already performed the task.

The bridge reopened on November 26 after a closure of nearly three years. "Village Quieter Without Traffic," mused a *Greenfield Recorder* headline marking the occasion.

Less than two years later, a head-on collision at Court Square led Richard Colton to resubmit his roundabout petition, telling the selectmen that vehicle speeds of 50 miles per hour were not uncommon, and that "this traffic problem has been a nemesis for some time."

**Safety Dance**

By 2000, the town's response to continued speeding through Montague Center was to improve crosswalk visibility with orange traffic cones. Traffic's response to the cones was to flatten them. When Sam Lovejoy brought "fluorescent orange pieces" to a selectboard meeting to raise the issue, bemused selectboard member Pat Allen wondered if she was being presented with a "Sawmill River lobster."

The next year, a group calling itself Montague Center Families Concerned About High-Speed Traffic (MCFCAHST) held standouts on the common with homemade signs reading "Enjoy Our Town" and "Please Drive Slowly," and engaged in a dialogue with town officials. The group said it believed an uptick in traffic might be attributable to trucks using Route 47 to bypass a new weigh station on I-91.

This time, town officials suggested something new: closing Main Street entirely along the west side of the common and routing *all* traffic through the intersection by the Congregational Church, where there would be an all-way stop.

Residents were now able to organize more effectively thanks to the new "Corkboard" forum at *MontagueMA.net*, and a month of enthusiastic online discussion culminated in a meeting of 70 residents with town officials at the Grange Hall in March 2001. "The biggest concern was speeding in general, along with crosswalk safety and problem intersections," reported the *Recorder*.

Some suggested adding signs, increasing police presence, and constricting traffic flow by narrowing the road or adding center islands. Others worried that slowing traffic on Main Street would lead to speeding on the side streets, or that physical changes would mar the village's aesthetics. One expressed frustration that recent efforts to protect pedestrians kept walking away.

"I don't understand why, in the age of the Internet, Star Wars, and stealth bombers, we can't get cones to stay put," vented village resident Jeff Singleton.

Later that year, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) engineer James Toth reflected on hearings about traffic in Montague and across the county: "You can practically write the minutes to those hearings before you even go."

Toth described traffic calming as "a whole up-and-coming field of traffic engineering" that grew out of a backlash against car culture in the 1980s and '90s in favor of quality of life.

A few decades into the movement, in 2003, organizer Barbara McCann popularized the term "complete streets" as a catchy replacement for the clunky term then in use for inclusive street design, "routine accommodation." A National Complete Streets Coalition, bringing together planning and advocacy groups, formed in 2005.

Cities across the country developed their own complete streets policies over the next decade, including Boston in 2013. FRCOG opened the first loop of the Franklin County Bikeway in 2008, using a combination of existing roads and the newly-developed Canalside Rail Trail. By 2013, the bikeway had expanded to include signed routes on many roads through Montague, including the stretch of Turners Falls Road from the railroad to Court Square.

In 2016 MassDOT launched a statewide program devoted to funding complete streets projects, defined as those that provide "safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities."

Following state guidelines, Montague adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2017 and a Prioritization Plan in 2018, identifying 41 potential projects across the town. In 2019, the town won its first grant through the program to make improvements to four sites, including Court Square.

The Court Square work was carried out in 2020, along with a separate highway department project to improve Main Street crosswalks around Station Street – two of the village's first crosswalks from 1956. A different grant provided improved signage last year for Court Square, and this year's project carries multimodal accommodations and streetscape improvements down Main Street, including new bike lanes and a repositioned bus shelter.

The new raised crosswalks, heavily favored by villagers, are visibly effective at slowing down cars.

Will the latest improvements solve everything? Likely not. As modes of transportation and residents' needs change, so, too, must infrastructure and legislation, if those traveling through a place and those living in it are both to be satisfied.

Sometimes, though, the more things change… In 2020, the federal "Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles" safety standard went into effect, to help pedestrians "detect the presence of these so-called quiet vehicles," echoing our Commonwealth's sleigh-bell requirement.

And the introduction of self-driving cars – coming soon to a village near you? – won't be the first time Montague has dealt with vehicles possessing minds of their own. Remembering how we kept the roads safe from speeding bobtailed nags may help us prepare for the years ahead.




**MONTAGUE** from page A1

aerial lift training, and heard Ramsey report on a recent meeting of the group evaluating options for changing the town's special fire, water, and light districts.

Ameen began her analysis of the trash stickers by speculating on the origins of the current policy, which in theory requires a $3 sticker for a single bag to be picked up, or a $156 annual sticker attached to a barrel for it to be dumped. "Towns often struggle," she said, "with trying to keep their pay-as-you-throw bag stickers – [and] in Montague's case, a barrel sticker – at a rate where people don't hoard trash, as they did in Montague many years ago, versus covering the costs."

In the original programs in Franklin County, which began in the 1980s and '90s, the intent was that "the price of the bag should cover the amount of trash inside it," Ameen said. She told the board that according to her calculation, Montague's $3 sticker covers the cost of disposing of trash, but only a "portion" of its collection.

A bigger problem, Ameen argued, was the barrel sticker, which no other towns in the region seem to have. When the barrel policy was created, perhaps under former town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, most trash barrels were relatively small 32-gallon receptacles and would hold one bag of trash. It therefore made sense to charge residents $156, or $3 times 52 weeks, for the sticker. But the size of barrels many residents own is now much larger, allowing them to stuff in three or four bags.

Furthermore, Montague has been allowing residents to place a $3 sticker on a barrel containing multiple bags. Ameen said she believes this has encouraged friends in other towns to bring their trash to Montague.

The last time the town increased sticker prices, 19 years ago, residents began breaking into dumpsters and hoarding trash in their basements, Ameen said, because they could not afford the $3. The proposed $5 price, she said, would also produce hardship for some residents, such as those with more than one child or an elderly household member using diapers.

Ameen recommended that Montague increase the price of barrel stickers for various sizes of containers, though she did not endorse a specific method for doing this; urged the town to do away with its policy of allowing a single sticker on large containers, and not to increase the price of a sticker. She said she believed that the town would see an increase in revenue and a decrease in trash hauled.

Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Nate Card both seemed supportive of Ameen's approach.

Ramsey said he wanted to consult with the town's hauler, Casella Waste Systems, to see if its drivers could adapt to monitoring different sizes of barrels, and bring a new proposal to the next meeting. "We also want to think of a public information rollout strategy," he said.

The new contract with Casella, currently in the final stages of negotiation, could also come to the board at that meeting.

**Special Districts**

Ramsey gave the selectboard an update on last week's meeting with the group which is considering ways to reorganize the various special districts in town, including two fire districts, a separate water district, and a lighting district. He said the turnout, which included representatives of all the districts and a number of town officials as well as former selectboard member Sam Lovejoy, was "great."

The issue that "rose to the top" of concerns, Ramsey said, was the need for a more robust ambulance service throughout the town, but the most pertinent result was that the group agreed on the various scenarios it should study. These included keeping the existing districts but improving collaboration, consolidating them into a single special district, and absorbing them into the town government.

Montague Center resident Ariel Elan asked if the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) was funding the study. Ramsey said FRCOG has been studying emergency ambulance services, "an important part of the puzzle," but that the broader study of potential district consolidation is being done "in-house."

**Other Business**

Ramsey announced that the annual hearing and vote on the town's "split tax rate," which allows a separate and generally lower rate for residential property as opposed to commercial, industrial, and personal property, is scheduled for November 23. The meeting is scheduled to be held via Zoom, but Ramsey said he would reschedule it as an in-person discussion, as it is supposed to be a public hearing. He added that the board of assessors would be in attendance.

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller made a number of requests, including that the board approve a contract with the state to receive a $4,000 Workplace Safety and Education Grant for "aerial lift training" for employees at the public works department, Clean Water Facility, and municipal airport.

Card asked if the $4,000 would cover training all employees in those departments. Nolan-Zeller replied that it would only train a predetermined number. He thanked executive assistant Fern Smith, who he said had put together a competitive proposal by reaching out to the various departments involved.

The board also authorized an $11,000 amendment to the contract with Bowman Consulting for added meetings, and document requests, needed to respond to a legal challenge to the firm's design change in the Complete Streets traffic-calming project in Montague Center. A large amount of contingency was budgeted for the added work, as the total cost of the project has been well under the original town meeting appropriation and the state grant funding the project.

Finally, an easement from the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, necessary to complete improvements at the intersection of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard, was accepted by the board. Nolan-Zeller noted that the housing authority had "graciously" granted the town the right to pave over a portion of its property without charging a fee.

The next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, November 16.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Rodents, Rogue Log Pile, Noise

**By JOSH HEINEMANN**

Mice showed up once again at a Wendell selectboard meeting on November 4, not in person but as an agenda item. Alison Wight, a resident who has initiated the process of eliminating poisons from the town's rodent control program, stayed through the whole meeting to continue the discussion of the mouse problem.

Town coordinator Kelly Tyler said a worker from Minuteman Pest Control had looked at the town hall and said the foundation needs work. Minuteman can block possible mouse entry holes at the town hall and the office building for $1,350. The mouse control account still has enough money, Tyler said, partly because monthly service of poisoned bait traps ended in early summer. She added that her sister had all the possible mouse entries at her house blocked, and the mice were kept out for two years before they managed to chew their way back inside.

Wight said she and town custodian Amanda Detlof had gone through the town hall and found two droppings behind the piano and two in the kitchen, but could not tell if they were fresh or old. Out of the several traps placed earlier, one had caught a mouse. They could not check the Good Neighbors pantries as they were locked.

Wight had bought, and brought to the meeting, 20 new and sophisticated traps for town use. She demonstrated how they can be baited, set, and emptied without any danger to one's fingers or the need to handle a dead mouse.

Selectboard member Paul Doud showed a cardboard tunnel he had made that guides a mouse into the trap and then contains it, tail out.

Wight said she hoped for a second opinion about possible mouse entryways at the town hall, and that she would be willing to pay for it when she has Connelly Wildlife Services of Greenfield look at her house this week. "I'm trying not to be a pain in the…" She suggested that facilities manager Stephen Broll could watch the inspection.

Tyler told her town engineer Jim Slavas has keys to the pantry rooms.

**Wood Trailer**

Wood bank coordinator Sarah Butler asked for authority to apply for a grant to buy a trailer for delivering wood to private homes. The town would own the trailer, but it would be pulled by a privately owned vehicle. Its insurance might be the town's responsibility, but Doud said the towing vehicle's insurance would often cover the trailer. He said Butler should go ahead and apply for the grant.

Several options were mentioned, all of which would cost $10,000 or more, for dealing with the log pile on town land off Montague Road. Doud said the pile is 100 feet long and varies from 8 to 15 feet tall, and would be at least 10 truckloads.

Butler said she thought the wood bank site behind the WRATS may have room, but the cost of moving that many logs is still prohibitive.

DiDonato suggested a site visit to both the pile and the back of the wood bank lot with conservation commission members to see what, if any, method of pushing the logs over would be acceptable to the con com.

**Noise Concern**

Early in the meeting Wight, a close neighbor of the town hall, used the public comment time to say the present generator is already noisy enough. Once a week, it has a 15-minute maintenance run that is uncomfortable to be near. When it is on for a longer time, as during an interruption in grid electric service, it can be a real annoyance.

Wight said she had heard of a plan to replace that generator with a larger one that could power all of the Good Neighbors freezers, and she expected the larger one would be louder. She suggested placing it behind the building's bathroom bump-out, where its noise would be funneled towards a field where no person lives.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said the board would "keep that in mind," but for now the town has no money for a new generator. The present one is old, and Slavas has been keeping it running with used and scavenged parts. DiDonato said Good Neighbors is leading an effort to get a grant for buying a new commercial-grade generator powerful enough to keep their freezers working through a prolonged interruption.

**Other Business**

DiDonato reported that highway commission chair Phil Delorey is still working on a scope of work for new above-ground heating oil tanks to be installed at the highway garage and fire station.

The building has its own septic tank and field, and Doud said he was checking with fire chief Matt O'Donnell to find where they were. The building has a washroom, a shower, and a special front-loading clothing washer for contaminated turnout gear.

Doud said the total material estimate for the tool lending shed is under $4,000, and that he already spent $400 at Hamshaw Lumber. Peter Diemand has a large wood order that will take him into December, so the rough-cut wood will come from C & M Rough Cut in New Salem.

The shed is grant-funded, but being on town land next to the library parking lot, it will be town-owned. Treasurer Carolyn Manley brought up the question of insurance for the building and its contents, and the question of who will maintain it.









**ERVING** from page A1

A budget transfer was approved at the end of the fiscal year to cover the costs.

Bryan Smith attributed the spike in legal fees to "many unforeseen issues," and said legal costs are not expected to be an issue this year as the line item had been changed significantly.

According to Wonkka, the call volume for emergency services declined in FY'26, resulting in a budget surplus. As an aside, he announced that he expects Erving's new 2,000-gallon pumper-tanker truck to be delivered before the end of the year.

Holst said police wages in FY'26 were under budget due to vacant positions, resulting in a surplus. He pointed out that animal control services for FY'27 are being provided by the Franklin County sheriff's office, and may be more costly than those formerly provided by Athol. Although travel costs for two officers attending the police academy have been greater than budgeted, a state grant is offsetting that cost.

Johnson-Mussad told the selectboard and committees that the FY'26 ended with a surplus for the planning department, and that an apparently overbudget wage line was due to an accounting error that would be investigated. He characterized his FY'27 spending as "on target."

McCrory said the tree warden account ran a surplus in FY'26, despite heavy losses of ash trees from the emerald ash borer. Although highway construction and maintenance costs stayed within budget, snow and ice removal in 2025's numerous ice storms created a deficit. McCrory said he expected the cost of vehicle maintenance to decline in FY'27 because more maintenance is being done in-house.

The public building maintenance account, he said, was over budget in FY'26 due to unexpected maintenance needs for the bay lights at Fire Station #2, the heater at the police station's main entrance, and external plumbing fixtures at the library, as well as rebuilding backflow valves and HVAC and fire alarm issues.

Town clerk Richard Newton reported overspending on subscriptions for computer programs, but an overall surplus for the year.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith asked Newton about the $96,000 in the town's "records preservation account," which saw very little expenditure in FY'26. Newton replied that departmental records come up for preservation on varied schedules, and it would be useful to have the money on hand when it is needed.

The selectboard and fin com agreed to "park" that question for investigation at a later meeting.

Caitlin Anderson May, director of finance and operations at the Union 28 school superintendency district, reported that expenses for both Erving Elementary School and secondary education showed surpluses in FY'26.

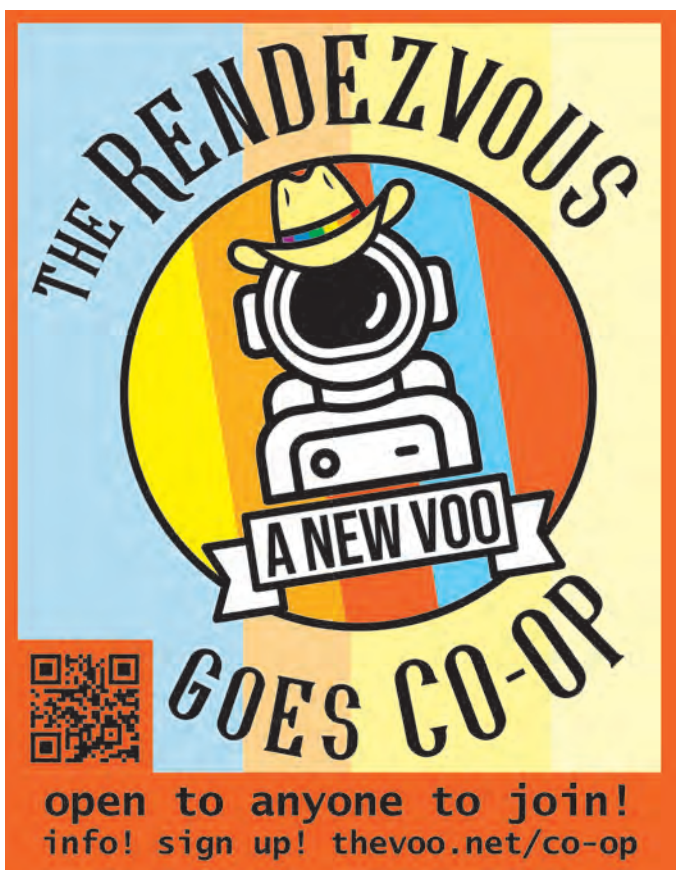
"This had been the tightest budget in years," she wrote in a handout, "with overages in the plant/operations budget, especially in the fuel, electricity, and equipment maintenance accounts. Some changes and gaps with personnel did mitigate the budgetary challenges around the building." Higher-than-expected special education costs were mitigated by state circuit breaker funding.

According to library director Abigail Baines, library wages in FY'26 exceeded the budget by approximately $5,000. She said she and library trustees are working to keep them within budget for FY'27.

**Appointment**

At their October 26 meeting, the selectboard appointed Michele Turner, already working as Erving's tax collector, as part-time treasurer. Turner will start in the new position by the end of November.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!













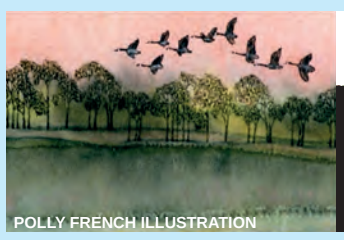





WILLIAM HAYS PHOTO

features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER NOVEMBER 12, 2026

*Above: Trees, leaves, and the Connecticut River by Unity Park.*



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## West Along the River

# When the Work's All Done This Fall

**By DAVID BRULE**

**THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE –** When the middle of November comes around, some of us put the finishing touches on the season, and make sure we have done what we needed to do.

Not that many of us in these electronics-driven times still live aligned to the seasons so that our day-to-day activities are in balance with the outdoor calendar.

Of course, in rural communities like ours, daily life is lived closer to that outdoors world than, say, the lives of city dwellers.

Here on the Flat, on the edge of a wild stretch of woodlands and riverbank, life does flow with the seasons, like the river. And November is the time to take stock, to make sure we're ready for the next ninety days of weather.

So let's see:

The firewood that has been drying all by itself for the last two years had been waiting just beyond the edge of the lawn, between the other side of the garden gate and where the woods begin. It has now been moved and stacked near the kitchen door where we can get it whatever the weather.

It has been said that one of the annual rural tasks is to build up your woodpile just in order to tear it down, then start to build up another all over again. I've just finished splitting and stacking three cords of firewood for the winter of 2028-29. That's called looking ahead.

We washed the windows, inside and out, before the cold set in. Now that we have new thermal-shield all-season windows, in a way I miss the ritual of putting up our old storm windows.

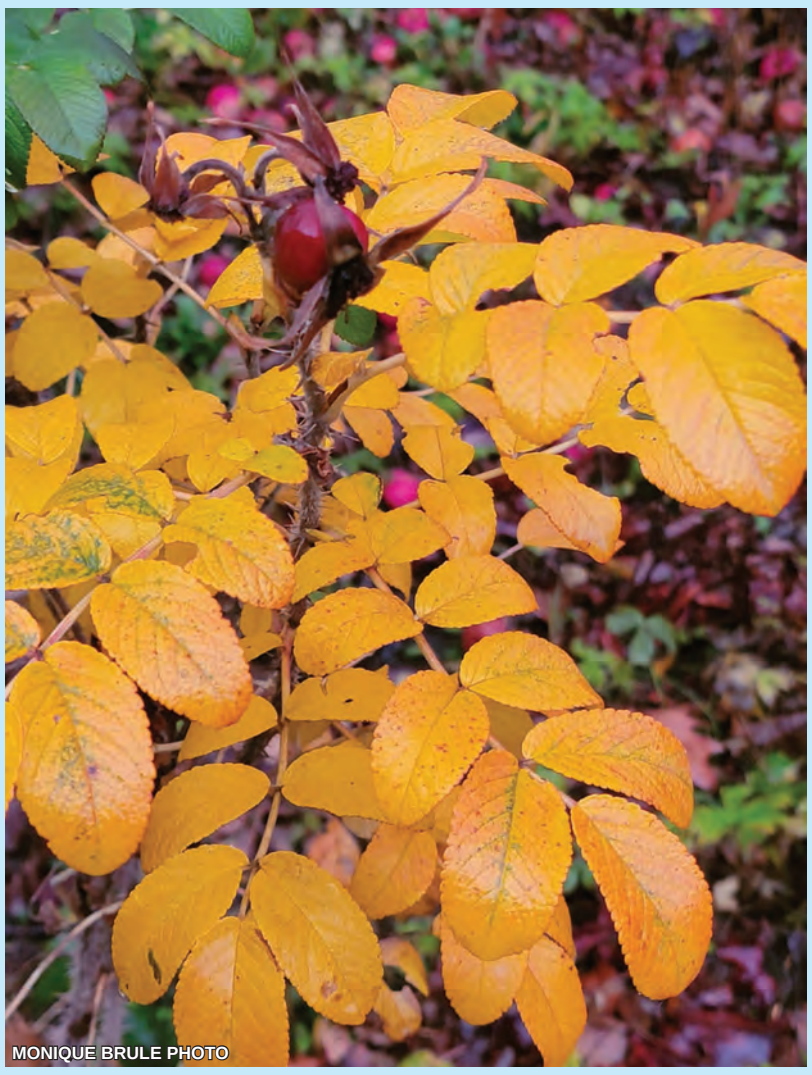
In fact, up until a few years ago I was still using the heavy four-by-six-foot wooden storms purchased by my Aunt Pete and Uncle John who lived here in the 1940s.

Up on the porch roof I'd go to wash the windows of the second-floor bedroom. Then to wrestle the wooden storms up the ladder, hook them in place, and bolt them to the house as snug as possible. Of course they too had to be washed and polished inside and out with that squeegee windex bottle before they went up.

Thing is, when you're up on the roof with the squirrels and blue jays, it's always good to take a break and look around the neighborhood from a different angle, even if it's just twice a year. You also get reacquainted with your home that you kind of take for granted, unless you climb up onto the roof and check out the siding, the paint, the bugs and leaves stranded up there.

Now those storm windows, ancient artifacts and handmade

see **WEST ALONG** page B2



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

*The rugosa rose* (Rosa rugosa) *in the author's yard wears the season's finery.*

## RECIPES

# BAKING WITH THE FRUITS OF FALL

**By CLAIRE HOPLEY**

**LEVERETT –** The leaves have fallen. The berries of summer disappeared weeks ago. Farmstands are now only sparsely stocked; some have already closed for the year.

But apples and pears hang from their trees, and orchards still hum with harvesters. Cranberries have arrived from the bogs near Plymouth and the Cape. These three autumn fruits, the last but not least of our regional crops, have the poignancy of the end of things; we savor them knowing that there'll be no more fruit harvests this year; winter is almost upon us.

Apples have been growing in Massachusetts since the mid-1620s, when William Blackstone planted an orchard on Beacon Hill. Some old varieties still remain in local orchards today, thriving alongside newer arrivals. But with our cornucopia of old and new varieties, which are the best apples for baking?

Many home bakers fill their pies with two or more varieties – for example, balancing a Macintosh, which collapses when cooked into an apple-y foam, with an apple whose slices hold their shape: perhaps a red or golden Delicious, or a sharp Granny Smith. Better yet, the old local variety Northern Spy teams its fine flavors with a touch of tartness. Cortland is perfect for apple slices to serve with cheese or toss in a salad because, unlike other apples, it doesn't brown when exposed to the air. It's tasty too.

Apple orchards often host some pear trees. Pears take longer to mature than apples, which doesn't endear them to growers because they must wait to get a crop. Nonetheless, you can buy pears from orchards such as Clarkdale in Deerfield. The pretty little Seckel pears and other small varieties are perfect for pickling, and even for making jam; for eating and baking, the bigger Bosc and Bartlett are ideal.

You can substitute pears in most apple recipes because botanically they are cousins and they behave similarly when baked or cooked. Pears have milder flavors and melt tenderly on the tongue. Cinnamon, the usual spice with apples, rather overwhelms pears, but a little ginger adds a tingle, while a touch of allspice brings out their floral flavor notes.



HOPLEY PHOTO

*Read on for a recipe for this delicious cranberry-and-lime pound cake.*

While apples and pears reign in local orchards, cranberries come to us from southeastern Massachusetts. It wasn't always so: as shown in local place names such as Sunderland's Cranberry Pond, cranberries grew wild in marshy spots. After large-scale farming began on Cape Cod in 1816, some Franklin County farmers followed suit by developing cranberry bogs and sending their crops downriver to Hartford. Local cranberries are rare now, but foragers can sometimes find them on the verges of streams and ponds and around the Quabbin.

Since stores only have fresh cranberries until December it's worth stocking up because, unlike other berries and fruit, cranberries can survive without falling apart for months, and longer if kept in the freezer. They can star in baked goods throughout the cold seasons, and their crimson good looks make them naturals at Christmas and other winter holidays.

Cranberries are especially popular in muffins and quickbreads, while apples make iconic pies. But, along

see **RECIPES** page B8

# MR Wrapping Paper Edition • Artist Profile #6

**By REPORTER STAFF**

**TURNERS FALLS –** This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for our fifth special Wrapping Paper Edition, to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. We received 34 submissions to our call, and we have selected seven artists, including one Youth artist, for our edition this year.

We can't wait to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special edition, which will go to press on Thanksgiving week! We are introducing the artists to you by asking each the same three questions.

**Emily Siegenthaler** of Turners Falls won with her "Mouse Party" design. She answers our three questions this week:



SUBMITTED PHOTO

***MR:** What would you want your wrapping paper to say and feel like for the person it is being gifted to?*

**ES:** I'd like them to feel celebrated – and maybe spot a little blue mouse that they relate to the most!

***MR:** What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?*

**ES:** A special used book, something handmade by a friend, fancy cheese...

***MR:** What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?*

**ES:** Newspapers are cornerstones of community; they are our stories, mirrors, and time capsules that we can always return to and continue learning from.

# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## 'Henry'

Meet Henry, a handsome southern gent from Tennessee. This enthusiastic pup is full of personality, heart, and high energy.

Henry is eager to please, thrives on interaction, and cannot wait to find a loving family. If there's a tennis ball nearby, Henry is your guy. He loves a good game of fetch and will happily play until he runs out of steam. He gets along well with other canine companions. Henry stays super-motivated to learn, making training sessions fun and rewarding.

There is a $199 adoption fee. Henry is in foster care. To adopt this fellow, start by calling Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000. Foster adoptions are made by appointment. Open adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Visit *www.dakinhumane.org* for more information.

## Senior Center Activities

### NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH 20

**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 11/16**
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Pie and Ice Cream with Friends
3:30 p.m. Drop-in Quilling Group

**Tuesday 11/17**
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Money Matters
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

**Wednesday 11/18**
9 a.m.Veterans' Agent
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
1 p.m. Parking Lot Food Pantry
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

**Thursday 11/19**
10:30 a.m. Ask a Nurse
1 p.m. Pitch
4 p.m. Chair Yoga

**Friday 11/20**
*SHINE counselor by appointment*
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

**LEVERETT**

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is November 17. Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or *coa@leverett.ma.us,* or check the town newsletter or the Leverett-Connects listserv.

**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 11/16**
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Game
1 p.m. Yoga

**Tuesday 11/17**
9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

**Wednesday 11/18**
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

**Thursday 11/19**
*No classes*

**Friday 11/20**
8:30 a.m. Quilting/Open Sew

**WENDELL**

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is December 2. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

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

**WEST ALONG** from page B1

works of art, glass, putty, and paint, are stored in the dark in the garden shed. Their 1940s frames have turned amber with age, a golden hue only old weather-beaten wood can achieve.

I don't have the heart to throw them away. Somebody else can when I'm not around anymore. I have an inordinate love of old things that connect me with times and people past, their work done down here on earth.

The windows, now in their retirement years, will spend the rest of their winters in the shed. They're in the company of my sleek carbon-fiber kayak and the lawn mower, both now hunkered down for the winter.

Elsewhere, the leaves of the lofty 100-year-old maple are down; now I can see the nest of the Baltimore oriole.

That lofty cradle was home to the next generation of oriole weavers during the bright month of May. It now hangs empty and exposed, rocking in the November wind.

The maple leaves that carpeted the grass below the tree have been raked, piled onto the tarp, and trundled off to the compost pile.

I'm one of those who still knows how to use a rake instead of a dratted noisy gas-powered leaf blower. Like splitting wood, it warms you twice, and it's good exercise. You can stop work from time to time to listen to the merry chickadee tribe or the cardinal's whistle.

There's nothing better than raking in the frosty twilight and, looking up, catching a glimpse of the November woodcock winnowing through the air overhead. He drops down to the shore of the frog pond to seek his supper and spend a quiet night.

Then of course there's the reward of a cold glass of beer sitting in the Adirondack chair, surveying the freshly-raked grass in the growing darkness. You get thirsty taking care of all those leaves!

Birdfeeders are washed and up on their posts, squirrel baffles in place, much to the consternation of the bushy-tails.

The houseplants have been taken in from their summer-camp vacation outdoors, just ahead of the first frosty nights. They'll spend the next season in their winter quarters in the sunroom, sheltered from the cold. They turn that room into a green oasis where we keep alive the promise of the next summer's hopes.

The frog pond has been dredged more than a month ago. No need to further disturb the frogs and other creatures who will have burrowed down to sleep the winter away in the protective pond debris and mud, their fly-catching responsibilities done for the year.

All this is taken care of and completed, but I can't say that now all we have to do is lie around the homestead with nothing else to do.

But there is a pause in the season's activity, a chance to slow down and find comfort in the home now buttoned up. The surrounding outdoor space in our care is well-stewarded and made ready as best we can.

There is satisfaction in the thought that another season has concluded and that somehow, in spite of political disasters and some triumphs, we've done what we set out to do – and besides that, we're still here to enjoy it all!




WAIT ILLUSTRATION

**By CASEY WAIT**

**TURNERS FALLS –** Dear readers,

It's been a while since you've heard from Your Sick Friend, but fear not – this column lives on! For the past few months I've been splitting my limited energy between managing scary health developments, applying to graduate school, and nurturing friendships. I'm lucky if I have energy for much beyond the basics these days.

I'm kicking myself for not being able to respond sooner to our county's "viral moment" in the wake of the bad-faith piece on local mask-(mostly)-required lesbian bar, Last Ditch, that appeared in the *Boston Globe* last month. However, the reality of illness is that my body cannot always match the speed of the news cycle and I simply have to let the guilt and pressure go.

I'll just say this: if you were among the many who gleefully participated in the collective punching down on one of our area's most isolated and under-resourced groups – queer and trans disabled and chronically ill people – you might take some time to reflect on why. When you end up parrotting the same jokes as Ted Cruz and Joe Rogan, who both felt the need to chime in on our teeny-tiny intracommunity conflict, it's time for some soul-searching.

You don't have to become a bleeding heart for the cause of masking – though it would be cool if you did – but you can at least treat people who deal with abuse and abandonment on a daily basis with some basic respect. If you're not going to show up for us, at least don't talk shit about us. Deal? Deal. Let's move on.

If, like me, you keep hearing about yet another person down for the count with some "mystery" illness, it's because we are in the midst of yet another COVID wave. We are seeing higher rates of infection across the United States at this time of year than *any year before since the start of the pandemic.* Let that sink in. Going into the holidays with this level of illness in the air, we are likely in for a very rough winter. If you were a diligent masker in 2020 or 2021, you might consider becoming one again now.

Now is also a great time to get your updated COVID and flu vaccines. Remember: COVID vaccines reduce the severity of illness and the chance of death, but they do *not* prevent infection or transmission of illness – that's where masking comes in. You can still get free N95s and KN95s from the Finders Collective in Great Falls and from the Western Mass Mask Bloc, located at Comix 'N More in Easthampton.

COVID may not be killing people at the rate it was even just a few years ago, but Long COVID is disabling people at an alarming rate, and there are still no approved treatments available to us. Long COVID has over 200 symptoms and impacts every single system in the body, and your chances of developing it increase with every COVID infection.

I am a great example of what living with Long COVID can look like. This week I'm seeing specialists in Boston to discuss surgery to treat vascular damage I have sustained from living with Long COVID for six years. Additionally, I recently found out I have a severe form of anemia that can only be treated via blood transfusions, immunotherapy, corticosteroids, or chemotherapy drugs, *and* a rare, untreatable form of high cholesterol that raises my chance of heart attack and stroke by two to four times. I have never been so aware of my mortality.

**Going into the holidays with this level of illness in the air, we are likely in for a very rough winter.**

And I am only 34. I have gotten all the vaccines and never stopped masking in public and yet I have contracted this illness nine times in six years. It's hard not to feel angry knowing that some of this damage may have been prevented if more people simply wore masks in public – we've known for years that one-way masking is not nearly as effective as when more people do it. It's especially hard not to feel *very* angry seeing people I know laugh at the "cringe lesbians in masks" discourse while dealing with the medical fallout of this illness.

Do not believe the right-wing eugenic lie that COVID is a harmless virus that only hurts the already-expendable. No one is expendable. No one can fight an ongoing pandemic alone. You do not want Long COVID – trust me. And I would very much like to not die young. Your life, my life, and the lives of so many others are in your hands. For the love of *life*: Mask up!

With love and rage,

*Your Sick Friend*

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# LOOKING BACK:
## 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on November 10, 2016: News from the* Montague Reporter *archive.*

### Area Towns Reject Trump

Early voting was strong, overall turnout was nothing phenomenal, and the nation's next president, New York hotel baron Donald J. Trump, received under a quarter of all votes cast this week in the small Western Massachusetts towns of Gill, Erving, Wendell, Leverett, and Montague.

In towns that still use old-fashioned hand-cranked ballot boxes, volunteers were diligently tabulating votes, 25 at a time, even as news networks and online analysts had heard enough to announce the national election's results in equally surprised and final terms.

The GOP retained control of both houses of Congress, and Trump will nominate a justice to the Supreme Court, which has been in a 4-4 deadlock on key votes since the death of Antonin Scalia in June.

For town clerks, one of the biggest stories of the election cycle was the introduction of early voting. 1,746, or 16.2%, of local voters voted early in the five towns. "It was a very positive experience for everybody that came in for early voting," Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo reported.

Wendell topped the state's 351 municipalities in support of cannabis legalization, animal cages, and Jill Stein.

# 20 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on November 9, 2006: News from the* Montague Reporter *archive.*

### Why Did The Turtle Cross the Road?

The Main Road reconstruction project in Gill proceeded at a turtle's pace until early this fall, when work got underway in earnest. The lowly wood turtle – a "species of special concern" in Massachusetts – held the job up until proper accommodations were designed for a suitable underground turtle crossing.

The solution came in the form of a specially designed culvert to encourage the turtles to cross beneath the road, rather than try to race with cars topside.

### Erving Mill Roof Collapse

The roof on Building #1 of the Usher Mill, on Arch Street in Erving, has collapsed, and town fire and police have cordoned off the street near the building as a precaution against the exterior walls crumbling.

The Usher Mill was built in 1912 as a wooden furniture factory. It was more recently used as a warehouse by the Erving Paper Mill, and has been abandoned for about fifteen years.

# 140 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on November 10, 1886: News from the* Turners Falls Reporter *archive*.

### Turners Falls and Vicinity

The Farren Hotel Company are going to build an addition to their hotel in the spring.

H.N.F. Marshall of Northfield, is getting out the lot of paving stones from the quarry on E.H. Spring's land for paving the new reservoir for Turners Falls.

The school children of Montague City will give an entertainment Friday evening in the School hall, for the benefit of their library.

E.P. Goodell recently extracted 90 bushels of Yellow Danvers carrots from 10 square rods of ground.

The Mt. Hermon athletic association is flourishing. It carried out a lively hare and hounds hunt Monday, covering 20 miles between 2 and 5 p.m.

Mr. French of the Prospect House on Mt Holyoke has received nominal damages in a suit against the Connecticut River Lumber Co., for loss and hinderance in his business by floating logs down the river, which prevents the running of his little steamer to and from the mountain. Mr. French sued for $10,000. The defendants, it is said, will appeal.

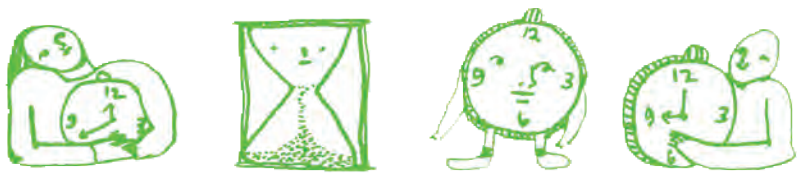
The selectmen will send out, soon, notices of the sewer assessments, with some legal suggestions upon the subject. About $16,500 of the $66,000, which the sewer cost, will be paid by the abutters.

Patrick Ball paid Justice Dana $1.00 and costs for drunkenness, and Martin McAllister goes to his old hotel for 30 days for the same weakness.

There were eight cases of diphtheria in the village last week, and four deaths resulted, which is a fearful death rate. By good care on the part of Dr. Coy of the board of health the progress of the disease was stopped, and the village is now free from the dreaded disease. The physicians believe the disease came from the sewers, which were not flushed during the long drouth.

G. H. Lindsey & Co., have issued a catalogue of holiday books which should be in the hands of every lover of good books.

John H. Starbuck is agent for the Rockford watch, a very excellent timepiece, of which he sells yearly a large number.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Items Dumped; Cans Chucked; New Sinkhole Opens Up; Spam Received; Caller Intoxicated; Several Things Stolen

**Monday, 11/2**

11:17 a.m. Caller requesting officers to the Couture Brothers warehouse, stating that a homeless man has been stealing radiators from the back of the building. Officer requesting detective to scene; watching for male on bike with yellow jacket. Officer with male on Second Street. Male Mirandized. Officer requesting K9 for track; K9 unit unavailable. Units clear from location. Will be checking bike path.

3:29 p.m. Caller reporting that someone crawled out from under an umbrella near the Great Falls Discovery Center; individuals are in the area with a dog that has three (3) legs and are arguing among themselves. Officers advised of nature of call. Officer spoke to individuals and advised them of the complaint.

4:18 p.m. Caller reports that someone dumped items on the island at the intersection of South High Street and Turnpike Road. Caller states involved items consist of a broken desk, broken headboard, and broken end tables. Advised caller call would be logged. Message left for DPW.

**Tuesday, 11/3**

2:39 a.m. Walk-in states that he was on his way to work and noticed a large fire in the woods behind the house on Bernardo Drive. Control contacted to dispatch fire. Officer advising fire appears to be contained in a large bin; states there was some kind of explosion in the barrel. Control copied on all info via radio. Fire extinguished by FD.

5:39 a.m. Deerfield officer states a party just stopped and told him that they were being scammed at the Cumberland Farms in Turners Falls; something about a screw in the flapper. Advised officer, who states it has been there for a year and has to do with the pump; it is not a scam.

6:37 a.m. Caller from K Street states that he was leaving for work and his neighbor started yelling obscenities at him from her front door. Officer spoke with male and advised him of options. Unable to make contact with female. Male is leaving for the day.

12:01 p.m. Caller reports that a grey Subaru on Avenue A is playing music too loudly. Party in vehicle advised of complaint.

12:17 p.m. Caller reports that a FRTA bus on Avenue A is playing music too loud and it's disruptive. Officer advises no FRTA bus in area.

12:37 p.m. Caller reporting an intoxicated male party sitting in the grass outside the Carnegie Library yelling at people and throwing beer cans at them. Area checked; male gone on arrival. Spoke to library staff; aware of something going on, but believe situation resolved itself. No beer cans found in area.

2:10 p.m. School resource officer (SRO) advising report of people with e-bikes ripping up the lawn on the Hillside Road edge of the field. Officer advised. SRO advising to disregard; not in the area anymore.

3:51 p.m. Caller states he received a message from the Geek Squad, whom he has never contacted, with a charge of $499. Caller unsure why he received this message; looking for help. Officer spoke to caller about his concerns. Caller advised to keep an eye on his finances and to contact the Geek Squad with further questions in regards to the possible spam.

3:59 p.m. Caller advises that people are camping under an umbrella in a lot on Second Street. Caller upset that people are camping in the public area; feels it does not look good. Caller advises her neighbors told her that the involved people were creating a disturbance last night and being loud. Caller states she could not hear anything last night. Advised caller to tell neighbors to call the PD at the time of an active disturbance. Caller states there is no active disturbance at this time. Advised caller call would be logged and passed along.

7:56 p.m. Shelburne Control toning out Turner Falls FD for a sinkhole behind the Great Falls Discovery Center that was called into TFFD direct. Shelburne Control advises sinkhole located behind building, possibly on Northfield Mountain Project property, on the other side of the canal. Officers advised. Officer advising TFFD on scene. Officer requesting TFFD be contacted and to have the Northfield Mountain representative move his vehicle. Shelburne Control contacted and advised.

**Wednesday, 11/4**

3:15 a.m. 911 caller states that a dirt bike was stolen from her parents' house a couple of days ago; states she believes she knows who has it and they recently moved out of downtown. Caller highly intoxicated. Possible civil issue. Advised caller to call back in the morning.

8:10 a.m. 911 caller from Nouria states that a male party was inside the store's cooler grabbing things. When they were confronted about being back there, the party became aggressive and disrespectful and left the store. Involved male called in to report incident; states they are not usually there in the morning and understands that the employee was not familiar with him and that made her suspicious and uncomfortable. He states that he would come in to apologize to the manager, if she would allow him to. Officer reviewed video footage; no criminal activity occurred.

10:57 a.m. Walk-in owns property on Second Street and states that squatters have set up tents on a vacant lot of his. Unable to locate.

3:46 p.m. Caller states that an app, NextDoor, is using his email address and sending him continuous ads. Advised caller not to click on any links and not to put in any personal information. Caller inquiring if we can trace who is doing this; advised caller our PD does not do those things. Caller asking for FBI phone number. Number provided.

5:02 p.m. 911 caller states that there is a pole on a wire on Farley Road in Wendell that is starting to spark. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

10:02 p.m. E-911 caller reporting a sickly looking raccoon in the middle of the intersection of Old Sunderland and East Taylor Hill Roads; believes it may need to be dispatched. Caller advises he will stand by until officers arrive. Officer advises raccoon appears to be lethargic; no need to be dispatched. Units assisted raccoon along.

**Thursday, 11/5**

6:09 p.m. Officer advises he is responding to the House of Correction for an animal control issue. Officer advises animal has been dispatched.

8:23 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that an individual who resides on the first floor of the building is being loud and hitting the ceiling. Officer advises quiet upon arrival. Officer spoke to first floor tenant, who advises he has his TV on and has done nothing else. Party advised of complaint.

**Friday, 11/6**

12:19 p.m. 911 caller from J Street states that someone broke the back window of a car on her property and stole a bicycle. Report taken.

4:07 p.m. A 45-year-old man of unknown address was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Saturday, 11/7**

2:09 a.m. Officer flagged down on Depot Street by an individual stating that a person was looking in vehicles. Officer made contact with male party who stated that he is visiting his gram on Montague City Road. Units clear.

7:02 a.m. Caller states that he heard a loud explosion near the canal and thinks police should check on it. Area checked; nothing out of the ordinary heard or seen.

9:38 a.m. Caller from Central Street states that a female from Greenfield has been harassing and threatening him. Today she came to his house, so he went outside to talk to her and she hit and pushed him, so he responded by squirting her with pepper spray. Report taken.

5:06 p.m. Landlord of an L Street property requesting officer assistance at an apartment building; states the woman who used to live there passed away just prior to eviction; people related to her are now attempting to squat at the residence. Other tenant advises that someone is moving into the residence at this time. Officer spoke with female party on scene who states that she is a family member of the deceased; states they are not moving in, they are cleaning out the apartment. Party provided name and information to pass along to the landlord.

**Sunday, 11/8**

2:59 p.m. Caller requesting officer to Avenue A location as someone else in the building who parks near her is hitting her vehicle with their vehicle (opening their car door and hitting her vehicle with it, causing scratches along with other issues such as dip split). Officer advised. Services rendered.

7:20 p.m. Caller states he was driving on Millers Falls Road and struck a deer while traveling. Caller states the deer is no longer in the area; reports damage to his vehicle including a cracked bumper. Officer out speaking to caller.

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# Movie Review: *Jimmy* (2026)

**By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

**GREENFIELD –** On November 6, a movie called *Jimmy* premiered in theaters. One of them was the Garden Cinemas in Greenfield. It stars K.J. Apa as Jimmy Stewart, and highlights the time in his life when he enlisted in World War II, and after that when he eventually made *It's a Wonderful Life*.

I learned that making the movie helped Stewart recover from his World War II experiences as a pilot. This man rose to the rank of colonel by the end of the war.

The actor who portrays him is a good fit. He has made himself look like Jimmy Stewart nicely, and also does a nice job with his voice sounding like Jimmy's.

I have always thought of Jimmy Stewart as a real-life Boy Scout, in terms of the kind of person he is. The movie ends up showing the audience Stewart as a Boy Scout as well, or almost that. He is trying to be a good man.

Lines that illustrate that are "Someday I like to look myself in the mirror and see a good man looking back," and another is "Don't I have the right to serve my country like anybody else?"

The opening scene is Frank Capra and Stewart talking about him doing *It's a Wonderful Life*, and the movie shifts to 1941, the beginning of this period of his life. He is getting an Oscar for *A Philadelphia Story*, and it shows he was friends with Capra at the time. Around this time, he is drafted. When he informs the studio he is working for, the head of the studio tells Stewart he will get him out of it, before Stewart has even made up his mind about going.

His service included writing letters to the families of the men the Army lost. He writes the letters continuously as that happens. He also gives a speech to his fellow servicemen, emphasizing that this was a first time for him, too.

When Stewart tries to act again after the war, he finds that it is not so easy. He knows people want to forget the war, and he wants to bring hope to people. *It's a Wonderful Life* works well in that way. Unfortunately, his acting ability isn't what it used to be – he really struggles in the aftermath of the war. But the picture gets made, and Stewart goes on to get married and have kids.

Lastly, we learn that *It's a Wonderful Life* was Jimmy's favorite movie.

My hope that this movie would be a winner for me was right. It is a perfect watch for the month of November, with both Veterans Day and Christmas coming up.




JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



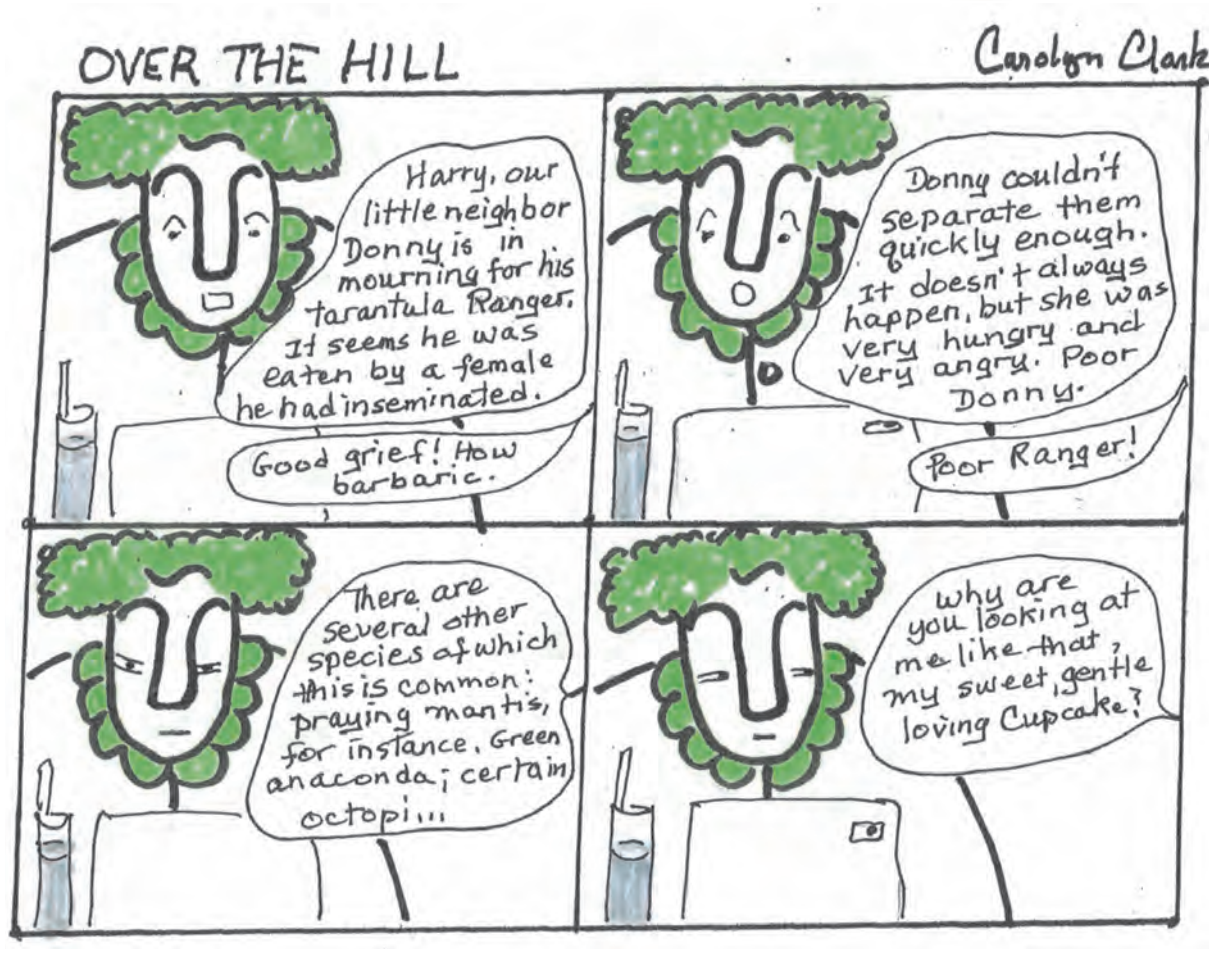

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# The Science Page



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

*Between the early 1950s and its ban in 1983, China's farmers sprayed an estimated 270,000 tons of DDT on their crops.*

If you have questions, comments, or news tips for our Science Page Editor, please send them to *science@montaguereporter.org*.

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ACCUMULATION

## Give Me Spots On My Apples

**By JOSH WATSON**

**TURNERS FALLS –** Rachel Carson was already an established writer with a long connection to *The New Yorker* by the time then-editor William Shawn assigned her to write what would become *Silent Spring*, released 65 years ago next September.

While Carson's first book, 1941's *Under the Sea Wind*, had been overlooked as the Second World War began and sold meagerly, the magazine had serialized her next two books, also lyrical meditations on marine biology – *The Sea* in 1951, and *The Edge of the Sea* in 1955 – and they had both become nationwide bestsellers.

Carson, a marine biologist by training, was inspired in 1958 by a letter she received from a *Boston Post* writer, Olga Huckins, to investigate the effects of pesticides on bird life, and tried to convince fellow *New Yorker* alum E.B. White into writing a piece on the topic. White declined, and Shawn stepped in to convince her to do it herself.

Carson, in a June 12, 1958 letter to her close friend Dorothy Freeman, wrote:

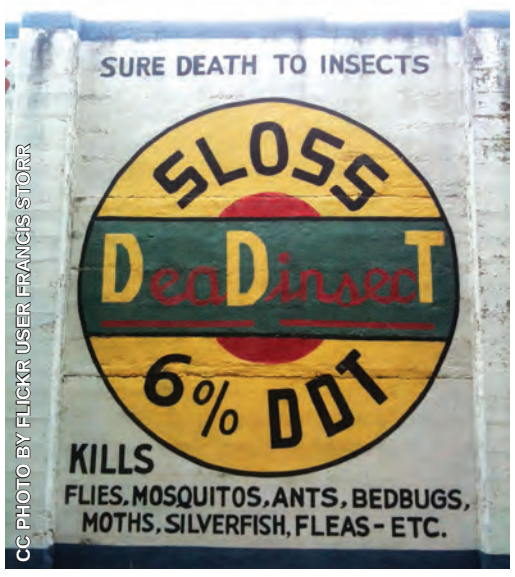
> The visit with Mr. Shawn was really a delight and most satisfying. We talked for 2 1/2 hours! He is completely fascinated with the theme and obviously happy and excited at the prospect of presenting in the New Yorker. Best of all, I can (indeed, he *wants* me to) present it strictly from my point of view, pulling no punches. He says, "After all there are some things one doesn't have to be objective and unbiased about – one doesn't condone murder!"

When the first installment of *Silent Spring* appeared in the June 9, 1962 issue, it had only been a couple of months since the birth effects of thalidomide, prescribed to pregnant women as a replacement for barbiturates, were fully understood, and thalidomide had been banned in Canada in March of that year.

In the United States, Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey, a family doctor from South Dakota with a medical degree from the University of Chicago, had recently taken a job as a medical officer at the FDA, and was concerned about the potential side effects of thalidomide. Dr. Kelsey demanded more tests before she would approve it for domestic use; the manufacturer, the William S. Merrell Company of Chicago, complained to her bosses, according to her 2015 obituary in the *New York Times*, calling her a "petty bureaucrat."

Dr. Kelsey's actions may have saved tens of thousands of American children from birth defects. President John F. Kennedy later awarded Dr. Kelsey the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the nation's highest federal civilian service award. In 1962, Americans were ready to question the downstream effects of what originally seemed like scientific miracles.

Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane, the chlorinated hydrocarbon commonly known as DDT, had been considered one of those miracles. Because it killed mosquitoes and lice, it was widely credited with saving US soldiers in World War II from deadly malaria and typhus. Soldiers were routinely dusted with DDT.




CC PHOTO BY FLICKR USER FRANCIS STORR

Carson's first installment is a gut punch. It begins with a style familiar from her *Sea* trilogy, musing about a rural town in which the familiar noises associated with a spring reawakening are, instead… anyway, the town is revealed to be an invention, a conglomeration of actual environmental disasters occurring over the preceding decade. She elegantly discusses our world's systemic ecological interdependence. And then she methodically describes the horrors of the two fundamental varieties of poison we had been gleefully dumping into the food chains of our insects and birds and pets and livestock and selves: chlorinated hydrocarbons and organic phosphates.

DDT is not readily absorbed by the skin, which almost certainly protected the health of our WWII soldiers. It is, however, readily absorbed in fat, and, like mercury working up the food chain in fish, it concentrates from link to link. Carson writes:

> Fields of alfalfa, say, are dusted with DDT; meal is later prepared from the alfalfa and fed to hens; the hens lay eggs that contain DDT. Or the hay, containing residues of from seven to eight parts per million, may be fed to cows. The DDT will turn up in the milk in the amount of about three parts per million, but in butter made from this milk the concentration may run to sixty-five parts per million. During the process of transfer, what started out as a very small amount of DDT may end as a heavy concentration. The poison may be passed on from mother to offspring. The presence of insecticide residues in human milk has been established by Food and Drug Administration scientists. This is probably not the breast-fed infant's first exposure, however; there is good reason to believe that he starts receiving toxic chemicals while he is still in the womb.

As to the phosphates, Carson describes the then-commonly used Parathion, developed as an insecticide in the 1940s, used as chemical warfare by the British South Africa Police who laced it in clothing distributed to anti-government guerillas, and not finally banned by the US until 2003:

> Parathion is one of the most widely used of the organic phosphates. It is also one of the most powerful. Honeybees become agitated and bellicose on contact with it, engage in frantic cleaning movements, and are near death within half an hour. A chemist, hoping to learn by the most direct means the dose acutely toxic to human beings, swallowed a minute amount, about .00424 of an ounce. Paralysis followed so swiftly that he could not reach the antidotes he had at hand, and so he died.

Pesticides were already a $300 million industry in the US, and Carson's credibility was attacked immediately. In a 1993 article in the *Environmental History Review*, science historian Linda J. Lear writes:

> Gender was used to denigrate her science. Ezra Taft Benson, former Agriculture Secretary, privately suggested to former President Dwight Eisenhower that Carson was "probably a communist." Why was a "spinster so worried about genetics" he wondered? Other male critics castigated her as a "bird and bunny lover," and some suggested that she was just an "hysterical female."

Carson was accused of "worrying about the death of cats but not caring about the 10,000 people who die daily from malnutrition and starvation in the world," wrote horticulturist Caula Beyl in 1993.

The chemical company Monsanto, in the October 1962 issue of its self-published magazine *Monsanto Magazine*, included a satire of Carson's book, which they titled "The Desolate Year," mocking her distinctive prose style and imagining a world in which pesticides didn't exist. "The bugs were everywhere," it read:

> Unseen. Unheard. Unbelievably universal. On or under every square foot of land, every square yard, every acre, and county, and state and region in the entire sweep of the United States. In every home and barn and apartment house and chicken coop, and in their timbers and foundations and furnishings. Beneath the ground, beneath the waters, on and in limbs and twigs and stalks, under rocks, inside trees and animals and other insects – and, yes, inside man.

But the chemical companies couldn't suppress the stir Carson's book caused, and the overwhelming support it generated among an alarmed public, most of whom were not on the payroll of the pesticide industry.

In August 1962, the *Times* reported the government was investigating its own programs that regulated the use of pesticides, and quoted President Kennedy confirming the actions. Kennedy, in his particular stammer, said "Yes. I – and I know that they already are – I think, particularly, of course, since Miss Carson's book, but they are examining the matter."

By this time, Carson was ill. On the first day of January 1963, she wrote to Freeman:

> Then I suppose I shall have to tell you of a silly incident, not because it is important, but only because we're not supposed to conceal things! About a week before Christmas I was in the Chevy Chase Woodward's buying Roger's record player, began to feel "funny," and then black clouds descended and I collapsed over a table of records, etc. It was the first time in all my life I'd fainted!

Carson, who was undergoing radiation treatment for cancer that had spread to her bones, soon also was diagnosed with angina.

A week later Carson addressed the Garden Club of America. As Michel M. Haigh and Ann Marie Major write in the chapter "Rachel Carson's War of Words Against Government and Industry," published in the 2016 book *Green Voices*, "It is here that Carson described the delusional state of industry scientists, who had charged her with inciting public hysteria. She told of colleagues who held positions in science and industry, many of whom had privately supported her position yet feared retaliation for questioning accepted scientific practices."

In late April 1963, she wrote to Dorothy Freeman.

> Darling – if the heart does take me off suddenly, just know how much easier it would be for me that way. But I do grieve to leave my dear ones. As for me, however, it is quite all right. Not long ago I sat late in my study and played Beethoven, and achieved a feeling of real peace and even happiness. Never forget, dear one, how deeply I have loved you all these years.

A year later, Carson was dead of a heart attack. She was 56.

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# EVENTS

**submissions:**
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### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *LAVA Film Festival Opening Reception*. Meet filmmakers, watch trailers, consume light refreshments. 5 p.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: *Book Club*. Rebecca Solnit, *The Beginning Comes After the End*. 5:30 p.m. Free.

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

The National Spiritual Alliance, Lake Pleasant: *Tea & Crumpet Society*, reading group. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Moose, Holy Basil, Oscar Shaw*, poet *Daryl Gussin*. 7 p.m. Free.

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

Nova Arts, Keene: *Lafayette Gilchrist, Hearing Things*. 7:30 p.m. $.

The Drake, Amherst: *Kaleta & Super Yamba Band.* 8 p.m. $.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Brick House, Turners Falls: *when the time comes, yourarmsaremylegs, Farewell Sarathael, Halfhearted Comeback*. 6:30 p.m. $.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance* with *DePaolis and His Porcupine Pals*; Grace Clements calling. Jammers welcome. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *John Stacey & Friends*. Fundraiser for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. 7 p.m. By donation.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *LAVA Film Festival.* Experimental films and comedies; Q&A with filmmakers. 7 p.m. $.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Movie, *Steel Magnolias* (1989), and community crafting night. Benefit for the Colrain Food for All food pantry. 7 p.m. By donation.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Ashtray Angel, Slow Pony, Marxist Jargon*. 7 p.m. $.

THCC, Easthampton: *Condition Critical, Warsenal, Goblet*. 7 p.m. $.

Blackbird, Northampton: *Sarah Noell, Erin Morse, Hazel Basil*. 7:30 p.m. $.

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

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

Sirius Community, Shutesbury: *John Genyo Sprague, Daniel Wininger, Shane "Bray" Kerr*. Piano concert. 8 p.m. $.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Jake McKelvie, Bird Friend, Dylan Patrick Ward*. 8 p.m. $.

Visions Video, Northampton: *In the Shadow of the Haunted Mountain*, premiere of new film by Alle Kern about Mount Tom; preshow music by *Lendl, Inner Cross*. 8 p.m. $.

Haze, Northampton: *Mibble, No Thankyou, No One and the Somebodies, Candle Opera*. 8 p.m. $.

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto, Fruko, Carmelo Torres*. 8 p.m. $.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Subjects, Identity Shock, Period Bomb, Demented FX, Human Ignorance*. 8 p.m. $.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Slippers, Jake Latakas Orrall, Stoner Will & The Narks, Time Thief*. 8:30 p.m. $.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, Shelburne Falls: *Christmas Fair*. Crafts, gift items, bake sale, auction, more. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *LAVA Film Festival.* Screenings and question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers. Dramas, 12 p.m.; documentaries, 3 p.m.; thrillers, horror, science fiction, 7 p.m. $.

104 Fourth, Turners Falls: *Books Through Bars Volunteer Day*. Read and respond to letter requests from incarcerated people, pack books. 1 p.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fairy House Crafting Party* for kids and teens. 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Leverett Education Forum*. 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: Workshops with *Tony Vacca, Paul Richmond,* and *John Sheldon*. Take one or all three; tickets at *wendellmeetinghouse.org*. 1 to 4:30 p.m. $.

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

Easthampton Library Annex, Easthampton: *The Baby Sitters Fight Club, Softer Palate, Rival Galaxies*. 3:15 p.m. Free.

Two Ghosts, Turners Falls: *Luke DeRoy, Dan Becker*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, with featured performers *Michael and Carrie Kline*. 6:15 p.m. By donation.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Do It Now* presents "Chuckie the Rooster's Lucky Day." Valley premiere. 7 p.m. $.

Living Room, Florence: *Dr. S&M, Solid State Entity, barbie.ai, Big Blue, ATW*. 7 p.m. $.


SUBMITTED PHOTO

*Colombian cumbia legends Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto are in Holyoke this Friday, joined by Carmelo Torres and Julio "Fruko" Estrada, supporting their new collaborative album* Madre Cumbia.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Danny Pease & The Regulators, The Agonizers, The Droogettes, Half Dizzy*. 7 p.m. $.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Little Lies*, Fleetwood Mac tribute. 8 p.m. $.

Bear's Den, Greenfield: *Brook Batteau and the Party Emergency*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Wolf Girlz, Green Knuckle Material, Tysk Tysk Tysk, Match*. 8 p.m. $.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *THAO, Al Olender*. 8 p.m. $.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Paper Jays, Bent Light, Creative Writing*. 9 p.m. $.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Shelburne-Buckland Community Center, Shelburne Falls: *Christmas Fair*. Crafts, gift items, bake sale, auction, food, raffles, more. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Holiday Market*. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Lodge of Elks, Greenfield: *Handmade With Heart*, craft, art, and farm market. 12 to 4 p.m. Free.

# EXHIBITS

**Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:** *Revisit*: *Exploring Nostalgia and Memory,* giftable small works by 11 local artists, through December.

**Ritual Bowl, Turners Falls:** *In Watercolor,* paintings by Reiner Wilhems-Tricarico, through November.

**Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Migrations,* colorful works depicting scenes of village life, history, and Mayan culture in Guatemala, through November.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague:** Guest artist *Emet Aron* displays prints, ceramics, and wearables; guest jeweler *Chelsea Dupuis*. Both through November.

**Montague Center Library, Montague**: *Flower Show*, paintings by Kate Spencer, through November.

**Rhodes Arts Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill:** *Breathing Room*, paintings, drawings, and monoprints by NMH faculty member Clara Cruz. Through December 18; viewable by appointment at *mseno@nmhschool.org.*

**Leverett Library, Leverett:** *Art of Diane Shanti Kennedy,* through December.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Susan Mulholland: New Paintings* and a group show, *Friends Who Paint*. Both through November, with a joint reception this Sunday, November 15 at 3 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** Seventh annual *Community Art Show*, on the themes of "Home" and "Resilience." Through December 19.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Gala Auction.* Select artworks to be auctioned off in the nonprofit's annual fundraiser are on view at the gallery until December 12. Auction is online at *lookyheregreenfield.com.*

**Greenfield Library, Greenfield**: *Julia Shirar*, paintings. Through November, with a reception next Monday, November 16 at 5 p.m.

**GCTV, Greenfield:** *Headspace 3,* immersive installation of over 150 large multimedia illustrations and sculptures by Connor O., through December.

**Gallery A3, Amherst**: *Mixed Media,* work by Keith Hollingworth, through November 28.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Imagine,* group show by gallery members, through November.

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# CALENDAR

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Leather Tooling with LaunchSpace.* Registration req'd. Ages 10 and up. 1 p.m. Free.

Little Bug Farm, Colrain: *How to Meet a Horse.* Horses greet each other in a particular way. You'll see how, then try it with Nicky and Fern. Two sittings, each limited to five people; register at *littlebugfarm.co/gatherings/*. 1 and 2:30 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Documentary screening, *In Waves and War* (2024), portraying the impact of multiple combat deployments on three Navy Seals and their families. 2 p.m. By donation.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Improvisation Workshop* with cornetist, composer, and bandleader *Taylor Ho Bynum*. All levels welcome. 4 p.m. $.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Greg Kelley, Rambutan*. 4 p.m. By donation.

Sirius Community, Shutesbury: *Aviva Yarrow, Ollie Schechter, Starbody*. 5 p.m. $.

THCC, Easthampton: *Frog Mallet, Bonginator, Cum Dumpster*. 5 p.m. $.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Taylor Ho Bynum Quintet, Montague Marching Band*. Fundraiser for the Common Hall accessibility plan. 6:30 p.m. $.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Washatorium, Reklama, Recreational Vehicle*. 8 p.m. By donation.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Bill Charlap Trio*. 7 p.m. $.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Best Brief Books Club*. Toni Morrison, *Sula*. 4 p.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Paper Quilling Cards*. Registration req'd. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Cowboy Junkies*. 6:30 p.m. $.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

The National Spiritual Alliance, Lake Pleasant: *Community Open Mic*. Intergenerational, substance-free. 6 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *RESAVOIR, Jake Meginsky & Lemuel Marc Duo*. 7 p.m. $.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Matinee, *Thin Blue Line (1988)*. 4 p.m. Free.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Montague Housing Production Plan Community Input Session*. 5 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Jeanines, Now, Time Thief*. 7 p.m. $.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown & Friends*. 8 p.m. No cover.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

*As of press time tickets appear to still be available for the November 21 Tony Trischka & Earl Jam show at the Whately Town Hall. After Trischka, an acclaimed five-string banjoist associated with bluegrass and "newgrass" since the '70s, was handed unreleased tapes of the legendary Earl Scruggs jamming with John Hartford, he pulled together an all-star roster and turned the material into two tribute albums, Earl Jam (2024) and Earl Jam 2 (2026). At the Whately show he'll be playing with a tight touring quartet.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Paper Quilling Cards*. Reg. required. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Bright Water Bog, Shutesbury: *Autumn Hike*. Leisurely walk along the mostly flat trails, checking out sculptures along the way. Register at *www.bookeo.com/northfield*. 12 p.m. Free.

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

The National Spiritual Alliance, Lake Pleasant: *Booking and Touring for DIY Musicians*, workshop with Phil Simon of Simon Says Booking. See *spiritualallianceusa.org* to register. 6 p.m. $.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Community College Department of Music Concert*. 7 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Latin Dance Comes to Wendell*. Salsa, bachata, and merengue. All ages and levels welcome. Lessons at 6:30 p.m., social dance at 7 p.m. Free.

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Yoav Litvin and Ilan Pappé* discuss their new book, *Wired to Steal: Zionism and the Shaping of the Western Mind,* which "uses history, behavioral neuroscience, and investigative narrative to examine how ruling classes in settler colonial projects exploit human vulnerability to fear and social belonging." 7 p.m. By donation.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Minibeast, Vermen*. 8 p.m. $.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Thanks to the Animals*. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Philadelphia Story* (1940). Music by *Colin & Friends,* 7 p.m.; movie at 7:30 p.m. $.

Palladium, Worcester: *Pain of Truth, Madball, Rotting Out, Locked Shut*. 6:30 p.m. $$.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Drunks With Guns, Demented FX, The Eye, Optometry*. 7:30 p.m. $.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mamma Mia!*, ABBA tribute. 8 p.m. $.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*. 8 p.m. No cover.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Land Navigation and Orienteering Training*, with outdoor skills specialist Jon Meserve. Great course for hunters, scouts, industry professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts from beginners to the most advanced. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register at *bookeo.com/northfield*. $.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Dungeons & Dragons*. Single-day campaign for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at *northfieldrec.com*. 11 a.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Full Beaver Moon Gathering*, featuring flute music and storytelling by Strong Eagle "Many Feathers" Daly. 1 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Presented by Stonesthrow Theater and the Wendell Free Library, with Berklee School of Music students performing the original children's musical. For ages 4 to adult. Reserve a spot at *wendellmeetinghouse.org*. 4 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *King Lear*, reading by the Valley Players. Fundraiser for LifePath. 6 p.m. Free.

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

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Tony Trischka & Earl Jam*. 7 p.m. $.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Sherlock, Jr.* (1924). Music by *Jeff Rapsis,* 7 p.m.; movie at 7:30 p.m. $.

Bombyx Center, Holyoke: *Pipo Romero*. 7 p.m. $.

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Omar Sosa*. 7 p.m. $$.

Showroom, Keene: *Mehrnam Rastegari*. 7 p.m. $.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*. Benefit for the Foundation for Community Justice. 7:30 p.m. $.

Bezanson Recital Hall, UMass Amherst: *João Luiz Rezende Lopes*. 7:30 p.m. $.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Whait, Bow and Arrow, K8A*. 8 p.m. $.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Donna The Buffalo*. 8 p.m. $.

The Drake, Amherst: *Jake Klar, Cloudbelly*. 8 p.m. $.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Wolf Girlz, Tysk Tysk Tysk, Pearl Sugar*. 8 p.m. Free.

Tourists, North Adams: *Hammydown*. 8 p.m. Free.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *The Mammals*. 8 p.m. By donation.

Tubby's, Kingston NY: *LUCY, God's Wisdom*. 8 p.m. $.

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

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

Polish American Club, Feeding Hills: *Western Mass Record Convention*. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Friends of the Meetinghouse Annual Meeting and Celebration*. 1 p.m. Free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Movie, *The Philadelphia Story* (1940). 2 p.m. $.

First Congregational Church, Ashfield: *Seven Times Salt*, performing songs of the American Revolution. 3 p.m. $.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Beth Kaplan, Nora Knight & Band, Karen Schoemer*. 5 p.m. $.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mehrnam Rastegari*. 7 p.m. $.



## *looking forward...*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Raub Roy, Mental-Drift, Old Pam*. Installations and performances. 7 p.m. By donation.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Erin McKeown's Anti-Holiday Spectacular*. 8 p.m. $.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Connecticut River Flute Choir*. 35 seats; first come, first served. 2 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Amber Wolfe, Nora Knight, Caroline Rayner*. 4 p.m. By donation.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Valley Arabic Music Ensemble*. 6 p.m. $.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Andrea CK, Ang Buxton*. Comedy. 7:30 p.m. $.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11**

Nova Arts, Keene: *Trevor Robinson, Liam Grant*. 7:30 p.m. $.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

Mount Toby Friends Meeting, Leverett: *Cindy Kallet and Grey Larsen*. 7 p.m. $.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

THCC, Easthampton: *Skratch, whenthetimecomes, Glasss*. 5 p.m. $.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**

The Drake, Amherst: *Amber Wolfe, Nora Knight*, album release; *Stella Kola, Beth Kaplan*. 8 p.m. $.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *NRBQ*. 7 p.m. $.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 2**

Iron Horse, Northampton: *NRBQ*. 7 p.m. $.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Lucinda Williams & Her Band*. 7:30 p.m. $$.

**SATURDAY, MAY 8**

Colonial Theater, Keene: *John Zorn: New Masada Quartet*. 7 p.m. $$.

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**RECIPES** from page B1

with pears, they also excel in cakes. One reason for this is that the lushness of the butter essential in many cake recipes complements the natural sweetness and acidity of berries and fruit.

Of the three cake recipes that follow, the Spanish Apple Cake is unusual in featuring a layer of apples sandwiched between buttery cake. The apples keep this cake moist so it tastes fresh for three or four days – if it lasts.

Cranberries team with lime to zing a traditional pound cake, while pears touched with a hint of allspice sit alluringly on a Pear and Almond Cake.

The latter cake is made with yogurt, which adds tenderness and tang.

# CRANBERRY & LIME POUND CAKE

*1½ cups cranberries*
*2 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar*
*2 or 3 limes*
*1 cup sugar, plus 1 extra Tbsp.*
*2 sticks butter, room temperature*
*2 cups all-purpose flour*
*2 tsp. baking powder*
*½ tsp. salt*
*4 eggs*
*2 tsp. vanilla extract*


HOPLEY PHOTOS

Put the cranberries in a bowl or plastic bag with the confectioners' sugar. Using something heavy such as a rolling pin or an unopened can of food, bash them so that the skin breaks, but don't totally mush them up. Shake the bag or stir the berries to coat them with the confectioners' sugar. Set aside for 20 to 25 minutes or until they are juicy.

Grate the zest off the limes. You need a tablespoonful or a little more to taste. Now halve one lime and squeeze out the juice. You need 2 tablespoonsful. (Unfortunately, it's hard to tell how juicy limes are when you buy them, so it's useful to have extra on hand.) Add the tablespoon of sugar to the juice and set aside.

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease a 9-inch loaf pan and line the base with parchment or fit it with a liner.

Beat the softened butter in a mixing bowl or a food processor until it is a shade lighter in color. Add the remaining sugar and beat the mixture until it is smooth and no longer gritty with sugar. Add the eggs one at a time, including a tablespoon of the flour with each egg and beating each lot in before adding another. Then, mix in the remaining flour.

Stir in the lime zest and vanilla extract, and then finally add the bashed cranberries including any remaining undissolved confectioners' sugar. Gently mix them in to the cake batter, then spoon it into the prepared pan, stirring a little if necessary to distribute the cranberries evenly.

Bake for 65 to 75 minutes, or until a skewer poked in the center comes out dry. Stir the reserved lime juice to make sure the sugar has dissolved. Brush all of it over the top of the cake. After cooling, slice the cake for serving.

*Makes 12 or more slices.*

# SPANISH APPLE CAKE

*1¼ cups butter, room temp.*
*¾ cup sugar*
*½ cup flour*
*1½ tsp. baking powder*
*1¼ cup ground almonds*
*2 eggs*
*2 cups (three to four) grated apples, such as Cortland, Gala, or Ambrosia.*
*½ tsp. cinnamon, or to taste*
*1 to 2 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar*

Grease an 8-inch layer-cake pan – ideally with a removable base but without is OK. Cover the base with parchment paper and set aside. Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Put the butter, half the sugar, the flour, the baking powder, the ground almonds, and the eggs into bowl of a food processor and whizz to make a smooth soft batter. (If you don't have a food processor, beat the eggs in a mixing bowl then thoroughly mix in all the other ingredients except the cinnamon, half the sugar, and the confectioners' sugar.)

Spread half the mixture in a thin layer in the prepared pan. Spread the grated apples on top and sprinkle them with the remaining sugar and the cinnamon. Cover with the remaining mixture.

Bake in the center of the oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a skewer poked into the middle comes out clean. Cool to room temperature for 30 minutes or so. Run a knife blade between the cake and the pan to make sure it is not sticking, then place in the fridge and leave for two hours.

Now put a serving plate on top of the cake pan and hold it in place while you invert it and give it a sharp shake to turn the cake onto the plate. Dust with the confectioners' sugar for serving. Whipped cream is a good accompaniment, but not necessary.



*Makes 6 to 8 servings.*

# PEAR & ALMOND CAKE

*½ stick butter*
*1 cup whole-milk yogurt*
*2 eggs*
*1 tsp. almond or vanilla extract*
*1½ cups all-purpose flour*
*2 tsp. baking powder*
*¼ tsp. baking soda*
*¼ tsp. allspice, or ½ tsp. cinnamon*
*¾ cup sugar*
*2 ripe Bartlett pears, peeled*
*1 to 2 tsp. lemon juice*
*2 to 3 Tbsp. flaked almonds*
*1 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar*



Grease a 9-inch loose-base layer cake pan and line the base with parchment baking paper. Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Melt the butter without letting it sizzle. When it cools to lukewarm, mix it with the yogurt, eggs, and almond or vanilla extract. In another bowl stir together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, allspice or cinnamon, and sugar. Peel the pears and brush their surfaces with the lemon juice to prevent browning.

Stir the yogurt mixture into the flour mixture using a folding motion. When thoroughly mixed, spread it in the prepared pan.

Slice the pears and arrange them in a pinwheel, with the thin end of the slices pointing into the center. Put a few flaked almonds in the center and around the edge in the spaces between the slices. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes.

The cake is ready when a skewer poked in the middle comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 30 minutes, then remove the rim of the pan and let it continue cooling on the base for another hour before separating the cake from the base. Sift on confectioners' sugar for serving.

*Serves 6 to 8.*

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