

**Unity Park in Turners Falls;**  
Its Bandstand, and . . . what else went on there?






ED GREGORY

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It's Bandstand, and . . . what else went on there?

Gleanings from **Greenfield** newspapers via  
Old Fulton New York Post Cards ([fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com))

  Search: (primary) **Unity Park**  
In the text block each entry is linked to the **PDF**  
that will reach the specific newspaper article.  
 Annotations; *e.g.*

Select historical accounts courtesy of the  
**Montague Parks** and **Recreation Department** under the direction of  
**Jon Dobosz**, with assistance from **Jennifer Peterson**.

This document offers a broad look at the goings-on at Unity Park, (often referred to as the “Playground”) from its inception to relatively current accounts.

The local history researcher may find a wealth of information pertaining to a wide variety of subjects in support of the Unity Park recreation theme.



**ED GREGORY**

February and March, 2024





Bandstand at Unity Park. c1960s *e.g.* archive

### Bandstand at Unity Park in Turners Falls

“The field on which the park was established in the fall of 1923 was not being used for anything in particular then, mainly because of its tendency to become a small lake during heavy weather. A relatively short period of filling and grading preceded the park’s dedication.

In the first year of Unity Park life, two bandstands and two tennis courts were constructed from town park funds. Of the overall Town of Montague Park and Recreation budget, totaling \$10,000 that first year, \$7, 500 went into Unity Park.”

Source; Montague 1754-1954, p134 (the Town’s 200 anniversary book).

Early sporting activities in Turners Falls (1870s - c1923) were played at/on:

- “Goddard’s Grounds” the area of Goddard Avenue in Turners Falls.
- “Railroad Street Grounds.” Today’s Park Street.
- The Trotting Park, where the Park Villa out-door theater was located.
- The South End grounds, at the southern end of “G” Street where the school is located. a.k.a. the K of C grounds *e.g.*

June 6, **1914**      Greenfield MA Gazette 1914-1915 - 0252.pdf

#### Turners Falls News

Ten carloads of loam have been Spread on the playground and the boys have been able to mark out a fairly good base ball diamond on the improved ground. The playground apparatus will next be moved and further improvements made as funds are provided.

May 26, **1915**      Greenfield MA Recorder 1914-1915 - 0739.pdf

#### PLAYGROUND NEARLY READY

#### Money Should be Raised to Secure Property for Town

The public playground at the lower end of Second street is rapidly being covered over with ashes and other dirt and the rocky portions<sup>1</sup> will soon be well covered. The apparatus has not been put out as yet.

This field is an ideal one for the purpose for which it is being used and the sooner it is put into good condition the better pleased will be those who are to use it. There are many besides children who like to go there and enjoy a game of ball and it is to be hoped that sooner or later the town will see its way clear to purchase it and make of it a real pleasure spot for the whole town.

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<sup>1</sup> Rocks excavated from the Turners Falls power canal widening and lengthening project have been dumped in the ‘park’ area to fill-in the backwash ponds created by the Connecticut River. *e.g.*

The Turners Falls Power and Electric company very generously let the town use it for a playground at present and there is not much doubt but that when the town gets ready it can be bought for the right price. Meanwhile it might be well to do considerable[sic] more work on the grounds and as a means of raising the money the suggestion is offered that a tag day be held sometime during next month. The townspeople have always responded generously in helping out things for a community benefit and there is no reason to think but that they would respond liberally for the play grounds.

The town showed pretty conclusively last year when the tag day for the relief of the# Salem fire sufferers was held that they are not behind hand or stingy in contributing for a good cause aid there is no question but that if the tag day for the benefit of the playgrounds is held a goodly sum will be realized.

September 28, 1922 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1922 - 2021.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—[Playground is Highly Endorsed](#)  
[Town to be Asked to Help Build Swimming Pool](#)

A joint meeting of the directors of the Turners Falls Rotary club, Turners Falls Board of Trade and Community Service courted was held at the Inn<sup>2</sup> last Tuesday evening. The directors of the last two named organizations were the guests at dinner of the Rotary club.

After the dinner President James J. Quinn of the Rotary club gave a short talk regarding community life and civic duties as they exist here in Turners Falls. He said that he thought one of the most important functions of the schools of the town was to inoculate in the minds of the children the ideals of good citizenship, that these lessons should start in the primary grades and the little tots learn to respect the. rights of their companions and to help one another.

As the children advanced in years these lessons would be expanded until when they finally left school they would have become well grounded in the principles of good citizenship and brotherly love. Mr. Quinn also felt that a public playground would be of tremendous benefit to each and every resident of the town and that the work on [Unity Park](#)<sup>3</sup> should be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. The meeting, he said, was called for the purpose of determining the sentiment of the people in regard to this matter and he then threw the meeting open for discussion.

It was the unanimous opinion of those present that the playground' was something that Turners Falls needed and that work should be started as soon as possible in order that the grounds be put into shape as far as possible this fall so that they would be available in the spring. The layout as discussed would provide entertainment for the entire community,

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<sup>2</sup> Turners Falls Inn.

<sup>3</sup> The earliest reference to the *proper* name, [Unity Park](#), thus far.

old and young alike. The benefits accruing from this project would be felt by every resident of the town and a stronger, better and happier citizenship would result.

Practically every one present spoke on the, subject and in each case the speaker was most emphatic in his opinion as to the advisability of going ahead with the work.

The Unitarian Society has donated this tract of land, consisting of seven acres, to the town for park purposes. The society has about three thousand dollars left and would be willing to build a swimming pool; this amount however is not sufficient for the purpose and it was voted at the meeting to have a committee wait upon the selectmen and have an article inserted in the warrant, for the special town meeting which will be held in the near future, for an appropriation of an amount necessary to complete the pool. The hope was expressed that this was a town matter and would work for the benefit of all that every citizen would get behind the project and see that the park was completed in the very near future.

**Dec. 16**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1922 - 2669.pdf](#)

### [Arrange Winter Sports Program](#)

#### [Four Skating Riak Are to be Provided](#)

The Community Service Winter Sports Committee met last evening at the Selectmen office and decided upon a number of new projects for this winter. The committee voted to carry out their original plans for an artificial rink on Unity Park. This will be the largest rink in town. Three other rinks will be maintained; the one on the courts of the Tennis Association, one on the K of K football field adjoining the South End school house, and the third on the Frank H. Snow tract below Broadview Heights. Each of these rinks will be lighted for evening use.

The committee is also planning to prepare a ski-jumping area on the extension of Goddard Avenue. A number of young men and boys living in this section of the town have volunteered to develop this project, A special committee was appointed last evening to decide upon a suitable place for a toboggan slide

There is a considerable number of sport enthusiasts who are interested in this sport. At this writing it appears that the most feasible place for the slide will be on the hill leading from K street to the New Haven freight station. Those having suggestions regarding the slide are requested to give them to either Mr. Doran or Mr. Bean.

Today Supt. of Streets Sullivan has been using the snow which is being removed from Avenue A to form the banks for the rink on Unity Park. Thomas W. Bean of the Turners Falls Power and Electric company has taken levels of the ground and mapped out the most feasible spot for the rink.

A good track is being worn for the double rips<sup>4</sup> on L street. The street has a fine ice bottom.

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<sup>4</sup> Typically a six to eight-person Rip Sled.

The Winter Sports committee is composed of: Andrew Doran, chairman; Thomas Bean, John Collins, James A. Gunn, Jr., Michael S. O'Leary, James Ryan, Jerome J. Shea, John Shea, and John E. Sullivan.

December 7, **1923**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1923 - 2531.pdf](#)

### [Abercrombie at Rotary Club](#)

F. C. Abercrombie was the speaker at the Rotary club luncheon yesterday noon. He talked on the subject of winter, sports in connection with the playground work. Plans have been discussed for a program which would provide amusements at Unity Park this coming winter for both young and wider people.

With the facilities at hand it, would, be comparatively easy for the playground authorities to make arrangements so that sled and toboggan slides, skating rinks, ski jumps and other sports could be enjoyed to the fullest extent. Mr. Abercrombie's talk was enjoyed and the members are deeply interested in the program as outlined.

**Dec. 12**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1923 - 2821.pdf](#)

The contract for the building of the toboggan chute to be erected at Unity Park, has been awarded to Thomas Brothers, who will begin work on the same at once. The skating rink at the park will be built by C.J. Hosmer.

**Dec. 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1923 - 2884.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The community Christmas tree exercises to be held at Unity Park, Sunday evening, promise to be of unusual interest. The committee are working very energetically to make the occasion a huge success and have some delightful surprises in store. Everyone in town should participate in the celebration.

**Dec. 28**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1923 - 2957.pdf](#)

### [Skating Rink Nearly Ready](#)

Work on the skating rink at Unity Park has been started and a number of the baseboards have already been placed. The sawdust, which will form the foundation of the rink is ready to be put in place and with a few days of cold weather the rink will be ready for use. The toboggan chute is practically completed and with today's fall of snow it is expected that this sport will also be in full swing by next week

January 4, **1924**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0032.pdf](#)

### [TURNERS FALLS—All Reay for Winter Sports Toboggan Chute to be Opened Tomorrow at Unity Park](#)

The toboggan chute at Unity Park is practically completed and it is planned to open the same tomorrow afternoon to the public. The chute is a most substantial one and every precaution has been taken to so construct the apparatus

as to eliminate, as far as is possible, any danger to those using it. Community Service, under whose direction and expense the apparatus has been erected, deserves a great deal of credit for making it possible for the public to enjoy this most popular winter sport.

The toboggan chute was erected the idea in mind of providing a sliding place which would be safe for the young children as well as for the older ones. It is a straight chute, well guarded, and will be properly supervised during the hours when the children are at play.



The toboggan chute runs from the top of the hill at the southwest corner of Unity Park, west-northwest toward 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

1925. Photo from *Montague 1754-1954* Bicentennial book. *c.g.*

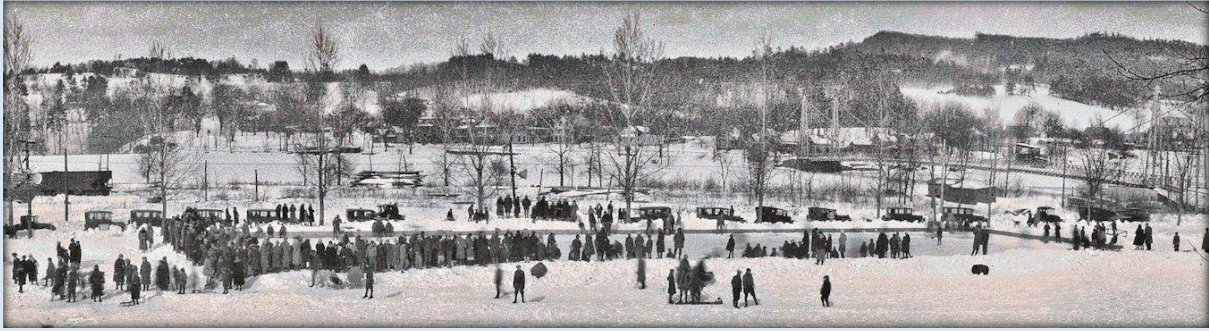


The toboggan chute is the dark-curvilinear structure behind the trees. 1925. *c.g.* archive

The incline is steep, although not too steep, and a good rate of speed will be obtained as the toboggans reach the foot of the incline. The velocity will carry a toboggan practically the entire length of the park.

Although every effort has been made to eliminate any possibility of accidents, and it is not expected that there will be any under the conditions prevailing, it is understood that all persons, using the grounds do so at their own risk. Community Service will not be held responsible for accidents, and should not be, any more than the organization could be expected to be held responsible for accidents occurring on the streets.

The skating rink at the park is fast nearing completion and with about three days more of good weather should also be in readiness for use. The skating rink at the South End will be flooded tonight and probably again tomorrow night, so that this rink should be ready for use on Sunday or Monday at the latest.



The skating rink was located at the southeast corner of the park. The Connecticut River and Riverside, Gill, lie beyond. To the right is the Upper "Red" Suspension Bridge. 1925 e.g. archive

In order to provide one street in town, which the children can use for sliding purposes, Community Service has taken steps to see if L street can be set aside during certain hours for this sport. If sliding on the streets is to continue there should be some regulations made which would insure, as far as possible, the safety of the children and the public.

Jan. 7 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0049.pdf](#)

### Winter Sports Program Opens

#### Toboggan Slide Starts Operations and Pleases Big Crowd

The town of Turners Falls definitely took its place in the ranks of those towns which provide sports for all persons the year round, when the winter sport program, was opened at Unity Park last Saturday. On the opening day, hundreds of persons, both young and old, visited the park and the chute was kept busy from morning until night.

Yesterday there were many people who went to the park in the morning, but were disappointed because the chute was not in operation. In the afternoon hundreds of people turned out to take advantage of the-sport and to watch the pleasure seekers. Many visitors were present from Greenfield. Community Service has rendered a remarkable service to the town in this instance and one which will prove to be one of the most popular forms of amusement ever attempted by the town

The slide, is fast and the coasters go the length of the field: In fact, the slide is so fast that it has been necessary to erect a saucer at the end of the field to turn the toboggans back. On Saturday it was reported that a boy had broken his nose by running into a building at the lower end of Second street, but this was not the case. The boy tried to see how far he could go and did not attempt to strand as he neared the building. As the toboggan struck the building his nose was slightly scratched.

The skating rink has been flooded and will be ready for use tomorrow. This, together with the other arrangements and plans which are under way, will provide a complete program of winter sports for the town, which will be as fine as any in this section.

Jan. 26

Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0217.pdf

## Winter Carnival set for Feb. 1-2

### Elaborate Program of Snow and Ice Sports to be Given

Weather conditions permitting, Turners Falls will be the Mecca of all winter sports enthusiasts on Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2. On these days it is planned to hold one of the best winter carnivals ever given in this section. The affair will be under the direction of the Turners Falls Community Service organization, which insures its success from the start. No one will ever forget the celebration held under the auspices of this organization, on July Fourth, and this event, will, it is expected, be equally memorable.

The carnival will be staged at Unity Park. The location of the park is ideal, being located in the center of town and providing one of the best amusement centers to be found within a radius, of many miles. The committee in charge of the arrangements are all hard at work perfecting their plans, which call for a busy two days' program.

The contests will open on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock with skiing, skating and snowshoeing events for the boys and girls. In the evening at 8 o'clock there will be a carnival dance at Hibernian Hall. This affair will not be a dressy occasion and sports togs will be the prevailing fashion at the dance. An excellent orchestra will be engaged to furnish the music for the dance.

On Saturday morning at 9.30, the junior skiing, skating and snow sliding finals will be held and prizes awarded to the winners. At 3.30 P. M., the senior sports events will take place. Many inquiries have already been received from athletes of other places, including some of Springfield's well known skaters. Preceding this there will be a hockey game between two teams representing the towns of Greenfield and Turners Falls. This event will be fast and furious, as are all contests between the two places. Following these contests there will be a fancy skating contest for adults and then Mrs. Gertrude. C. Vinson and her daughter, Marabelle Vinson of Boston, will give an exhibition of fancy skating. Miss Vinson, who is only 12 years of age, is already proclaimed the best amateur fancy skater in the country.

The carnival will end with a musical skating carnival for everyone. During the evening the Turners Falls Military band will be in attendance.

Various prizes, which will be awarded for the different events, are worth-while and should attract a large number of entries. The same amount of energy and cooperation which has characterized all big events which the town has previously staged is being maintained for this carnival, and as everyone knows, means the best of its kind ever attempted in Franklin County.

**Feb. 1**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0263.pdf](#)

## **Snow Conditions Hamper Carnival**

### **But Event Will be Held with Program Adjusted to Meet Them**

Although conditions at Unity Park are not ideal for a winter sport program, it has been decided that the two day carnival will be carried out as originally planned. The change in the weather has hardened the ice and snow and it is felt that the sports can be run off with very little convenience.

The toboggan chute is in ideal condition and the track is exceptionally fast, in fact the chute has never, been in better shape than at the present time. The skating rink is also in very good condition and the abating events will be slightly, if any, handicapped. Some little difficulty may be experienced in the snowshoeing and skiing events, but it is hoped that these sports will also prove successful.

The preliminary events in skiing, snowshoeing and skating for boys and girls will be staged this afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock. This evening the knicker dance<sup>5</sup> will take place at the Hibernian Hall. The success of the dance is assured as there has been a large advance sale of tickets. Happy Harrington's Serenaders, Springfield will furnish the music for the dance and the appearance of this orchestra is being awaited with the keenest anticipation.

The final events for the contests for boys and girls will be run off tomorrow morning at the park and in the afternoon the various contests will be staged for adults.

The hockey game between Greenfield and Turners Falls, which starts at 2 o'clock, will draw a huge attendance. This game will be followed by the senior sporting events. In the evening the fancy skating contest will take place and an exhibition of fancy skating will be given by Mrs. Gertrude C. Vinson and her daughter, Miss Marabelle Vinson, of Boston.

Miss Vinson, although only 12 years of age, is already rated as one of the best if not the best, amateur skater in the country. The Turners Falls Military band will be in Attendance tomorrow evening and a musical skating carnival will close the day.

**Feb. 4**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0279.pdf](#)

## **Winter Carnival Was Big Success**

### **Big Crowds Out Despite Adverse Weather**

The two days winter sports carnival held under the auspices of Community Service, at Unity Park, on Friday and Saturday of last week, has again proven the statement "that whatever Turners Falls does, it does it well." In spite of the fact that this was the first undertaking of its kind which the town has ever attempted, and, that weather conditions were not auspicious for an affair of this kind, the two days program was carried out before large crowds of people who thoroughly enjoyed every feature of the novel entertainment.

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<sup>5</sup> An informal dress affair.

Unity Park, the scene of the carnival, situated as it is, in the heart of the town has been particularly endowed by nature as a playground for young and old alike. The grounds which contain seven acres of land, and which are of sufficient size to stage almost any kind of event, back up to sloping hillsides on two sides of the park. In the summer these hillsides serve as natural galleries, from which the spectators can have a clear and unobstructed view of the entire grounds; in the winter these same slopes are converted into ski, sled, and toboggan slides.

It was at these excellent grounds that Turners Falls made its initial bow to the lovers of winter sports, which in past years has assembled several hundred adults and children, who were delighted beyond measure by the hotly contested events which were participated in by the youngsters. A long schedule of events was run off for the children, who demonstrated the benefits of their summer training at the grounds, and whose skill and pluck give promise of a large number of athletes of unusual ability within a few years.

In the evening, the knicker dance was held in the Hibernian Hall and was attended by a large number of dancers and onlookers. Music for the occasion was furnished by Happy Harrington's Serenaders of Springfield, whose music and efforts to please were greatly appreciated by the dancers.

Although there was no program at the park in the evening, over 1000 people took advantage of the mildness of the weather, and the excellent condition of the chute and skating rink, to come out and enjoy these sports to the utmost.

On Saturday morning the children again held sway and the final events of the previous afternoon's program were run off before a good sized audience. At 2 o'clock a hockey game was played between the Brattleboro, Vt. town team and the Turners Falls team. The game was fast and hotly contested' from the first and continued to be until the end of the first period that the local team boys were able to cage the puck. Three periods of good, clean hockey were played and resulted in a win for the home team by the score of 5 to 0.

Between ten and twelve hundred spectators were grouped about the rink to watch the game end also to witness the skating races for men. In the first race which was a one lap one-lap race, Ray Gould of Greenfield, showed, some speedy foot work and crossed the finish line in 15 1-5 seconds. Harvey Welcome of this town also showed he was flash on runners and made the course in 15 2-5 seconds. In the three-lap race, Gould again asserted his supremacy and crossed the tape in 52 2-5 seconds, his nearest competitor being J. C. Lovett of Springfield, who scored in 57 seconds. Owing to the unfavorable conditions for skiing and snowshoeing these events were cancelled in the adult class.

At night the battery of huge searchlights lighted the park with an almost daylight brilliancy for the 2000 or more people who had gathered there before 7.30. A concert was played by the Turners Falls Military band, in the bandstand which was in attendance throughout the evening.

During the concert Harvey Welcome, dressed as a "Rube,"<sup>6</sup> delighted the audience with his funny antics on skates. An exhibition waltz was given by Mrs. J Gertrude C. Vinson and her daughter, Miss Marabelle Vinson of Boston. Both skaters showed marked ability and their dance was roundly applauded by the watchers. Miss Vinson, who is only 12 years old, and who is considered one of the best amateur skaters in the country, next gave an exhibition of fancy skating and pleased her audience greatly by her marvellous[sic] and intricate gyrations. She was followed later on by Ray Gould of Greenfield, who also demonstrated his ability on skates by performing a number of difficult feats in tumbling.

The remainder of the evening was taken up by the happy throng who made liberal use of the chute and lie.[sic] The refreshments were in charge service until late at night and the musical skating carnival was a treat for hundreds of youngsters and grown-ups.

During both days and evenings the house on the grounds was kept open for the convenience of those taking part in the sports and "hot dogs" and coffee were on sale to the public. The refreshments were in charge of Mrs. Julie Broderick, who handled this part of the program in her usual efficient and effective manner.

To Community Service and to the various committees, who so ably discharged their duties, belongs great credit. Through their efforts hundreds of citizens of the town and a large number of visitors have had another demonstration of the great benefits to be derived by everyone from a well laid out program of all [the activities and events.]

The summary of the winners of the two days' events is as follows:

Skating obstacle race: Girls: Alice Macek, 1st; Audrey Flagg, 2nd. Boys: Louis Bush, 1st; Daniel Leary, 2nd.

Skating race, intermediate: Boys: William Grogan, 1st; Andrew Schab, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Skating race, one lap: Girls: Lois Reed, 1st; Alice Macek, 2nd. Boys: E. Cote, 1st; J. Myleck, 2nd.

Skating obstacle race: Girls; Alice Macek, 1st; Thelma Flagg, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

100 yd. ski dash; Junior Boys: William Porter, 1st; Louis Bush, 2nd.

Intermediate Boys: Chester Porter 1st; Ray Doran, 2nd.

50 yd. ski dash; Girls; Anna Zak, 1st; Frances Starbuck, 2nd.

100 yd. ski obstacle race; Boys: B. Treml, 1st; Karl Schuhle, 2nd. Girls: Frances Starbuck, 1st, Thelma Flagg, 2nd.

100 yd. snowshoe obstacle race: Junior Boys: B. Treml, 1st; Karl Schuhle, 2nd. Boys: R. Jillson, 1st, Ray Doran, 2nd.

**Feb. 24**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0433.pdf](#)

### [Children Hold Carnival](#)

Yesterday afternoon a miniature winter carnival was held for the children at Unity Park and was thoroughly enjoyed by two hundred youngsters and several older ones who

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<sup>6</sup> Country "bumpkin".

turned out to witness and take part in the festivities. Races of all kinds on skis and skates were held. The toboggan chute and skating rink were in good shape for the frolics of the children.

**March 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 0624.pdf](#)

### **Dismantling the Toboggan**

Work will be started shortly dismantle the toboggan chute at the park and also the saucer at the end of the slide. This sport furnished much amusement for a very large number of people, both young and old, during the past winter and the park was in almost constant use from the first fall of show until the last of February.

Winter sports in Turners Falls have evidently come to stay and Unity Park has developed into an all the year-round playground.

The chute, which; is built in sections, will be stored away until next year and the lumber in the saucer will be disposed of to the highest bidder.

**May 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 1141.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park to be Extended**

#### **Unitarian Society to Buy Land on Opposite Side of Street**

A special meeting of the Unitarian society was held yesterday afternoon at which time the members voted to rescind a vote taken some time ago to build a band stand or memorial at Unity Park. The members, however, voted to buy the tract of land on the opposite side of Second street and to turn this piece of land over to the town to be used for park purposes.

An agreement has been entered into with the Montague company for the purchase of this land, and while the deed has not been passed as yet, the necessary papers will be completed within a short time. The tract contains. 70,000 square feet of land, or about one-third of the area of the present park. The land purchased takes in all of the land running from the upper suspension bridge to within a few feet of the building used for a blacksmith shop<sup>7</sup> and about one half of the, width of the land between Second street and the river. The remaining portion of the land bordering the river is owned by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad.

It was the opinion of the society that this additional land could be utilized for parking purposes for automobiles, as there is no space provided for this purpose at the present park. With a very little work, and almost no expense, the grounds could be made serviceable for parking automobiles and would take them off of Second street, which is dangerously congested during the time when the park is being used for special purposes. The citizens of the town will undoubtedly welcome this gift from the society, which will go

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<sup>7</sup> Presently, the gray building on the west side of the William's garage site.

far toward rounding out and making complete the present beautiful park and playground site.

**June 6** [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 1299.pdf](#)

### Opening Band Concert

The first band concert of the season will take place this evening at the bandstand at Unity Park. The program which will be given is one of exceptional merit and will appeal to all lovers of good music. Mrs. Alice H. Nichols will be the soloist of the evening and will sing, "At Dawning."



This bandstand was located on the southeast corner of Avenue "A" and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Turners Falls. It was moved to this Unity Park location at the base of the hill in 1923.

Public domain image.

**Dec. 3** [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 2016.pdf](#)

### Winter Sports Activities

At a meeting of the Park Commissioners, held Monday afternoon, the contract for the erection of the toboggan chute and the building of three skating rinks was awarded to C. I. Hosmer, who was the lowest bidder. Work was started this morning and will be rushed to completion within a few days. It is hoped that the toboggan chute will be ready for use the end of this week.

The indications are that the lovers of winter sport will have a much longer season this year than last. If another storm comes along by the end of the week the chute would probably be in operation Sunday. Winter sports proved to be very popular last year and the playground was kept busy from morning until night with throngs of happy youngsters and older people. Yesterday all of the summer apparatus was taken in and stored in the building at Unity Park.

**Dec. 4** [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 2027.pdf](#)

### Winter Sports Meeting

A meeting of several representative citizens of the town was held at the Inn last evening to discuss the matter of winter activities at Unity Park. Park Commissioner Henry J. Kellogg was present and said that there was enough money left over from the appropriation made at the annual town meeting for playground purposes to erect the toboggan chute and construct the skating-rinks, but there would not be enough money to keep them in condition during the winter season. He estimated that \$1000 was needed if the work was to be properly done.

It was the general consensus of opinion that winter activities should be carried on and it was suggested that the commissioners should go ahead with the program and that the town should make an appropriation at the annual town meeting to pay for the bills contracted. There is such a demand for a winter program, similar to that of last, year, that it was felt that the citizens of the town will stand back of the commissioners in the matter and make the necessary appropriation when the time comes.

**Dec. 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 2134.pdf](#)

### **Winter Sports Nearly Ready**

The toboggan chute at Unity Park has been erected and the saucer, at the end of the slide will be started shortly. The form of the saucer will be changed this year so that the wind-up of the slide will be much better than last year.

The skating rink at the park should be ready to flood by the end of this week and the other two rinks, one at South End and the other at Montague City, should also be nearly completed. In building the rink at the park this year, the construction of the retaining walls was changed and the surface inside the walls was levelled off with Instruments.

Last year some little difficulty countered with the rinks there was very little frost in the ground and it was almost impossible to keep the water from seeping into the ground. With the new arrangement of the retaining walls and with the surface of the rink level, it is hoped that much of the trouble will be eliminated.

Winter sports in Turners Falls proved to be quite popular last winter and the toboggan chute and the rinks were kept busy all day and far into the evening. The number of inquiries regarding the progress of the work at the park is evidence that winter sports will be indulged in to an even greater degree this year than last. If the cold weather continues for a few days, conditions will be first class for tobogganing, skating and sliding.

**Dec. 23**

**Rinks Frozen Over**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1924 - 2179.pdf](#)

The skating rinks at Unity Park, Montague City and South End have been flooded. The rink at Unity Park is frozen over for about two-thirds of the skating surface and will be flooded again if there is no snow storm. It is hoped that all of the rinks will be in perfect condition for use on Christmas day.

Should snow come within the next day or two, the toboggan chute will be ready for use. The weather the past two days has frozen the ground, so that there is apparently no danger of the water from the rinks seeping through and a good snow storm will make conditions perfect at the park for winter sports.

January 20, 1925      Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 0137.pdf

### **Toboggan Chute Busy**

The chute at Unity Park has been busy since Saturday afternoon and dozens of toboggans have been in constant service and large crowds of onlookers have enjoyed the sport from the side lines.

The skating rink and chute have attracted their followers and many people stop to watch the fun. The park presents a pretty sight at night with its brilliant flood lights throwing the whole area into bold relief. No better or cleaner sport could be devised for the young people of the town than that which is provided at the park and it is surprising to see the number of citizens within taking advantage of this playground.

**April 8**              Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 0777.pdf

### **Unity Park is Being Grassed**

#### **Park Commissioners Ask for Cooperation of Public in Task**

The playground commissioners have issued the following statement:

"An attempt is being made at the present time to grow grass on Unity Park. Several similar attempts have been made in the past but the results have been far from encouraging.

It has come to the attention of the playground commissioners that a number of residents of Turners Falls and Riverside have been using the park as a short-cut. A beaten path diagonally across the playground has resulted. As long as the park continues to be used as a short-cut, all efforts of the town to make it more attractive will be useless.

Unity Park belongs to the town. It is for the benefit of the people of the town, and it is not to be understood that there is any desire to keep people from using the park. However, the commissioners believe they are justified in asking the people to cooperate with them in an attempt to make Unity Park a more attractive place and playground.

Tourists are already beginning to pass throughout the town. In another month hundreds will be passing through every day. The park cannot escape the attention of every one of those tourists. Citizens are asked to assist in making Turners Falls remembered by these tourists as the town with the attractive and beautiful playground"

**July 3**                Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 1485.pdf

### **New Bleachers Ready**

The new bleachers at Unity Park are in readiness for the Fourth and will be a welcome addition to the equipment at this place. They are so situated that the spectators get a fine view of the field and are also in a fine position for use at the band concerts.

The bleachers are constructed of wood and will seat 300 persons; it is hoped that additions will be made to the present stands in the near future so that practically all of the average attendance at the baseball games and band concerts can be accommodated.

July 8

Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 1512.pdf

### Fourth Was Well Observed by Town

### Splendid Program Delighted Everyone from Start to Finish

The night before and the Fourth were celebrated here in a safe and sane manner; no serious accident of any nature occurred to mar the day and everyone enjoyed themselves to the utmost. The 3rd of July night was marked with very little noise and no reports of rowdyism.

On the afternoon of the Fourth, at 1 o'clock, a program of sports was run off at Unity Park and was witnessed by a large gathering. These sports were the finals of a series which had been staged at the park during the week. The events were various and the youngsters, both boys and girls entered into the spirit of the occasion with zest.

Following the sports, a baseball played between the Brightwood team of Springfield and the Turners Falls A. A's.<sup>8</sup> This game was witnessed by about 2500 fans, who were treated to a good brand of ball, although the visitors were returned the victors by the score of 4 to 2. Martel, who pitched for the locals, held his opponents well in hand until the latter part of the game when he weakened and it was necessary to send Marvel into the box.

As an additional attraction for the day, Manager McLaughlin ranged for six boys of the Brightwood school to give an exhibition of boxing. The first match was between two lads who tipped the scales at 50 pounds and the next between two sixty pounders. Both matches were for three rounds each and furnished much amusement for the crowd. The last set-to was between two boys weighing 90 pounds; these lads were about 15 years old and they really showed sortie form. This bout was good to watch and the youngsters demonstrated that they were acquainted with the rules of the game, young O'Connell especially showing some clever work.

In the evening the crowds begin to accumulate at the park and soon after seven o'clock scores of automobiles began to arrive. Between 7.30 and 8 o'clock the streets leading to Unity Park were congested with pedestrians and automobiles. Fully 1,000 cars were parked about the grounds and the hillsides surrounding the enclosure were black with people. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 were gathered at the park shortly after the start of the band concert, which was played by the Greenfield Military band. The numbers were thoroughly appreciated by the large crowd.

The fireworks display, was ushered in with the explosion of an aerial and as the band started to play "The Star-Spangled Banner," the vast throng rose to its feet and faced a set-piece<sup>9</sup> showing the Stars and Stripes. Other fine displays followed in rapid succession, the brilliant-colored lights, the noise, and the massed spectators making a spectacle long to be remembered. Probably where in this section could a more pleasing spot be found for a

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<sup>8</sup> Turners Falls Athletic Association.

<sup>9</sup> A wood construction frame that held fireworks assembled in the shape of the stars and stripes.

demonstration of this sort. The hillsides forms natural amphitheater and every individual has an unobstructed view of the proceedings.

Hundreds of visitors were attracted to Unity Park in the evening and the town can well feel proud of the day. The police department are also to be congratulated for their efficiency in handling the vast throng, as when the entertainment was over the crowd melted away in a very short time and there was no semblance of an accident.

The winners of the sporting events for the boys and girls were as follows: Girls' 35 yd. dash, 1st, Stacia Czanecki; 2nd, Nellie Holewa; 3rd, Elsie Koch; volley ball throwing, tied for 1st place, Nellie Holewa and Mary Kallins; 2nd, Sophie Johnson. Potato race, the Third street Giants. Bean bag contest, 1st, Anna Poleski; 2nd, Lillian Sears. The awards made on points scored in the various contests were as follows: 1st prize, fountain pen, 70 points, Nellie Holewa; 2nd prize of a gold Evorsharp pencil, Sophia Johnson, 55 points; 3rd prize of a fold comb, Mary Kallins, 45 points.

The boys' contests resulted as follows: 50 yd. dash, won by Louis Bosh; 2nd, Paul Cadran; 3rd, Joseph Sicard; base running, tied for first place, Louis Bush. Joseph Sicard and Paul Cadran, Stanley Wojtasiewicz 2nd, Charles Puhala 3rd; sack race, won by Stanley Wojtsiewicz, Joseph Sicard 2nd, Krank Kuklewicz 3rd; baseball throw, 1st, Louis Bush, 128 feet; 2nd, Stanley Wojtasiewics, 160 feet; 3rd, Charles Puhala; three-legged race, won by Riel and Wojtasiewicz, 2nd, Wissman and Bush, 3rd, Nault and Dion. The point winners and prizes were: First prize, baseball glove, Stanley Wojtasiewicz, 53 points; second prize, baseball bat, Louis Bush, 50 points; third prize, league baseball, Joseph Sicard, 39 points.

The judges in the boys' events were Harvey Welcome, Louis Fugere and Fred C. Hargis, and in the girls' events, Donald P. Eipper, Mrs. H. M. Slutes and Charles Peck.

**July 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 1591.pdf](#)

### **Public Playground Notes**

At a meeting of the park commissioners held yesterday afternoon it was voted to investigate the cost of constructing a wire-netting guard in front of the new bleachers, at Unity Park. The commissioners feel that there is not sufficient protection for the spectators at the present time, as a foul ball might be knocked into the crowd and hurt someone seriously.

**Aug. 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 1719.pdf](#)

### **TURNERS FALLS—Busy Days at Unity Park**

This past week has been a busy one for the youngsters of Unity Park, the girls have worked diligently on their health campaign and await with great anticipation the outcome of this event, which is expected to take place next week Wednesday.

Fifteen of the girls who have had the best attendance for the past three weeks, kept the hygiene record faithfully, improved the most physically from June 15 to August 5th, have been the most athletic, and have been helpful girls on the playground work, will take part in the contest.

Last week Wednesday, as usual, the boys hiked to Green pond and the girls were taken, through the kindness of W.H. Croft, by automobile to the pond. About 45 children enjoyed the day's outing.

Last week Friday, the boys played the return game with the Shattuck park playground boys. In the afternoon the girls also played their return Newcomb ball game, which ended with a very onesided[sic] set of three games, all of which were won by Turners Falls. They also played five innings of baseball, which ended in a score for the girls of Unity Park of 19 to 0.

Tomorrow the parents and friends are invited to come to the demonstration at Unity Park at 2 o'clock when the girls will give a little entertaining health play and the work will be shown.

**Dec. 11**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1925 - 2824.pdf](#)

### **Work on Rink Starts**

Work has been started at Unity Park on the construction of the skating rink and as soon as this is completed the toboggan slide will be erected. The work is being done by I. Hosmer under the direction of Playground Director Claude H. Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard is planning for the usual winter sports at the park and intends to add somewhat to the programs of recent years. Since coming to town to take charge of the activities at the playground, he has built up a large interest in the park. So keen has been the interest shown by the children that the cold weather failed to dampen to any great extent the attendance at the grounds. With the coming of ice and snow, the playgrounds will again reassert their attractions and a very busy season is anticipated. Just how extended a program can be carried out depends for the most part on the winter conditions. If, contrary to last year's almost snowless season, there's a good fall of snow the park will be the mecca for young and old who enjoy all sorts of winter sports.

**January 9, 1926**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 0067.pdf](#)

### **Toboggan Chute Erected**

The toboggan chute at Unity Park has been erected and is just in for the first real fall of snow. So far this winter, conditions have been adverse for winter sports and with the exception of a few days of skating there has been no chance for this class of sport.

The youngsters have made every minute count, however, on the rink and the place has accommodated a large number during the afternoons and evenings. If there should be a foot of snow, the chute and ski-jump would immediately leap into action and these

together with the skating rink would provide amusement for hundreds of youngsters and adults. Much interest is being shown in the ski jump and everyone is impatient to be able to try the new sport locally.

**Feb. 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 0262.pdf](#)

### **Toboggan Chute Nearly Ready**

The toboggan chute at Unity Park is being put into shape for use and the track at the foot of the chute has been built. It is hoped that the chute may be in use this evening.

This will be welcome news to many who enjoy this sport and as the time is short the chute will probably be busy during the afternoon and evenings.

**Feb. 24**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 0443.pdf](#)

### **Snow Carnival was Big Success**

#### **Two Days of Winter Sports Gave Extreme Pleasure**

Saturday and Monday were red letter days in the lives of the boys and girls of this town and also will be remembered by a large number of adults. It was the first real winter carnival that the town had held and although the weather on Friday gave little promise for Saturday, the weather man was kind and provided an ideal day for the sports.



The carnival was staged at Unity Park, which was prettily decorated for the occasion with evergreen branches, a profusion of colored lights and a number of powerful flood lights. Amplifiers, four in number, were set about the grounds and provided music by a phonograph during the day and radio at night.

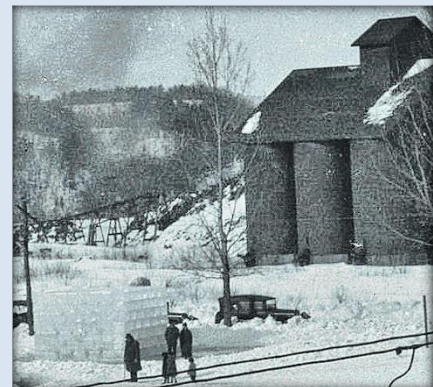
**“Amplifiers” near the children’s skating rink at Unity Park winter carnival. The main skating rink is shown above.1925**

*e.g. archive*

The ice palace was also one of the features and presented a very attractive appearance when lighted up.

Saturday morning was devoted to events of all sorts for the children in the lower grades and were closely followed by a large crowd of children. Over 500 entries were received for these events and competition was keen throughout. The afternoon was given over to the high school and a large audience was on hand to witness the sports.

**Ice Palace**



**July 14**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 1376.pdf](#)

### **Band Concert Friday**

The sixth weekly band concert by the Turners Falls Military band under the direction of L. E. Bemis will be held at Unity Park on Friday evening of this week. The concerts this year are unusually fine and the audiences are better than ever before.

**Dec. 10**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 2640.pdf](#)

### **Winter Sports Under Way**

Skating at the small rink at Unity Park is excellent and a large crowd of youngsters are taking advantage of their spare time to indulge in this sport. The ice is as smooth as glass and the rink is available every day for use.

The toboggan has been set up and will be ready for use by next Monday night. With the snow coming so much earlier this year, it is expected that the chute will be used more this year than ever before. Unless a warm spell sets in, the chute will be used every day during the winter.

The large skating rink at the park is nearly completed and is about three times as large as it was before. While it has been hard to get this large rink into use early in the season, it is expected that it will be ready this year at any time.

If the frost in the ground is not thick enough to hold the water when the rink is flooded, Mr. Coogan plans to sprinkle a coating of cement over the surface and this will give a foundation which will hold the water in normal winter weather.

**Dec. 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 2718.pdf](#)

### **Skating Rinks Ready**

The abrupt drop of the temperature to the zero mark has fixed things at Unity Park for a full participation in winter sports activities. The toboggan is in good condition and the skating rinks are as smooth as glass. The children are taking full advantage of the early start in winter sports and are out in large numbers today.

L Street<sup>10</sup> is also a busy place and last evening there were dozens of youngsters out with their double runners.

The hill is in perfect condition for sliding. It has been many years since the weather-conditions were as such as to permit these sports so early in the month of December.

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<sup>10</sup> The *off-road* hill on "L" Street. Top began on Prospect St. and bottom was at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and "L." During this time period, sliding may have been allowed on the road itself (?)      *e.g.*

Dec. 24 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1926 - 2767.pdf](#)

### [Community Tree is Huge Success](#)

#### [Over 1800 Children Attended Happy Occasion Last Evening](#)

The municipal Christmas celebration Unity Park last evening a splendid affair and most successful in every respect. A gathering of 1800 school children and several hundred adults were out for the occasion.

It was a very pretty setting which greeted the eye of those who happened to be passing the park while the exercises were in progress. The large Christmas tree was beautifully decorated and threw its glow over the gathering which crowded around its base in a huge circle; the toboggan chute was lighted with two, rows of colored, lights strung along its entire length and the band stand was also lighted.

The program opened with several selections played by the Turners Falls Military Band from the bandstand. Next came the carol sung by the children under the leadership of Warren Brigham, director of music in the public schools. These carols included the old favorites, "Holy Night" and "Evergreen". It was a fine program and especially well given.

-The main attraction was the visit of Santa Claus, who came from his home in the far north and brought with him three assistants. They arrived in a large sleigh drawn by horses and made their appearance amid the cheers of the youngsters. It was a busy time for Santa and his assistants, who were kept busy handing out the Christmas bags. Over 1800 children received their gifts in a very few minutes.

Much credit is due Mr. Gogan and Mrs. Julia Broderick for the success of the affair, as these two people shouldered much of the major portion of the responsibility for the celebration.

November 23, 1927 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1927 a - 0450.pdf](#)

### [Begin Work on Rink.](#)

Playground Director James E. Coogan has gotten an early start on the skating rink at Unity Park and the side-walls of the rink are all in place. There still remains some filling-in to be done to make the rink tight and it will then be in readiness to flow as soon as the ground becomes frozen.

The rink has been changed to a new location at the park and has been set up between the flag-pole and the rear line of the park. The skating rink at the park has proven to be the most popular of winter sports for the children who are there in droves on every pleasant day during the winter. The toboggan chute will probably not be erected this year as it has not proven a success for the past two seasons.

This, is due mostly to the fact that, no significant snow has fallen during the early winter to make the slide feasible and when the snow did come in any quantity it was so late that it was melted during mid-day by the sun so that the chute could not be used to advantage.

## Children Need Skating Rink

### Impossible for Water to Stay on Top of Unity Park

Winter sports at Unity Park, so far this season, have been conspicuous for their absence and, the prospects are that very little can be accomplished in this line in what little time remains.

No one is to blame for this situation except the weather man, who has so far failed to send along much snow and very little cold weather. Every community in this section is facing a similar situation and the outlook for winter sports is not very bright.

There is, however, one phase of the problem which has presented itself to some of the citizens and which might well be considered more generally. This is the matter of a skating rink.

At the present time a rink is available at the park, but this consists only of the necessary side boards to form the rink. So far as ice goes, there has not been any to date, although the weather has been cold enough to form ice. The reason for this lack of ice at the park is due to the earth foundation at the park, which is composed entirely of rock filling,<sup>11</sup> covered with a few inches of cinders and loam. The minute water is poured onto this filling, it seeps[sic] through the few inches of frost and runs down through the crevices between the rocks, making it impossible to form ice. It requires weeks of cold weather to freeze the ground to & depth deep enough to hold the water until it is frozen.

Many weeks of skating are therefore lost because it is impossible to get a rink started early in the season. This sport is one of the most popular of the winter activities and is indulged in by young and old alike. Now that the river is not a safe place for children, many citizens feel that some provision should be made for a skating rink, which could be put into use as soon as cold weather sets in.

One of the best suggestions which has yet been made, and one which would add something of value to the park, is that a combined wading pool and rink be constructed. The suggestion has been offered that a shallow cement basin be constructed in the vicinity of the present rink structure. This would afford a wading pool the children in the summer and could be used for a skating rink in the winter.

The water from the International Paper company spring on Spring Street, the overflow from which is now emptied into the Fourth street sewer, could be run to the park, and would afford a constant flow of water into the wading pool at all times, the overflow from the pool being emptied into the Second street sewer.

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<sup>11</sup> As the Turners Falls Power Canal was being widened and lengthened (1903-1916), tailings from the project were used as fill for the then inundated area that Unity Park would eventually occupy. The water is backwash from the Connecticut River. *e.g.*

A shut off on the pipe from the spring would stop the water from going to the park and would empty it into the Fourth street sewer again as soon as the cold weather came. The suggestion seems to have much in its favor and would provide two forms of amusement which would be appreciated by a very large number of children.

In addition, it would also be making something of Unity Park. The expense of constructing such a basin would probably be comparatively small, but at least the money spent would be used for a permanent improvement.

**Feb. 29**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1928 - 0421.pdf](#)

### **Town Warrant is Very Long**

**Note: Only reference to Unity Park will be given here.    e.g.**



Under article No. 10, the sum of \$2,834 is asked for an additional tennis court at Unity Park. The sponsors of this article will have no difficulty in proving that the present court is not enough to accommodate the number of players who desire to play this game; the question will be whether or not the voters feel that they can afford the appropriation.

**Tennis court at Unity Park. The former Goddard estate (presently the Cassidy residence) is shown. c1970    e.g. archive.**

**April 30**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1928 - 0967.pdf](#)

### **Junior League to Open**

The Junior baseball league for the boys of Unity Park promises to be unusually interesting this year, as they will be part of the American Legion League teams. Thousands of these boys' teams are formed each year throughout the country, under the auspices of the American Legion, assisted by both the National and American leagues.

Tournaments to decide state championships will be held in every state during the month of July. The state champion teams will meet in twelve regional tournaments, six in the east and six in the west, during August, and the regional winners in the east and west will clash in two section tourneys to decide the eastern and western champions.

These two teams will be brought together in the Junior World series, which will be played in September.

The members of the team winning the Junior World championship will be guests of the National and American leagues at the big world series, attending all the games. Transportation, rooms, and meals will be provided for the boys and all expenses paid by the leagues.

Already there are several teams entered in Turners Falls and those boys desiring to form teams, or who wish additional information regarding the rules, are requested to hand in their names to Playground Director James E. Coogan at once. The local league will start at once.

June 25, 1929      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1929 - 0841.pdf](#)

### [Arrange Program For 4th Celebration](#)

#### [Sum of \\$350 Sought for All Day Program at Turners Falls](#)

Entry blanks have been placed in the offices of all the industries of this town and Millers Falls, for the enrollment of all those wishing to take part in the athletic program on July 4. at Unity Park.

One team of ten men from each industry is wanted for a tug of war, and as many teams as possible for horseshoe pitching. Individual entries may be made for high jump, broad jump, 16-lb. shot put, and the "hop, step and Jump."

Entries will be received at the mill offices, or by David B. Kilgore, who is in charge, until July 1.

The mills having blanks are International Paper company, John Russell Cutlery company, Keith Paper company, Esleeek, Griswoldville Manufacturing company, Electric Steel Products company, Montague Machine company. McLane Silk company, Martin Machine company. Art. Stone company, and Millers Falls Tool company.

In connection with this program, a citizen's committee is, attempting to raise a sum of \$350 to provide bands, and other entertainment for an all-day program on the Fourth. Contribution boxes have been placed in all the stores and business places on Avenue A, for receiving contributions.

—[Concert Program at Unity Park](#)      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1929 - 0879.pdf](#)

#### [Military Band to Present Numbers This Evening](#)

"Our Country First," a march, will be the owning selection on tonight's band concert program, containing the series by the Turners Falls Military band, at the Unity Park bandstand. The remainder of the program will be; Overture, "Csokenay." Keler Rela; "Reminiscences of Scotland." Godfrey; a fantasia on "My Old Kentucky Home," with variations tor all instruments, arranged by Dalby. a patrol, "The Crack Regiment," Tobani; excerpts from "The Beggar Student," arranged by Milloecker; selection. "The Wall Street Girl." by Hoschna: concluding with a march, Temco," by Sherman.

**July 9**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1929 - 0967.pdf](#)

### **Praise Celebration**

Probably no larger group ever gathered in this vicinity than at Unity Park last Wednesday evening,<sup>12</sup> to see the wonderfully fine display of fireworks. It would appear to be the general impression that this was one of the most successful affairs ever carried out in our town, and the efficient manner in which the police and assistants handled the immense crowd should not be overlooked.

**July 26, 1930**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1930 - 0276.pdf](#)

### **Horseshoe Tourney Opens August 12<sup>th</sup>**

The first annual town of Montague horseshoe tournament will be conducted at Unity Park on Tuesday, August 12, under the auspices of the playground commissioners of the town.

This tournament will be strictly for the residents of the town of Montague. Only doubles will be played and anyone in the town is eligible to compete. Entries may be secured at the park office from Playground Director Louis Bush and they should be filed as soon as possible.

Sufficient time will be given to the contestants between now and August 12 for practice. Entries will close on Friday evening, August 8, at 8:30 o'clock.

**Aug. 6**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1930 - 0342.pdf](#)

### **Horseshoe Contest at Unity Park**

The continuation of the horseshoe pitching contest was held yesterday at Unity Park with the following results. Bordeau defeated Golonka by the score of 21 to 10 and 23 to 10. Bush defeated Kovalsick but three frames had to be played to decide the winner, the score was Bush 21-5-21, Kovalsick 20-22-19. Moltentbrey beats Burr by the score of 21 to 16 and 21 to 13. Sphersic and Rudolf played two games, and the score each time was the same as follows: Sphersic 21-21 and Rudolph 19-19.

There were three games played in the Junior Boys' Checker Tournament. Luipold defeated Sojka, Early won his game from Horrigan and S. Sojka defeated E. Sojka. In the girls' checker tournament there were only two games played. Jennie Srypek defeated Genevieve Winaska and Julia Kuklewicz, defeated Marion Welcome.

To-morrow afternoon the Cardinals will play the Cubs in the Junior national league, also the Red Sox will play the Yanks in the Senior American league. At 6 o'clock the All-Unity Park baseball team will play the Plotkin A. C in the fraternal league.

This game is a benefit game, and the proceeds will go towards helping defraying expenses for the playground boys on their trip to Fenway Park in the season. The girls will

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<sup>12</sup> Fourth of July.

go on an all day hike up the river to-morrow. They will assemble at the park at 10.30 o'clock, and are requested to bring their bathing suits and lunch. They expect to arrive home about 4 o'clock. Miss Flagg will be in charge.

**Aug. 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1930 - 0442.pdf](#)

### **County Tennis Tourney Begins Monday Evening All Matches Will be Played at Unity Park**

There are-only two entrants from any town in the county outside of Greenfield, and Turners Falls and these players are Art Anderson Ralph, Cloutier of Orange. Cloutier is one of the best players in the tapioca town and he hopes to take the cup back to an end of the county where it has never rested before.

It may take several days to run off the tournament this, year due to the many entrants and the fact that there is only one court at Unity Park. However, although drawings have not been made, the first match will be played Monday and after the Turners Falls playground tournament is over, two matches will probably be played each evening.

Other entrants besides those men turned are: Lloyd Starbuck, Capt. T. F. High school and in semi-finals at Turner Falls; Frederick Miller, semi-final at Turners Falls; Ralph Lenois semi-finals at Greenfield Tourney: Howard Loomis. semi-finals at Greenfield Tourney; Edward Miller Turners Falls High, school; Thomas Argy. Holy Cross; Charles Marston Turners Falls; Fred Houston, Greenfield; Robert Hobberley, Greenfield Power . and Elec: Richard Smith Turners Falls; Herbert Sauter, Turners Falls; Karl Schuhle, Turners Falls High school; John Myleck Turners Falls; Edward Cray, Turner Falls High school; John Burnham Turners Falls; Edward Slate, Turners Falls; Arthur Anderson Orange; Edward Smith, Turner Mass; E. A. Humphrey. Emerson and James Humphrey.

**Aug. 21**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1930 - 0475.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park All-Stars Win Playground Championship**

#### **Krynsel Hits Single in Sixth to Score Winning Run in Six Inning Game Halted by Rainfall – Hurlburt and Fred Riel Hit Hard.**

–Krynsel's single driving in two runs in the sixth inning, gave the Turners Falls playground All Star team the championship of the county when they defeated the Greenfield All Stars by a score of 8-6 in a six inning contest at Green River Park yesterday afternoon. The game was called to the seventh due to a heavy shower which deluged the diamond.

Both teams played a fine brand of baseball and errors were divided evenly among the playground rivals. The Unity Park team outhit the locals by 9-7 and Fred Riel and Hurlburt, the cleanup batters of both lineups, led the batters with three hits in three times at bat.

Two fast double plays killed Greenfield's golden opportunity to score in the early innings. On one occasion Francis Riel stopped a line drive and threw the ball to first base in time to catch the runner on the sacks.

The visitors took the lead in the first inning. Bush reached first when Bonk dropped a third strike. Krynsel struck out. Golonka singled and stole to second and Bush was thrown out at third. Riel's first two base blow scored Golonka in the third inning Bush walked and with two out Riel singled. Zastawney threw wild to first base on the next grounder and Bush scored,

Greenfield had its big inning in the third when they scored four runs. Bonk singled and Bonneville fanned. Marini was passed and Phillips singled, Hurlburt's single scored Bonk and Marini and Phillips scored on a fielder's choice. Hurlburt scored on a play at first base.

Two more Greenfield runs came in the fourth inning. Bonneville singled and Marini hit safely. A triple Hurlburt drove in the two tallies.

Turners Falls tied the score in fifth frame with four runs. Konekevich singled and Bush singled for Krynsel flied out. Bernie Golonka walked to fill the bases and Riel doubled to clean the sacks and scored on Guilnault's sacrifice fly.

Dolembeski was passed and Konekevich singled. Bush passed to Bonk and Krynsel lined to the shortstop to send both runs scurrying home. The seventh inning had started when the game was called.

Feature catches by Phillips and Bonneville featured. The Turners Falls infield played well.

Turners Falls		Greenfield	
Bush	ss	Bonneville	rf
Krynsal	3b	Marini	3b
Golonka	1b	Phillips	cf
Fred Riel	c	Hurlburt	2b, 1b
Guilbault	lf	Dwyer	p
Merritt	rf	Zastawney	ss
Siteman	rf	Ozdarski	1b
Fran Riel	p	Peloquin	2b
K. Early	2b	Bilek	lf
Dolembeski	2b	Bonk	c
Konekevich	cf	[sic]	

Note: Box scores are cut-off in the paper. *e.g.*

### –Unity Park Nine Defeats Orange

#### Turners Falls Playground All-Stars Win Second Game From Opposing County Nine

TURNERS FALLS, Aug. 21—The playground all stars won their second game of the day at Unity Park last evening when they defeated the Orange playground nine. 8-7. after coming home from Greenfield with an 8-6 victory over the Tap town playground team. Last night's game was a benefit game for the Boston trip. Moltenbray's hit sent to the winning run in the seventh inning. Krynsel, who won the Greenfield game with a single made four hits in four times at bat.

The score by innings:

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Turners Falls	0	0	0	0	2	4	2—8
Orange	5	0	0	1	0	1	0—7

Batteries: Green and Naida and Moleski; Shatos and Mathews.

**Sept. 13**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1933 - 2130.pdf](#)

#### Turners Falls Gridiron Prepared for Season

TURNERS FALLS—The work of surrounding the football field at Unity Park with posts and cable wire has been started by a crew of men under the supervision of Playground Director Albert A. Guilbault. It is expected that the work will be completed before the end of the week and that the gridiron will be completely marked out before Sunday when the opening game is scheduled to be played here.

Members of the high school girls' 5-4 - field hockey squad made, their first appearance of the year at Unity Park as they held a practice. Miss Gladys Townsley, physical education director, was in charge of the girls who held their practice on the skating rink.

**Sept. 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1930 - 0821.pdf](#)

#### Howard Team of Springfield at Power Town

#### Game Sunday Will Open Semi-Pro Season—Care is Coach of Strong Team

The Western Massachusetts semiprofessional grid season will officially open at Unity Park. Turners Falls, Sunday when the strong Turners Falls A. A., eleven will pry the lid off with the Howard A. A. of Springfield.

The Springfield team is rated as one of the strongest in that vicinity and boasts a galaxy of stars from the larger high schools of the city. Zucco, Santa Maria and Mike Schibelli, all former Cathedral high school stars, will pit their wares against such former Turners Falls high school players as Louis Bush. Johnnie Sovecki and Grogan, all of whom were former power town captains.

Coach Matt Care has been running his team through intensive practice sessions and Captain Martin will lead the Turners Falls eleven which will include some of the following

players in its lineup: St. Germain, Chovala, Roscoe, Loopy Rose, Korchinski, Miner, Cadran, Krynzel, Smith, Roumacher, and Berthiaume.

Coach Care feels quite confident that his eleven is well groomed for the opening encounter and the town team hopes to open the season with a victory.

June 3, 1931 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1931 - 1369.pdf](#)

### Turners Falls School Children in Field Day

#### Unity Park Scene Annual Event – Children Gaily Clad

TURNERS FALLS, June 3—The annual field day exercises of the public schools of the town of Montague were held yesterday afternoon at Unity Park. One of the most pleasing and beautiful sights seen in a long time was witnessed at 3 o'clock. When almost 1100 children bedecked with different colored paper crowns with some of them carrying colorful wands marched down the avenue. The streets were thronged with parents and friends of the children and each division was roundly applauded as it passed.

The procession formed at the New Eighth school building and promptly at 2.45 o'clock the march started. Leading the procession was Stuart MacKirdy, supervisor of music and director of the school band. The band was next in line and following it were the scholars. Each school had its own color and all of the children wore paper caps.

The color scheme was as follows: Central Street grades 1 and 2—pink; South End school grades 1 to 5—light blue; Old Eighth Street school, grades 3 and 4—purple; New Eighth school, grades 5 and 6—yellow; grammar school, grades 6 to 8—orange. There were also 80 high school girls in gym outfits.

The feature of the program was a wand drill presented by the pupils of the grammar school. The wands were wound with dark blue and had orange streamers on the ends. The imitation of animals and other objects by the kiddies of the first grade interested and amused the spectators.

The closing drill done in imitation of various sports and executed by grades 3 to 8 was also outstanding. The entire program was under the direction of Miss Edith Emerson, physical director of the schools in the town of Montague. It was estimated that nearly 600 people were present to witness the program.

June 12 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1931 - 1458.pdf](#)

The second concert of the season will be presented at Unity Park this evening at 8 o'clock by the Turners Falls Military band under the leadership of L. A. Bemis.

**June 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1931 - 1594.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls Girls Form Unity Park Baseball Team**

#### **Thirty More Register, Bringing Total Up to 90 – Practice for "Fourth" Drill**

TURNERS FALLS. June 26 The girls at Unity Park have formed a baseball team with the following players: Alice Robieki, pitcher; Veronica Putala, catcher; Marion Welcome, 3rd base; Edith Ostrowski, 2nd base; Francis Bourdeau, right field; Julia Kuklewicz, center grid; Sophie Rozecki, first base and Sophie Bogus, left field.

Miss Flagg, director, has posted a notice that girls of all ages must report on Monday morning next to practice for the drill to be held on the Fourth of July. Thirty more girls registered yesterday making a total of 90 girls to take part in the playground activities. The program for the girls division for next week is as follows: Monday mornings there will be volley and basketball with Junior tennis in the afternoon; Tuesday, junior tennis and dodge ball; Wednesday morning there will be field soccer and baseball with a special day program in the afternoon; Thursday there will be a hike. Friday, soccer and volley ball in the forenoon and in the afternoon the girls will receive swimming instructions at Green Pond. Saturday there will be miscellaneous games. Every morning next week from 9.30 until 10.30 there will be practice for the Fourth of July drill.

**June 27**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1931 - 1604.pdf](#)

### **Sparrows Win Over Red Wings in Junior Playground League**

The Sparrows won their second straight victory of the week in the Turners Falls playground<sup>13</sup> Midget league and took over first place by Two 2-base hits by G. Cadran and E. Bourdeau helped in defeating the Red Wings.

Score by innings: defeating the Red Wings, 4 to 1.

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
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Sparrows	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	—	4	11	1
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Red Wings	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	1	5	10
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Batteries—Sparrows, G. Cadran, A. Morin and Vlach.

Red Wings, Tanyuk and Ainsworth.

**July 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1931 - 1775.pdf](#)

### **Park Program Arranged**

Miss Thelma Flagg has arranged the following program for the girls at Unity Park, next week: Monday morning, Volley ball and handwork. Afternoon, handwork.

Tuesday morning, baseball with handwork in the afternoon.

Wednesday morning, Volley ball games with a soap bubble contest in the afternoon.

Thursday morning, soccer ball with handwork in the afternoon.

Friday morning, games of volley ball with handwork in the afternoon.

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<sup>13</sup> Unity Park was often times referred to as the Turners Falls Playground.

April 13, 1932      Greenfield MA Recorder 1932 - 0862.pdf

### County Court Team is Being Formed

#### Joe Welcome of Turners Seeking Games with Springfield, Vermont and N.H.

TURNERS FALLS—The formation of a tennis team which will include many of Franklin county's leading exponents of the court game is under way here with Joe Welcome, official at the annual tennis championship tourneys held at Unity Park as prime mover.

Welcome is negotiating with Springfield Triple A Tennis teams, as well as teams from southern Vermont and New Hampshire for matches. He stated Monday that practice matches may be played with Deerfield academy and Turners Falls high school tennis teams if officials at those two schools are agreeable to the proposal.

Prominent county courtmen[sic] who will probably be candidates for the team are Ralph Loomis, Ray Spenser and Fred Houston of Greenfield, Vincent Bostley and Edward Cray of Montague City and John Savage of Turners Falls. Charles Marston, ranked Number One man in the county through his win in the county singles tournament at Unity Park last August, may also be a candidate after the Turners Falls high team has completed its schedule. Marston is Captain, manager, and coach of the school netmen.[sic]

July 11      Greenfield MA Recorder 1932 - 1662.pdf

### Turners Falls Booster Program Watched By 2,000

#### Merchants Contribute Scores of Prizes for Varied Sport Events

TURNERS FALLS—The largest season, numbering crowd of the nearly 20007 Day program held at Unity Park Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the St. Stanislaus baseball team. Over three and one-half hours were required to run off the long program which included a parade, field events for boys, boxing bouts, vaudeville, competition between the rival baseball players and the ball game which was won by the locals in the last of the ninth inning by a score of 2-1.

The parade headed by "Happy" Zimmerman, local dancer and amateur, actor, and Eddie Togneri's novelty band, started from the Shea theatre at 1.15 o'clock. The first event at Unity Park was the 50-yard dash for boys under 10 years old. The winners in the order of their finish were Michael Schab, Edward Sicard, Frank Wojtasiewicz, William Sullivan and William Legere.

Matthew Jenjack won first in the 75-yard dash for boys from 10 to 16 years of age, Gerald Cadran was second. Charles Holewa was third, J. Velandar and John Delpha were fourth and fifth. In the 6-10 years age class of the shoe race Adolph Brozo was the winner of first prize. Other winners were Edward Kabaniek, Paul Whiteman, Leonard Bourbeau and Matthew Cislo.

In a shoe race for boys between 10 and 14 years of age, Edward Murphy won the first prize. Edward Morin, John Sojka, Joseph Zukowski and Matthew Jenjack were other

winners. Three boxing bouts between boys were the next events on the program. Harvey Welcome of Riverside acted as referee with John Early as timekeeper and Fred C. Haigis and Harold LeVanway as judges. Each of the bouts went three rounds. Matthew Jenjack beat Charles Novak. Matthew Cislo won from William Sullivan. The first bout was won by Bernard Kovalsick from Felix Naida.

Members of the rival teams then held a competition in baseball throwing and base running with two local men winning the accuracy throe and the running contest while a Greenfield man won the distance throw. Fred Riel's time in circling the bases was one second faster than that of Cooch Care, Eddie Deptula, or Kieran Moylan. Edward Hughes won the accuracy throw. Leander Holley of Greenfield won the distance throw. Following this came the Dion family of this town in a new acrobatic act.

Henry Kurtyka, attired as Mahatma Gandhi and Milda Hamelin as an old woman were each given first prize for their costumes in the parade. Other awards were made during the early innings of the baseball game to Harry White, Angelo Togneri, Harry Kingsworth, Edward Hanley, jr., Edward J. Dion, Everiste Hamelin, H. Sliva, Michael Geraghty, T.E. Donovan, D.M. Harrington, Christian Simpter, Joseph T. Mimer, Vincent Kovalsick, Joseph Bogusz, Raoul Guilbault.

Following the baseball game manager Joseph Tuminski and Louis Bush, directors of the program, thanked the merchants of the town who donated goods or services to all winners and many others. Members of the band were Edward Togneri, leader, Edward Stratton, Leonard Cadran, Harold Stotz, John Variest, John Kabaniec, Farrell Johnson, John Bush, Henry Zimmerman and Kenneth Carpenter. All were colorfully dressed for the occasion and provided the crowds at the park and along the line of march with much amusement.

**July 12**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1932 - 1671.pdf](#)

[Turners Falls Band Gives Fourth Concert on Friday](#)

[Baritone Soto by Harold Barnes to be Unity Park Feature](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Turners Falls Military and will present its fourth concert of the season at Unity Park Friday at 8 p. m. under the direction of Leonard A. Bemis of Greenfield.

Band officials requested Tuesday morning the crowd and the motorists refrain from leaving the park while "The Star-Spangled Banner", the national anthem and last number on each evening's program, is being played. They feel the noise of automobiles starting to move away and the talk of the spectators during the playing of the selection spoils the rendition of the national hymn and is lacking in Patriotism.

**July 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1932 - 1742.pdf](#)

### **Malcolm Alber Wins Montague Net Tournament**

**Defeats Charles Marston In Straight Sets 6-3, 8\*6, and 64**

TURNERS FALLS—Malcolm Alber, be-spectacled court star from Millers Falls, proved his superiority in town tennis circles by winning the final match in the town of Montague singles tournament from Charles Marston, at Unity Park, Monday night in straight sets 6—3, 6—6 and 6—4.

Alber, winner of the first town tourney in 1930 but absent last summer, climaxed his brilliant tournament play by taking all three sets from the 1931 champion, before a large gallery which saw both players cut loose with every bit of their court craft in the final test.

Although Marston was defeated, he played some of the finest tennis of his career. His service scorned across the net like a bullet and his forehand drives kept Alber from the net during much of the match. Alber played superbly, using every weapon of the tennis master's craft to down his younger opponent. His services were blisteringly[sic] hot while his placements from both backhand and forehand really decided the town crown.

**Sept. 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1932 - 2326.pdf](#)

### **Football Season to Open Sunday at Unity Park**

**Offensive Power Gives Powertown Nine Edge Over ALL-Willimansett Semi-Pros**

TURNERS FALLS—A long rectangular space marked out with white lines has taken the place of the Unity Park baseball diamond and at 2.30 o'clock Sunday afternoon 2,000 fans are expected to throng around this space as the 1932 gridiron season gets away to a flying start with Matt Care and his Turners Falls A.A. machine facing the All-Willimansett semi-pro eleven.

Little is known of the strength of either eleven as it is the initial appearance of both teams, but the Powertown rough-riding pigskin toters will be favored to edge out a win because of the undoubted offensive power in their backfield.

The addition of several Greenfield stars to last year's regular ball carriers has added speed to the power already possessed by the Caremen. With Dell Petrin, heady little field general, calling signals the A.A. can boast of one of the cleverest quarterbacks in the section while Warhorse Phillips at fullback, Sovecki at left half and Tuminski at the other halfback post make up one of the most powerful sets of ball carriers ever to represent the town.

In the line, the starting players have not yet been announced by Coach Matt Care, but they will probably be Capt. Harry St. Germain and Joe Kauchinski, ends; Harold Doran and Berthiaume, tackles; Begoss and Krynzel, guards, and Joe Martin or Botto Zankin at center. With a number of other fast and husky linemen on hand, this lineup may be greatly changed by gametime as Care has repeatedly announced no player has his position cinched. For the backfield substitutes Care has Joe Sicard, ex-Turners Falls high

star, and Nap Bernard, last year's star halfback to send in at any time. The players will be newly uniformed in red and white.

June 25, 1934 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1934 - 0816.pdf](#)

### [Montague Tennis Tourney Opens Play Today, 5:15](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Local tennis players will have their innings when the fifth annual town of Montague men's tennis tournament opens at the Unity Park courts tonight at 5.15. A total of 21 entries have been received, including those of Malcolm Alber of Millers Falls, defending titlist, and John Schuhle ranking number two man. The tournament is conducted under the direct supervision of Joe Welcome, manager of the local tennis club, and the playground commissioner.

The following is the. list of entries; Malcolm Alber, John Schuhle, John Burnham, Vincent Bostley, Ed Cray, Paul Martineau, John Savage. Carl Schuhle, Charles Girard, Francis Cowan, Albert Koch, J. Bourdeau, Don Grogan, James Humphrey, Charles Tuttle, Richard Berard, Gustave Milkey, Howard Miller, Robert Foley, Lloyd Garrand and P. Nadeau.

Pairings for the opening night's play are as follows; Court 1. at 5.15, Grogan vs. Foley; Court 2. Berard vs. Miller; Court 1. at 6.15 Bostley vs. Bourdeau; Court 2. Milkey vs Tuttle.

Aug. 17 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1934 - 1344.pdf](#)

### [Bandstand Painted](#)

Workmen have been busy the past few days, scraping and painting the cupola of the bandstand at Unity Park, which had become greatly corroded by the weather.

The entire surface is being given a fresh coat of white paint, and the metal work polished.

Sept. 12 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1934 - 1585.pdf](#)

### [Turners Falls Children Enjoy First \\$5,000 Splash](#)

#### [Water Turned into New Wading Pool at Unity Park Yesterday](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The town's new \$5000 wading pool at Unity Park was completed yesterday, and by sunset hundreds of children had conducted an unofficial opening, splashing about, and disporting themselves with great glee in the water, unmindful of the evening chill.

The water was first turned on about noon yesterday, and in an hour the pool was full, with a depth of a trifle more than one foot. There yet remains some work to be done, such as grading about the pool, and levelling the land, but the children could not wait for such unimportant details, and took complete possession after dinner.

Work on the pool began late in June, after the site had been changed from the north side of the park proper to the vacant lot across the street from the playground. The plan was first broached early in May, when a committee was named from the Rotary club to confer with the selectmen upon the proposal. This committee consisted of Albert R. Smith and Charles F. Mosher. and it was decided eventually that a pool could be constructed at an estimated cost of \$5640, the federal government to supply \$3965 of that sum from FERA funds.

Shortly after the actual work began, FERA suspensions caused delays in the work, which was followed by a spell of bad weather, resulting in the completion of the pool being delayed by a few weeks. The men began pouring cement on Aug. 1 and from that time the work progressed rapidly, helped by the additional FERA allotment assured continuous work.

The pool is 142 feet long and 72 feet wide, with concrete floor and sides, the latter erected at an incline in order to obviate the possibility of cracking and buckling during the winter's frosts. After the early excavations, which was the most difficult stage of the entire project, 250 tons of crushed stone were used for the foundations and grading around the pool. About 430 barrels of cement have been poured in the construction of floor and sides.

The water enters the pool by means of pipes at each end in the center, and there are aeration outlets to provide a steady flow of fresh water, complying with all health requirements. It is estimated that when the water is turned-on, about 150 gallons each minute enter the pool. Further plans in regard to grading and beautifying, the land about the pool have not been divulged, though workmen have been occupied in the past few days clearing away the brush and undergrowth leading to the river bank, and it may be that by next summer that section will present a truly park-like appearance.

**Dec. 5**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1934 - 2367.pdf](#)

### **Rotary Club Group Advances Project for Unity Park Treat**

TURNERS FALLS—Whether or not the children of Turners Falls are to enjoy their annual Christmas tree party at Unity Park this year will depend upon the result of a general meeting to be held at the town hall on Fourth street tomorrow at 7 p. m.

The Community Service committee of the Rotary club, of which supt. Joseph S. Keating is chairman, is calling the Meeting, and hopes to have all civic, fraternal, and church organizations represented.

Should the sentiment of those assembled prove favorable, committees representing every civic group will be appointed, and preparations immediately begun for the party.

Turners Falls has always done much for its young folk, and the community which is why they urge an early start in order to insure a successful and enjoyable party.

January 22, 1935      Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 0183.pdf

### Turners Falls Youngsters Find Winter Sport Joy Skating and Skiing Enjoyed—Ice Fishing Popular—Unity Park Crowded

TURNERS FALLS—Though, there are those to whom the rigors of a cold winter are anything but a pleasure, the younger people of Turners Falls have exulted in the heavy snowfalls and cold weather resulting in good skating and skiing conditions. Winter sports are nourishing here as they have not for many years past, and coasting and skating have regained a popularity that had waned somewhat in the past few years.

Every fair day Unity Park is swarmed with hordes of youngsters taking advantage of the excellent coasting afforded by the hill at the rear of the park, while the rink across the street is in use every day and night by both young and old.

The park supervisors have declared that more children are using the playground for winter sports than in several years, and, the directors are kept busy maintaining the rink in good condition and guarding against the possibility of accidents to the younger children.

The wisdom of a combination wading pool for the summer months and a skating rink for winter has been demonstrated by the ease with which the rink has been flooded for skating this year. In other years, it was sometime, several hours before the rink was completely flooded, and then a day or two before the surface was suitable for skating. This year, however, with direct water flow from the rink itself, an ice surface can be formed much more quickly, and a more uniform surface possible.

Not all current winter sports are being confined to Unity Park, however. Enthusiastic youngsters are transforming the hills surrounding the town into ski-jumps and toboggan slides, some of the jumps being of the type that would give professionals anxious moments. Skiing has always been popular here, but seldom have the youngsters displayed as much ingenuity in erecting jumps and slides.

Among the older sportsmen, ice fishing continues popular, with the "cove" on the Connecticut being the favorite gathering place. Some unusually fine catches have been recorded from that spot. The true angler knows no season, but can pursue his art winter and summer.

June 7                      Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 1515.pdf

### Turners Falls May Have July Fourth Celebration Park Commissioners and T.F. A.C. Plan Program - First in Several Years

TURNERS FALLS—Although plans are still in the formative stage, it is probable that Turners Falls will have an organized celebration of Fourth of July at Unity Park for the first time in several years. Agitation towards such observance has grown in the past few weeks, and a tentative program is already being arranged.

When the park was first opened in 1923, Independence Day celebrations were the rule rather than the exception, often including gaudy street parades, athletic

events, and musical festivals The fireworks displays at night attracted hundreds of spectators from far and near, and was the most brilliant event of the year here. While current plans do not contemplate anything of such wide scope, it is hoped to make the day less eventful than has been true of the past few years

The park commissioners and the Turners Falls A. C. are cooperating in preparing the program, which at present seems likely to include a baseball game, athletic events, band concert, and other entertainment.

Wayne Pleasant, representing the athletic club, has slated that he hopes to secure some colorful outside team for the baseball game, while every effort will be made to achieve as well-balanced a program-as possible.

The park is already in excellent condition for the summer season, with completion of the new bleachers being the only work remaining to be done. Consequently, the commissioners feel that an organized program would be an appropriate means of opening the summer season, as well as be a fitting celebration of the nation's birthday.

**July 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 1767.pdf](#)

[Turners Falls Expects Active Summer Program](#)

[July 4th Celebration Begins Long List of Events - Picnics and Park Popular](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Although the summer promises no, burning municipal questions such as occupied the citizens at the special town meeting last July, from an entertainment standpoint the season is expected to be one of the liveliest in years. Beginning with the gala July 4th celebration the recreation program will be a busy one, keeping pleasure-seekers occupied until after Labor Day.

The summer program will include the grand lodge convention of Gustav Adolph lodges in August, as well as the numerous' week-end parties and picnics which have become a regular feature of the summer activities here. Then There will be the annual field, day of the Franklin County 8sportsmen's league early in September which last year attracted a crowd of more than 1,200 persons.

Both Polish societies conduct frequent public picnics at the French King pavilion—while the American Legion and the Polish war veterans posts also hold outings from time to time.

At Unity Park, even the adults have become interested in-the day time sports of the youngsters, and the boys' baseball leagues are gradually developing a following. The wading pool is increasing in popularity among the wee tots, and, is thronged every afternoon and evening, making a colorful sight with its three gushing fountains in which children clad in bathing suits of every conceivable color disport themselves throughout the hot afternoons.

Since most of the factories of the town will probably be running on part-time again this summer, many find themselves with considerable leisure, and on hot days, the river has again become a popular resort. An observer last Sunday counted no less than 34 boats

of various types and descriptions on the water, while every stretch of land along the banks remotely resembling a beach was thronged with swimmers. Ice cream parlors, liquor establishments, and dine and dance centers hope for a fairly brisk season, and those whose circumstances prevent recreation vacations at the beaches or mountains are expecting to find sufficient entertainment opportunities throughout the summer at home or at the park.

**Sept. 28**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 2639.pdf](#)

### **Aces<sup>14</sup> Confident of First Victory**

TURNERS FALLS—Bolstered by the addition of new recruits at vital points, the Turners Falls A. C. will seek their first victory of the season. Gomes, Bullet Campbell, and the Willimansett A. A. of Holyoke at Unity Park. The weakness apparent in the opening defeat at the hands of another Holyoke eleven have been thoroughly checked, and the Aces are believed to be ready to begin their quest for victory in earnest.

Struggling with the complicated Warner attack last week, the locals looked rather awkward and their fairly good defensive play was discounted by a poor offense. This system has now been discarded, and the Powertowners[sic] have returned to a style more in keeping with semipro football.

The Willamansett A. A., directed by Hap Bourbeau, justly ranks with the usual powerful machines assembled yearly in the paper city. They are reported to possess a fast, shifty attack, with a roster almost entirely composed of young men recently out of school, well-calculated to make an interesting afternoon for the locals.

A spirited practice at Unity Park last night left the Turners eleven in fighting trim for this second conflict, and local fans can expect to see the Aces comport themselves Sunday more in keeping with the Powertown football tradition. Since daylight saving time begins tonight, the kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p. m., with Bob Casey again handling the whistle.

**Dec. 24**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 3474.pdf](#)

### **Failure To Flood Skating Rinks Annoys T. F. Skaters**

#### **Complain of Park Delay –Wading Pool Opened for Sport Today**

TURNERS FALLS—As the mercury continues to hover, about the zero-mark, local winter sports enthusiasts are complaining at the failure of the Unity Park supervisors to flood the skating rinks here for their favorite sport.

Albert A. Guilbault, park supervisor, has explained that officials are awaiting definite approval of the town's proposed WPA recreation program. Should this be accepted, rinks would be constructed, not only at Unity Park, but in every section of the town, with regular supervisors in attendance at each. Until such action is taken, it has been deemed advisable

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<sup>14</sup> Pronounced; **A-Cees**. (T.F. **A**thletic **C**lub)

to forego flooding the park rinks. Guilbault stated late this morning, however, that the wading pool was now available for skating, having "been flooded during the night.

Skaters, however, have become bitter in their denunciation of what has been termed "a needless delay." They cannot understand why the recreation program can prevent immediate flooding of the wading pool at the park, as in other years, and they point to the fact that many are now going out of town to enjoy the sport.

Barton's cove on the Connecticut remains the only available skating spot in this community at present; but many refuse to trust the river, and most parents refuse to permit their Children to skate there. The ice is quite solid at this time, but those familiar with the river know that the briefest warm spell could make it unsafe and hazardous for skating. Rinks were constructed at the park for the express purpose of keeping children off the river, and the dissenters now maintain that the failure to provide skating at the park is a direct contradiction of this policy.

**Dec. 27**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1935 - 3450.pdf](#)

### [Santa Remembers 1800 Youngsters](#)

#### [Arrives at Unity Park in Snow Squall to Distribute Gifts](#)

TURNERS FALLS—On the winds of a timely snowsquall, Santa Claus came out of the north last night to greet a horde of more than 1000 youngsters at the town's annual Christmas tree party at Unity Park. Rain had threatened earlier in the afternoon, with a postponement being feared, but the weather cleared sufficiently to make the affair fully as successful as those of the past.

As early as 5 o'clock, youngsters of every age and description were scurrying to the park to secure advantageous positions in line, and when the program opened at 6 15. the playground and its adjoining hill was a swarming mass of eager children, all impatient for the arrival of their patron saint.

The program opened with group singing by the elementary grade school's glee club, directed by Miss Florence Argy. The group made a colorful picture as it stood forth on the bandstand, bathed in the lights from the tiny Christmas trees, and clad in red medieval costumes. This presentation was of 16 minutes duration, and was followed by a concert consisting of carols by the Turners Falls military band at the bandstand.

Promptly at 6.30, the tinkle of sleighbells could be heard in the distance, and then, with a majestic flourish, Santa Claus drove into the park, followed by a corps of assistants. The children lined up two abreast, and amid merry shouts and laughter, presented the tickets which entitled them to the gifts with Santa Claus drove into the park, followed by a corps of assistants. The children lined up two abreast, and amid merry shouts and laughter, presented the tickets which entitled them to the gifts with which the old fellow's bags bulged. Members of the local police assisted in carrying put the program without disorder, and by 7 o'clock each youngster had been sent on his way, rejoicing. Members of the

committee today expressed their thanks to. the civic. fraternal, and church organizations whose assistance and generosity had made this annual treat possible

October 3, **1936**     [Greenfield MA Recorder 1936 - 2739.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls WPA Projects**

TURNERS FALLS—Approximately 35,000 attended functions at Unity Park during the summer season, it was estimated today by Albert Guilbeault director at the park. This includes the period from May 28 until Sept. 8. The average is slightly more than it was last year inasmuch as activities at the park were aided by the WPA recreational project.

On the annual Turners Falls school field day held at Unity Park, on June 11, it was estimated that nearly 200 were on the field for the field day, while for the field day held on July 4, it was estimated that 1000 took part.

The wading pool was rivaled in attendance by only the band concerts and the adult softball games. Much interest was also shown in the school children's leagues that were played throughout the summer season.

Special events such as the Montague tennis tournament and the Franklin County tennis tournament are included but the 2000 that gathered to hear the Eastern States Band association play a joint concert on Sept. 18, have not been added to these figures.

August 23, **1937**     [Greenfield MA Recorder 1937 - 2345.pdf](#)

### **No Band Concert**

Tonight, will be the first Friday this summer that Unity Park will not echo the weekly band concert. The concerts will resume Aug. 27 after attendance of band members at Fort Ethan Allen with the Brattleboro national guard.

**Sept. 23**     [Greenfield MA Recorder 1937 - 2747.pdf](#)

### **Summer Sports Drew 4000 Weekly to Unity Park**

TURNERS FALLS—An average of nearly 4,000 children and adults witnessed and took part in sporting events weekly this summer at Unity Park, Albert Guilbault, director of the park, said yesterday. This however does not include those at the weekly concerts by the Turners Falls military band.

Softball became more popular with an average attendance numbering 200. \_Horseshoes, although not in tournaments, were a close second A class in tennis instruction, under the direction of Joseph Welcome interested the children. Three racquets were donated. Modeling and painting classes under direction of Edward Tognerie[sic] at the park shack drew children and adults.

Softball James totaled 116, 45 of which were in the industrial league. The remainder were independent games and tilts in the firemen's league. Participating in the industrial

league were 56 men. The midget and senior leagues, playing hardball, gave a total of 66 games.

Participating in the midget league were 88 children. in the senior league 44 players took part.

The wading pool drew numbers of children, throughout the summer with an average daily attendance of 200. With the construction of the bath house the attendance next year is expected to be greater.

Since the first of July the project has run with nine instructors. At that time the staff of WPA assistants was cut from 16. These included Edward Togneri, Richard Berard, Joseph Welcome, Matt Care, William Richotte, Miss Helen Grueling at Montague City, and Eugene Berard at Millers Falls.

Report of Guilbault for play grounds under his direction in the other towns of Montague included Montague City which proved to be highly popular with an average daily attendance of nearly 250. Although much of this attendance was for baseball and softball, the most popular sport was horseshoe pitching in Millers Falls the average attendance was 150, mostly for baseball. The playground in Montague center was closed the first of July because of the cut in personnel.

With the beginning of school much; of the activity at the park has ceased. Fall and winter activities will be announced soon.

**Sept. 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1937 - 2709.pdf](#)

### **Start Work on Bathhouse at Unity Park**

TURNERS FALLS—Albert Guilbault director at Unity Park, announced this morning that construction had begun on a new bathing house on the west side of the wading pool. It will be 42 feet long and 11 feet wide.

In the summer time there will be a collapsible partition erected for bathing purposes. white in the winter time a stove will be installed for use of skating parties. It will be the first bathhouse to be erected at Unity Park and is expected to make the pool even more popular.

It was hoped today that construction may be finished by the start of the winter season. At the present time the park personnel is doing the work, under the direction of the park commissioners, with cost of construction paid by the [town and private donations].

**January 6, 1939**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1938 - 0039 \(2\).pdf](#)

### **Describes Accident**

Horace Stratton of Seventh street father of Helen Stratton who fractured her ankle in a tobogganing accident at Unity Park Monday night stated today his daughter was not dragging her foot on the slide. Helen, he reports, was on the front of the toboggan with two

companions sitting behind her. She had her feet inside, and when the toboggan struck the pipe, the impact forced her foot against the front, fracturing the ankle.

May 16, **1940**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1940 - 1478.pdf](#)

### [Announce Slate](#)

-TURNERS FALLS—Albert A. Guilbault, president of the WPA Industrial league, today announced the following softball schedule. All games will be played at Unity Park.

**Note: Only the May schedule is given. June is much like May.**      *e.g.*

May 20, Ooglies vs TFAA; M. F. Orioles vs Esso; 21, M. F. Tool vs M F. Paper; Fran's Shoe vs Rod and Reel; 22, Rod and Reel vs TFAA; Esso vs M. F. Tool; 24, Ooglies Fran's Shoe; M F. Paper vs M. F. Orioles; May 27, Esso vs Rod and Reel; M. F. Paper vs Ooglies; 28, Fran's Shoe vs TFAA; M F. Tool vs; Orioles; 29, TFAA vs M. F. Paper; Essos vs Ooglies; 31, M F. Orioles vs Fran's Shoe; M. F. Tool vs Rod and Reel.

### [-Ooglies, T. F.A. A. in Dusty Wins](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Ooglies defeated the Millers Falls Orioles 19 to 16, and the Turners Falls A. A. defeated the Millers Falls Toolmen 13 to 4 in WPA industrial league games at Unity Park last night.

The Ooglies showed its strength in early frames, while the Orioles got 13 of their 16 runs in the last four innings, Sojka, Ryan, Kozeski, and Dion bit homers. The TFAA had little difficulty keeping the opposition in check throughout Christian, Yarmac, and. A. Golembeski were credited with circuit clouts.

**Note: The following is as the newspaper printed it.**      *e.g.*

<b>Ooglies</b>		<b>M.F. Orioles</b>	
Ryan		Name obliterated	
Gozeski	c	R. Morin	c
Zentrgraf		Kostanski	r, 3
W. Morin	l	Skrzypek	l
Cadran		Galvis	3, r
Muszynski		Currie	ss
Gagne		Cateciolfi	rf
Sojka		E. Sicard	lf
E. Gagne		L. Sicard	cf
Dion		Bourbeau	p
Legere		Baer	2

May 22, **1941**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1941 - 0574.pdf](#)

### [Bands Combine to Open Season](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The first open-air concert of the season by the Turners Falls Military band is scheduled for the evening of June 8 at the bandstand at Unity Park. The group will be consolidated with the Turners Falls high school band for this opening

concert. Both are under direction of Charles M. Bickford, who assumed leadership of the military band this year.

**June 4**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1941 - 0707.pdf](#)

### [First Concert for Unity Park](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The program for the first band concert of the season, to be held at the bandstand at Unity Park Friday at 8 p m, is as follows: March, "National Emblem," by Bagley; overture, "Aladdin's Lamp," by O'Neil; solo, "The Lost Chord," by Sullivan; trombone solo by Miss Regina Boulanger; selection, "Soldier's Life," by Keler Bela; selection, "Star Dust," by Carmichael.

Following the intermission cornea another march. "Little Giant" by Moon; selection. "The Merry Widow," by Lehar; selection, "Intermes\* so Romantique," by Haines; waltzes, "Symphia," by Blake; march, "Brasses Triumphant" by Holmes, and closing selection, "The Star Spangled Banner."

For this opening concert the high school band will be consolidated with the Turners Falls Military band, both of which are under the direction of Charles M. Bickford.

August 28, **1942**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1942 - 2415.pdf](#)

### [Soldiers Guard County Military Objectives as Maneuvers Open](#)

**Note:** An abbreviated article showing only Unity Park content.      *e.g.*

Franklin county military objectives will be theoretically attacked this week-end as the first army service command in Boston opens New England—wide maneuvers, affecting thousands of federal and state troops . . .

The Turners Falls-Gill highway bridge at Riverside was patrolled. At Unity Park, the men set up field headquarters including feeding facilities for the 50 men and three officers there. . . .

May 26, **1944**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1944 - 1351.pdf](#)

### [Turners Falls School Children Hold Field Day](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Several hundred school children participated in the annual parade and field day yesterday, at Unity Park. It was the highlight of the school year for the children who took part in a varied program of entertainment.

The parade formed on Seventh street at 10 a.m. Led by the elementary school band, the first graders marched proudly up Avenue A followed by the other grades. The high school band, with the grammar school and high School pupils formed the rear guard. The time of march was up Avenue A to Second street to the park.

Following the salute to the flag by the entire assembly, a general drill was given by pupils of Grades four, five, six, seven and eight. Grade one gave a folk dance and a game. Grade two gave an exhibition of marching, running, and skipping followed by a folk dance;

a ribbon dance and game was contributed by Grade three while Grade four demonstrated a folk dance. Grades five and six allowed their skill at square dancing, following which Grades seven and eight gave a wand drill. The physical fitness exercises and an exhibition of the high school girls tumbling team showed careful training. The final exercise of the day was the battalion military drill and calisthenics by the high school boys.

**Aug. 22**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1944 - 2178.pdf](#)

### **Final Band Concert**

The Turners Fall Military band under the direction of Noe Regali will play its final concert Friday at 8 p. m. at Unity Park.

The following is an all-request program: National Anthem, march, "Bugles and Drums", Goldman, overture, "Stradella," Flotow; selection, "Lucia di Lammasoor," Donazetti; march. "National Emblem," Bagley; march, "God Bless America, Berlin; selection; "Il Trevetore", Verdi; Lullaby, Brahms; "None But the Lonely Heart," Tschaikowsky; march, "Stars and Stripes," Sousa.

**May 23, 1945**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1945 - 1398.pdf](#)

### **Roosevelt Memorial Service in Readiness at Turners Falls**

TURNERS FALLS—Memorial services for the late commander-in-chief, Franklin H Roosevelt, which were originally scheduled for April 32 are to be held Sunday at Unity Park, starting at about 2 p.m.

The services were postponed to this date because Gov. Maurice J Tobin, has accepted the invitation from the selectmen of Montague to be present on that day. He will deliver his address from the band stand at Unity Park at 3 p. m.

All civic and patriotic organizations are cooperating' with the selectmen in order that the services may be conducted in a fitting and proper.

**Dec. 14**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1945 - 3425.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Daly-Solomon post, VFW, will meet at the bandstand at Unity Park Saturday at 1:15 p. m. to decorate the bandstand and trees with Christmas lights. Members are asked; to be present.

**April 13, 1946**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1946 - 1065.pdf](#)

### **Baseball Workout at Unity Park for TFAC<sup>15</sup> Tomorrow**

The Turners Falls A.C. baseball have another practice session Sunday afternoon at Unity Park, according to a statement today by President James Guy who is busy lining up a

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<sup>15</sup> Turners Falls Athletic Club.      *e.g.*

schedule of games for the Aces<sup>16</sup> which should find the Turners Falls team as active as in pre-war years.

Coach Baldy Pervere wants his entire squad at Unity Park at 1:30 p.m. so that they may take full advantage of the warmest part of the day for an intensive workout.

Previous practice sessions have been devoted to a batting drill, with limited throwing of the ball for fear of sore arms. Pervere is anxious to get his squad working under pressure and is therefore hoping for warm weather Sunday.

**July 5**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1946 - 1930.pdf](#)

### **Thousands Welcome Vets Back to Turners Falls with Giant '4th' Program**

TURNERS FALLS —Attracting nearly 10,000 to the fireworks display in the evening at Unity park and 6,000 to the morning parade the welcome home celebration here, yesterday, was one of the most colorful and successful event in the history of the town.

Through thousands along Avenue A, waving balloons, and excited children, the parade, which included more than 80 units, was led by the colors in the hands of representatives of various branches of the services. Following in the first division was the parade executive committee, George F. Wrightson, Winslow Wentworth, and Charles Bankwitz; the marshal, Arthur E. Burke, and his staff; Selectmen Daniel Kelleher, John Charron, and Leo Saulnier; Greenfield military band and divisions from the second battalion, Massachusetts state guard.

In front of the reviewing stand on Fourth street and Avenue A the state guard companies fell out. drew up on the sides of the street in formation, and presented arms in tribute to veterans-of the World war who marched through to lead the parade.

#### **Veterans in Division**

The third division, headed by the American Legion band of Claremont, N.H., was composed of veterans of World wars one, auxiliaries, gold star mothers and fathers, Polish veterans and auxiliaries and guests. Leading the remaining three divisions, respectively, were the Millers Falls drum corps, Eagles drum corps, and the Fitchburg military band. Displays of counter-marching were presented at the Judges' stand by the North Adams drum corps. Among floats entered were the following: Raising the flag at Iwo Jima, locomotive and the "40 and eight" box car<sup>17</sup> resembling the type which was much used by the American army in France, the children's crusade, sports, baseball, basketball, track, football, angels denoting peace. Turners Falls airport, various Indian displays, United Nations conference, covered wagons, a troop of horses and many other floats and decorated automobiles.

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<sup>16</sup> Pronounced A Cs (aces).

*e.g.*

<sup>17</sup> The "40 and 8" is a vehicle used during WWI. It could carry 40 troops or 8 horses.

*e.g.*

In the reviewing stand were representatives of veterans' organizations, members of the clergy, town officials, the press and the judges, Miss Mery O'Brien of Greenfield, Charles Higinbotham, and John Quinn.

Winners of the awards which were donated by the Esleek corporation were announced at the park in the afternoon as follows: beet float, St Cecelia's version of angels denoting peace; honorable mention, St. Mary's crusaders and Schutzen-Verein floats; St Stanislaus "Crossroads of the Nation" float, second, with honorable mention to Clarence W. Allen peat Highland PTA, and Valley Queen Rebekah lodge. For decorated cars the Marie Beauty shop was first; and honorable mention went to Ladies of St. Anne. The Mohawk Riding club was given a special award for its entry.

### **Ends At Park**

The parade was completed at Unity Park where all units were drawn in a circle and the massed bands played the national anthem. Preceding the ball game in the afternoon at the park was an informal program with a drill by the North Adams drum corps, thanks by Daniel Kelleher, chairman of the board of selectmen expressing appreciation to committees and individuals who had participated in the activities, and thanks to God for the return of many veterans,<sup>18</sup> a tribute by James Trembl, recent commander of the VFW post, to those who had lost their lives. "Taps", played by Barbara Baker, former member of the marine women's reserve corps, and the national anthem.

A contest demonstrating skill on the baseball diamond resulted in the following: Base running, Edward Mleczeko, first; Mucha, second; Sullivan, (Gloversville) third; accuracy throw to second base, Gloski, first; Lemay (Gloversville), second; distance hitting, Carney, (Gloversville) first; Gloski, second; and Irossi, (Gloversville) third; most accurate throw from center field was won by J. Simanski, first, and W. LaFrance, second, both, of this town.

At 2:30 the Turners Falls A. C lost a well-played game to a team from Gloversville, N. Y., lest year's semi-pro champions. At 9:15 illumination from the fireworks display showed the entire south bank of the park a sea of faces. The display was begun with a "welcome home" flare and continued with various multi-colored pieces and flying bombs highlighted by a parachute holding the American flag dropping from the sky. A final set piece flare also presented the American flag-in illumination.

The police and fire departments reported today no accidents occurred during the celebrations.

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<sup>18</sup> "God knows and does all." Think of the implications.

Anon.

February 8, 1947      Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1947 - 0437.pdf

### Player and Friend

Sports in Turners Falls hereafter will be less colorful without presence of the late Albert A. Guilbault. one of the meet ardent sponsors of good, clean rivalry the community, ever baa had. His unstinted assistance will be remembered long after the present generation has followed him to final rest.

Throughout the life he spent in Turners Falls he took an active part in its sporting life. After attending local schools, he went to work for the John Russell cutlery in Greenfield. About this time, he became a member of the Father Matthew basketball team, which at the beginning of the century had become famous throughout the east. In those days the St Mary's and Fr. Matt's (Father Matthew Temperance association) teams were the two grant rivals of the community, and among the greatest teams in the area.

In recalling those early days which undoubtedly inspired Mr. Guilbault to devote his entire life to the sports world, Turners Falls residents have noted that "there wasn't any sittin' on the fence then. Everyone was on one side or the other." When the two home-town teams were scheduled to that their abilities on the basketball floor, man, and women alike quit work at the mill early and moved into Hibernian Hall with sandwiches to give the place the appearance of an armed camp. In those days, when basketball was not encumbered by so many rules as at present, the fans often clashed along with the players and the packed halls echoed the din.

With this and other teams, "Newt", as he was known to hundreds of young and old, was a good player. He was an equally good "player" as a citizen of the town. He aided and supported tba Unity Park project, which has become one of the favorite recreation areas for hundreds of Turners Falls children. He served aa supervisor of WPA recreation projects at a period when the beat use of leisure time was occupying the minds of many. He has helped school children get many bits of playground apparatus and sports equipment which in turn has helped develop their minds and bodies for the more serious aspects of adult life.

Turners Falls will continue to be Franklin county's leading sports community. The foundation for this honor was built by men like "Newt" Guilbault.

August 3, 1948      Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1948 - 2667.pdf

### Plan Unity Park Events for Children

TURNERS FALLS—Playground directors have planned a busy schedule this month for youths at Unity Park. The next main event will, be an Inter-playground competition between the local boys and girls and visitors from the Shelburne Falls playgrounds on Aug. 11.

A baseball game between girls and boys from both playgrounds will feature the program, Director Harold Fugere has announced. Miss Mildred Zak has requested all girls

planning to participate-In the softball game should register et the field Thursday when they will have a practice session.

On Aug. 14 the local aerie of Eagles will sponsor a field day with soap-box derby and doll carriage contest as the main attractions. Fugere said the boys planning to enter the race down Seventh street, if permission is granted, should prepare their racers early, and register at the playground. Five entrants include Harry Williams. Paul LeMoine. Gerald Tibbetts, Kenneth Patnode and Raymond Brule.

Deciding that he will not enter the race this year, Jimmy Baird has offered the use of his racer to a boy without one and who would like to participate. Baird, who is last years winner, met with an accident and won't risk another.

The girls had-a bathing beauty contest last month. and the playground staff has agreed that the boys will have an opportunity to display their "Charles Atlas" physique on Aug, 25 when the Clinton Jarvis welding shop and Herman Sons will be co-sponsors of a junior America show and a pet contest The boys must be seven or under and will parade around the area. The pet show will be open to all boys and girls 15 years and under.

Popsicles left from the track meet Saturday were given to more than 100 youngsters yesterday morning. Because they quit the game at the end of the sixth inning after receiving their popsicles, the Hill team lost by a forfeit even though they had scored 13 runs to eight for Millers Falls.

Joe Tuminski hit a two-bagger as did Jim Ahearne. Both are on the Hill team. Gmyrek and Dresser each got a home run for the Millers Falls club.

June 18, 1949 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1949 - 2327.pdf](#)

### [Band to Play in Turners Falls](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The first Military band concert of 1949 will be Sunday at 8 pm., Jacob L. Alber, manager, announced today. This is the 58th year the town has sponsored concerts.

A series of eight local concerts: it's planned this year with one performance in Millers Falls and one in Montague. At the close of the season band members will present an extra concert at Farren Memorial hospital.

The band is an outgrowth of the former Germania cornet band and was organized in 1892.

Early managers included the late Edward P. March, Martin Neipp, John W. Haigis, Wallace Harrington, Claude McClintock. Jacob Galion, Harry Maddern, William Baker, and now Jacob L. Alber.

Since 1924<sup>19</sup> when the town erected the bandstand at Unity Park a series of 10 concerts a year has been played. Alber has been with the band 42 years, the longest period.

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<sup>19</sup> Unity Park was established in the fall of 1923. Two bandstands were erected that year, one of which is the structure researched in this account. *e.g.*

Admitted as members last year. Audrey Webster, Edward Podlenski, and Donald Girard are youngest in point of service. After high school graduation Jane Allen, Barbara Slate, Nancy Blood. Joan Couture, Joan Gay. Robert Call, and Winslow C. Wentworth, jr., will become members. Other members of the high school band play with the members, but are not eligible for membership while at school.

Among numbers to be played, tomorrow, are an overture, "Orpheus", by Offenbach; college songs; "Spirit of America", Zamecnik; "Deep Purple", DeRose; and "Valse Triste", Sibeus.

**Aug. 9**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1949 - 3014.pdf](#)

### **Playground Notes**

Movies will be shown at the Unity Park bandstand at 8:30 tonight.

March 7, **1950**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 0866.pdf](#)

The trustees of veteran's memorial noted in their annual report the Unity Park bandstand, is in "very poor condition". Windows have been broken, toilet facilities are so poor they may not be used, and the bandstand has been damaged by vandalism and misuse.

March 12      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 0960.pdf](#)

**Note: Town Meeting. A truncated article showing Bandstand information. e.g.**

. . . The finance committee had not recommended an addition to the bandstand at Unity Park because they were not satisfied the proposed equipment would be property maintained.

However, Wayne E. Pleasant, one of five war memorials trustees appointed by the selectmen last year and who was elected this year, said improvements to the bandstand toilet facilities were needed. He added they would be supervised by the trustees in conjunction with the playground commission.

### **Improve Park Facilities**

Pleasant made the motion that \$3,692 be appropriated and said the trustees would insure that the property would not fall into disrepair. Trembl asked how the trustees could live up to the guarantee. Paul Ritchotte, another trustee answered, "If here are any discrepancies, see us: we'll take care of them." Pleasant said additions would include comfort stations, showers in the basement, and a stock room for caretaker's supplies. Garbiel wanted to know where the heat for the memorial came from and Pleasant said there is none. He said heating was included in the appropriation request and would be electrical.

**March 26**     [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 1125.pdf](#)

### **Plan Memorial Work in Turners**

TURNERS FALLS—Plans for improvement to the World War one memorial, Unity Park bandstand. are being drawn by Winslow C. Wentworth, Wayne Pleasant, chairman of the war memorial trustees said today. Specifications will be let to bidders soon, he said.

A total of \$3692 was voted for improvements and additions to the bandstand at the annual meeting, March 11. Included in the plans are comfort station, basement showers, a stock room for caretaker's supplies, and heating system.

Pleasant was reelected chairman at the organization meeting this week and Paul Ritchotte was renamed secretary. The park commissioners met with trustees to discuss care and upkeep of the bandstand and the two groups will work together on the project.

A committee of three, including Selectman John A. Charron, David Solomon, and James Guy, was named to report on the feasibility of landscaping, reseeding, and cleaning the World war one plaque on Avenue A The trustees noted in their annual report the plaque is in need of cleaning and lacquering, the stone in need of resurfacing, and removal of discoloration.

**April [6]**     [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 1305.pdf](#)

### **NOTICE**

Bids will be accepted on the proposed addition to the Unity Park Band Stand according to the plans and specifications on file at the town office.

The Trustees reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

Wayne Pleasant, Davis Solomon, Paul Richotte, James Guy Anthony Bialecki  
War Memorial Trustees Town of Montague

**April 15**     [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 3160.pdf](#)

### **Display Unity Park Awards, Turners Falls**

TURNERS FALLS—Awards for the American Legion sponsored Softball contest for girls at Unity Park are on display at the Corner book store, the girls' director, Joan Couture, announced today.

A tennis racket was donated by the E. M. Gulow company and a cover for the racket, a Softball mitt, ball, bat, and cap by the Legion. The first of the three-phase contest was started yesterday, but because two girls could not appear this part, the circling of bases, will be completed today with the second phase, which is fungo hitting.<sup>20</sup> The third phase or catcher's throw to second base will be completed, Wednesday.

Points will be scored in each phase with five earned for first place, three for second, and-one for third. The person earning the most points in the contest will win it.

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<sup>20</sup> "Fungo" is used to describe a coach hitting ground or fly balls to players to develop their hand-eye coordination, in turn, their baseball skills.

Miss Couture also announced today she is seeking transportation so that her team can play the Greenfield Green-river team in that town. Anyone who wishes to donate transportation may contact Miss Joan Couture at the park.

– [Plan Unity Park Ball, Base-Running Contests](#)

TURNERS FALLS—A circling the bases contest will be conducted at Unity Park at 2 p.m. tomorrow with three age groups competing, 13 to 15, 10 to 12 and under 10, Boys Dir. Paul Bourdeau announced today.

A total of six prizes, two for each group, were donated by E.M. Gulow and company, inc., Reen shop, Trudel's, Milkey's, Eva Girard's and Pfersick's. Prizes include a pair of sneakers, box of chocolates, bat, wallet and two sweaters.

Bourdeau also announced the Litle league all-stars will play Northfield this evening at 6 at Unity Park. Yesterday's games with the Greenfield Tigers was postponed to Thursday at 2 p.m.

**June 24**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 2484.pdf](#)

[Skishing One of Turners July 4 Features](#)

TURNERS FALLS—One of the features of the July 4 program planned here will be a skish contest conducted by Frank Rudinski, and winner of many championships since the mid-1930s. Rudinski will be assisted by Edward Siwiski. who has entered tournaments with Rudinski and a champ in his own right The contest will be sponsored by the Montague Rod and Reel company and all equipment for the contest and prizes will be donated by the company. Rudzinski emphasized only amateurs will be permitted to register.

Casting will start at 1 p.m. at Unity Park. Rudzinski, explaining the game, noted it is strictly a fisherman's sport. Targets, which are 30-inch rings, are scattered on the field from 40 to 80 feet from the four-square foot casting box. The contestants stand in the easting; box and cast twice for each target A hit on the first cast brings six points and for the second cast, four. Contestants will be shooting at five targets and will play two rounds The highest possible score is 100. The targets are each a different color which Rudzinski explained, makes it easier for both the judge and the caster because it's simpler to see a color at a distance than to distinguish a number. In case of ties those hitting the most initial casts will be declared winners and if a tie still persists, there will be a cast-off. Three prizes will be awarded and judging will be by Rudinski.

Casting rods for skish vary from three to six feet in length, and the line must be nine pounds or over. Level wind reels are used. Rudzinski said the sport originated in Scotland and was introduced in this country first in the early 1930's. It was called fish-o when first introduced, he related. A contest was decided upon to find a new name for the sport and in 1941 it was given its present monicker by a man in Ohio.

Rudzinski, who has been a member of many Rod and Gun and casting clubs, is teaching the sport to men employed at the Rod shop during noon hours. Five targets are set up in front of the shop and every noon the boys try out tossing.

Among the more than 30 honors won by Rudzinski throughout the east in skish contests are a second in the eastern association meet for dry fly casting when he was only one point behind the winners and awards for skish include distance bait-casting and dry-fly casting. He noted the sport has been introduced into high and grammar schools and said it is particularly popular in the mid-west. The state of Ohio alone has 250 casting clubs, he noted.

The champion fisherman stated also that talent with skish will make man a more successful fisherman. "After all," he said, "if you can cast away and put the bait right where you want it, you're bound to catch fish". Since fish often swim about near rocks, logs, tree trunks and other spots that would snarl the line of the ordinary fisherman if he casted anywhere near them, Rudzinski's point can be well taken. Rudzinski has been employed at the Rod shop for about six years. Part of his job is the testing of rods and reels. Next month he will teach the sport to 30 youngsters at the Junior conservation camp in Monterey. Entry forms may be obtained at the Haigis garage, Gulow's store, Pipione's shop, Drago's store, and Fournier brothers. All entry blanks must be submitted to Matthew Care at Unity Park before noon July 4.

**July 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 2964.pdf](#)

### **Eighth Concert by Turners Band**

TURNERS FALLS—The eighth concert by the, military band will be at the bandstand at Unity Park, Sunday at 8 p.m. with a cornet solo by Winston LeVitre of Riverside, Benjamin Weiner, director announced today.

LeVitre is also a member of high school band. He is entering his junior year at school, Son of Mr., and Mrs. R. Winston LeVitre of Riverside, he is a Student of Carl Jordan of Greenfield and has appeared with the high school band as part of the trumpet trio. He is also a member of the Boys' glee club and played before various organizations to demonstrate the cornet.

Sunday night's program follows: March, Over the Top Crosby Overture, Euryanthe von Webber Selection, Tschaikowsky melodies, arr. by Yoder.

Waltz, Espana, Waldteufel Cornet solo, Flocktonian Polka. Casey

March, Thunder and Blazes, Laurendeau.

Intermission.

March. Old Soldiers Never Die, Campbell Baritone solo, The Lost Chord, Sullivan, played by Edward Reum

Novelty. Military Escort in Five Ways, Fillmore.

Popular band melody. arr. by Briegel Alford.

March, Colonel Bogey.

**Aug. 14**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 3147.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The inclemency of the weather necessitated the cancellation of the twilight ball game, which was scheduled at Unity Park hist night between Chappie Johnson's colored team and the Turners Falls A. A.'s

July 24, **1951**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1951 - 2919.pdf](#)

### **Three Forfeits in Horseshoe Play**

TURNERS FALLS—In the horseshoe tourney yesterday at Unity Park, Dir. Paul Bourdeau reported that Paul Dodge won a forfeit from Ken Kellyhouse and William Bitzer won a forfeit from Ronny Foster. Dave Parks defeated Joe Zak, 21-16, 21-13; Paul Shulda defeated Don McIntyre, 21-11, 21-10 Peewee Carignan defeated Parks, 11-0 and 21-11, and also defeated Shulda 21-8 and 11-6.

Today, William Bitzer is scheduled to play Boivin and Paul Dodge plays Joey George.

Tonight, the Junior All-Stars will play the Moose Club of Greenfield at the park hare, at 6:18. Free movies, postponed last night because of rain, will be shown tonight. The pet show will be tomorrow at 2 p. m. sponsored by the Turners Falls Inn and the Bridge Cafe. Free popsicles will be given to all participants donated by the playground staff.

**Aug. 2**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1951 - 3086.pdf](#)

### **-Old Timers Vs. Little Leaguers in Benefit Game**

TURNERS FALLS—Old will be pitted against young when the Little League All Stars play the Old Timers in a benefit game Friday, Aug. 24 at 0:19, The Old Timers are not as yet an organized team but will consist of local men willing to participate in a game with the Little League for the benefit of a trip to Boston for the Unity Park baseball teams.

Six innings will be played, using Little League rules, and tickets will be sold for the game. Director Paul Bourdeau expressed the hope that townspeople would cooperate in making it possible for hit baseball stars to visit Boston Sept. 1 to witness the game between the Red Sox and the Philadelphia Athletics.

Some of the Old Timers, none of them very old, have already been recruited for the team. They are Matt Care, playground supervisor, Vincent Choate, owner of the Shea Theater, Earl M. McIntyre, Joe Welcome, Al Courtemanche, Harvey Welcome. Joe Paulin, Charles Care, ST., William Powers, Albert L. Saulnier and Roland Bourdeau. Anyone else who wishes to play is asked to contact Bourdeau as soon aa possible.

Because of the high cost of transportation, only 50 boys can be taken to Boston this year. They will be chosen from the winners of the midget and junior leagues and Little League and Junior All Star teams. Last year, every boy who was on a ' baseball team at the playground was eligible to make the trip.

### **-Ninth T.F. Band Concert Sunday**

TURNERS FALLS—Secretary Jacob L. Alber of the Turners Falls Military Band has announced the program for the ninth band concert of the season Sunday night at Unity Park at 8. The program features a piccolo solo "Will O' the Wisp" played by William Baker and also a trombone solo, "Little Blue Cap" by Jacob Alber. Benjamin Weiner will conduct and refreshments will be sold for the benefit of new jackets for the band.

The program reads as follows: March, On the Square . . . Panella; Overture, Euryanthe . . . Weber; Waltz; Southern Roses . . . Strauss; Solo polka, Will O\* the Wisp . . . Cox; Symphonic paraphrase, Canta Sierriento . . . Castellucci; March, Trombones-Triumphant . . . - Keller; Intermission- March, The Conciliator . . . Crosby; Military Polonaise . . . Chopin; Solo, Little Blue Cap . . . Bennet; Medley, Pleasant Recollections Lake; March, Sabre and Spurs . . . Sousa.

August 14, **1952**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1952 - 3337.pdf](#)

### **Treasure Hunt in Turners Falls**

TURNERS FALLS—Playground directors at Unity Park yesterday organized a treasure hunt in which contestants found wooden sticks hidden all over the park. Some of the sticks had prizes listed on them, donated by town merchants.

Winning--sundaes from Equi's were Shadows Bogusz, Bernard Paulin. Richie Courtemanche. Joseph Kozik, Barbara Paulin and Ceil Verrier. Sundaes from the Cone Shop were won by Lee Brunelle, Buzz Courtemanche, Dickie Bourdeau, Carol Bourdeau, Joan Kawecki and Jane Rastallis. Milk Shake from LaPierre's went claimed by Dennis Boivin, Vodg Watroba, Alfred Courtemanche, Stanley Dobosz, Sherman Gray and Janice Zamojski. Free movie passes to the Shea Theater were won by Bobbie Dodge, Danny Dodge, **James Gregory**,<sup>21</sup> Shirley Boivin. Jeanne Boivin and Mary Ellen Rice. Receiving a free haircut from Krol's was Tommy Dion, while Peter MacIntyre received one from Koziks. Leo's Barber Shop will give a bottle of hair tonic to Maureen Hughes while Robert Paulin will receive a free cut from Fred Baird.

July 21, **1953**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 a - 0159.pdf](#)

### **Film Tonight on Derby at Turners Falls Park**

TURNERS FALLS—A film of the Soap Box Derby in Akron, O., will be shown at Unity Park tonight, sponsored by Warren's Sound Service.

The film will picture preparations for the national derby for American boys and depict the development of the home-made racers. The film will be shown at dusk in the bandstand.

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<sup>21</sup> Older brother (4-years) of Ed Gregory.

**July 31** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 a - 0456.pdf](#)

### **Busy Schedule at Unity Park**

TURNERS FALLS—Children may now register at Unity Park for the costume show, next Thursday at 3 a new playground special event. Prizes will be awarded the winners.

Tickets are still on sale from the Little Leaguers for the park baseball day Aug. 9. for the benefit of the Boston trip.

Any old time baseball player is invited to play in the Old Timer-Little League ball game that day.

The boys checker and marble tourneys at the park are still in progress.

Last night, Turners Falls defeated the Moose All Stars of Greenfield 15-0, to win the first half of the Franklin County Pony League. Transportation was furnished by Mrs. Martha Cotter.

The Little League All Stars will play the Rotary All Stars in Greenfield tonight at 6:15.

**June 4, 1954** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 2488.pdf](#)

(Town of Montague 200<sup>th</sup> (Bicentennial) Anniversary edition.)

### **Unity Park Fine Spot for Playing**

Once the site of a swampy pond beside Route 2A, Unity Park entered its fourth decade this year. This favorite sports field and children's playground, is 31 years old this summer.

The field on which the park was established in the fall of 1923 was not being used for anything in particular then, mainly because of its tendency to become a small lake during rainy weather. A relatively short period of filling and grading preceded the park's dedication.

In the first year of Unity Park life the two first year of Unity Park bandstands and two" tennis courts were constructed from town park funds. Of the overall town of Montague Park and recreation budget) totalling[sic] \$10,000 that first year, \$7,500 went into Unity Park.

### **Home of T.F.H.S.**

Through its "childhood" and until it was 14 years old Unity Park was the scene of all Turners Falls athletic events. Town teams played there, as did high school groups and younger children. High school ball games stayed at Unity until the late 1930's, when the school opened its own area, later to become Sheff Field. Even after this, until the last, few years, the high school participated in the town's field days at Unity Park.

The field days were and still are occasions for exuberant excitement for the town's children. All the school kids able to walk form up for a mass parade through the town to Unity Park, led by the town band. On arrival at the park, gymnastics and many other kinds

of exercise are gone through until the children are tired, the parents properly proud and the day completely spent. In recent years, the scene has shifted to Sheff Field.

In the second year of Unity Park's existence, two skating rinks and a toboggan chute were added. These were provided for by a special 1924 town appropriation. In 1925, things had begun to fall into place in the park program and Unity ceased to take more than 50 per cent of the entire town's appropriation. That year Unity got \$3,500 of the \$8,500 voted for playgrounds.

### **Big Fireworks Show**

In the early years of the park's life and well up into recent years, fireworks were an annual magic calling card at Unity. The display of pyrotechnics was second to none, and July 4 was a circled date on every calendar. In 1931, Unity Park broke its attendance record when 20,000 persons from all over Franklin County turned up on the Fourth of July.

Independence Day celebrations have been all-day affairs here. Races, baseball games, and fireworks were the main attraction. So important have the occasions been that articles were regularly inserted in the town meeting warrant to provide necessary funds.

Crowds up to 15,000 were at the big parades; river shows and fireworks in both 1950 and 1951.

The land on which Unity Park began was given, the town by the Unitarian Society and lay entirely between Second and Third Streets. Now, Unity Park is bigger than ever and still growing. Last year, land on the northeast side of Second Street was leased from the Western Massachusetts Electric Company. This strip, about 200 feet wide, 500 feet long, extends the park area almost to the Connecticut River beyond First Street. Improvements are planned, including playing areas on the new land.

### **Large Area**

In length, the park extends about 800 feet, including some of the foot of the hill not ordinarily considered part of the park. Several playing fields, bandstand and other improvements are all between Second and Third Street, the bandstand having been moved from its old location on Second Street and Avenue A.

In bygone years, the Turners Falls Rotary club staged a public Christmas party each year at the park, providing apples, candy, and more durable presents for the town's children. The park has also seen the performance of an Olympic skating team member, Miss Mirable Vinson, who exhibited her talents at Unity Park when just 14 years of age.

The park's wading pool (swimming pool to children under three feet tall) was constructed in 1934 and later enlarged to accommodate older youngsters. Now the park features swimming in the summer, with services of a lifeguard, and occasionally skating in the winter. Band concerts take up summer evenings once a week and grownups play softball and tennis until dusk. Toilets and showers were installed under the bandstand in 1949 and are open to the public.

## New Fieldhouse

Last, year, in the third week in April, construction was begun on the Unity Park fieldhouse by A & R Builders, Inc., of Montague City, lowest of seven bidders with \$14,981. The town meeting the month before had appropriated \$16,500 for the job. Work was completed in July. East of the First Street wading pool, the new building replaced the old one near the Third Street Park entrance. The town of Montague and the village of Turners Falls may be proud of the progress made toward providing better recreational facilities through the years, chiefly at Unity Park. Playground supervisors hired by the town through the park commission have been men who later became well-known members of this and other communities. They included Louis Bush, now Greenfield High School instructor and Greenfield playground supervisor; Albert A. (Newt) Guilbeault, secretary of the Montague Park commission for about 20 years; Frannie Reil, former high school star here; Eddie Bourdeau, now an assistant coach at the high school, and George Bush, younger brother to Louis, who has held the post for the past two years.

**UNITY PARK** today is comparatively deserted during the winter, although its use in the other three seasons makes it one of Turners Falls' most popular centers. There was a time, however, 30 years ago, when the park area between Third and First Streets was a beehive of snow-time activities.

These photos prove it! Top right is the lightning-fast toboggan chute that ran down the southside hill across First Street to the skating rink (wading pool) area. Top left shows the eight-foot toboggan of the late Bob Evans, who took these



outdoor shots, with his daughter, Mrs. Flora Evans Clements, then 15 years old. This was regarded as one of the fastest toboggans in town.



Photo at bottom shows the skating rink as pictured from atop the toboggan chute, which runs up the left side of the picture. There was no television in those days!—Photos Courtesy Mrs. Flora Clements.

June 6 to12, **1954**

Note: From the **Town of Montague 200th Anniversary (Bicentennial) Book: "Montague 1754-1954"**  
Pp 134-35 Images in this article are not included in the archetype. e.g.

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The first fieldhouse at Unity Park was located at the southwest corner near the W. S. Cassidy garage on Third Street. c1925 *e.g. archive*

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**June 12**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 2661.pdf](#)

### **Montague 200th Events, Saturday, June 12 - p.m.**

5:00 - 7:00      Chicken Barbecue      Unity Park

8:00              Band Concert              Unity Park

9:45              Fireworks                  Unity Park

**June 14**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 2673.pdf](#)

### **Montague Brings Grand 200th Festivities to Close**

An abbreviated article. Reference to Unity Park is given.      *e.g.*

TURNERS FALLS—The Town of Montague wrote a formal "finis" to its wonderful eight-day 200th anniversary Celebration Week yesterday. And in so doing the townsfolk could point to a glorious beginning for the chapter marked "Third Century". A total attendance of nearly 70,000 was recorded during the week-long festivities, highlighted by 30,000 at the Parade of the Centuries Saturday.

Beautiful skies of blue provided a perfect cover for the eighth consecutive day on Sunday. Four thousand lined the banks of the Connecticut River for a water show unanimously acclaimed the best this area has seen.

This community took on the appearance of a mammoth carnival midway Saturday. Twenty-seven musical units and hundreds of persons marched along Montague City Road, Avenue A and Second Street in Montague's biggest parade. The first spectators had lined up as early as 7 a.m. and by 9 more than 10,000 were seated on the curbstones or strolling through display-decked streets.

And the crowds continued throughout the day, capped by a long fireworks display which attracted 10,000, More than 1,000 dined at a chicken barbecue at Unity Park while hundreds of others "ate out". . . .

**June 30**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 2952.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls Playground Has 13 Ball Teams Active in Pee-Wee, Little Loops**

TURNERS FALLS—Dir. George Bush oi the playground announced today that better than 160 boys have been assigned to 13 Little League and Pee-Wee League teams and that the schedule will begin immediately.

The Mighty Mites and Pee-Wees were scheduled to meet this afternoon in the Pee-Wee loop and yesterday's first game with the Dwarfs and Millers Falls was rained out. The Pee-Wee League is for boys six through nine, while the Little takes the rest of the playground youngsters.

The Pee-Wee registration is 75 and for the Little League 88.

First round of the Pee-Wee schedule:

July 1, Shorties vs Midgets; 2, Millers Falls vs Pee-Wees; 6, Mighty Mites vs Midgets; 7, Dwarfs vs Midgets; 8, Millers Falls vs Mighty Mites; 9, Midgets vs Dwarfs; 12, Shorties vs Pee-Wees; 13, Midgets, vs Millers Falls; 14, Pee-Wees vs Dwarfs; 15, Mighty Mites vs Shorties; 16, Millers Falls vs Shorties; 19, Pee-Wees vs Midgets; 20, Dwarfs vs Mighty Mites.

#### **Little League Players**

DOWN STREET GIANTS—B. Palin, capt.; J. Dion, G. Lepine, P. Courtemanche, A. Courtemanche, R. Smith, R. Weller, R. Paulin, R. Dobosz, R. Brunelle, P. Bassett, D. Traceski, R. Emond, A. Freniere.

SOUTH END DODGERS — L. Rudinski, capt.; W. Wondoloski, D. Gallant, G. Croteau, L. Grader, R. Verrier, R. Traceski, B. Kovalsick, G. Piasecki, J. Emond, J. Woods.

MONTAGUE CITY CUBS — W. Martineau, capt.; L. Doton, R. Squires, R. Gignac, J. Caouette, W. Thomas, J. Moylan, J. Bergeron, R. Casey, T. Simmons, E. LaPierre.

HILL BRAVES—R. Haigis, capt.; J. Perkins, J. Sweeney, R. Berry, R. Koscinski, G. Lamoureux, C. Martineau, P. McClelland, L. Grimard, J. Kobera, N. Hale, M. Glazeski.

MILLERS FALLS — J. Burek, S. Lahoski, J. Pine, D. Yez, C. Krusiewski, R. Thomas, W. Cyhowski, S. Klepadlo, S. Zera, T. Wegiel, C. Durant, P. Machaiek, B. Desbien, J. Kozik.

RIVERSIDE PHILS — A. Adie, capt.; J. Kawecki, A. Olson, G. Levitre, D. Brown, N. Swanson, D. Yukl. E. Cocking, R. Lenois, W. Juskiwicz, N. Dunican. N, Fredette. L. Christian.

HILL CARDINALS — R. Bourdeaux, capt.; J. Millett, L. Verrill, R. Dodge, E. Schuhle, P. McIntyre, W. Desautels, L. Dubreuil, T. Lonergan, R. Suhl, W. Schuhle, P. Sicard.

### **Pee-Wee League Players**

PEE-WEES — S. Gulo capt.; E. Zewinski, R. Kovalskk, R. Wondoloski, B. Monkiewicz, L. Krol, J. Kliska, F. Boissoneault, R. Vias, F. Walsh, R. Caouette.

MIGHTY MITES — M. Brazeau, capt.; D. Dodge, L. Perkins, J. Couture, R. Tuminski, R. Verrier, R. Ducharme, C. Hoynoski, S. Koscis, C. Jacobs, J. Letourneau, S. Moltenberey, T. Ryan.

DWARFS — B. Kozik, capt.; P. Kobera, F. Bourdeau, Jr., W. Smith, F. Cassidy, J. Bastrache, J. Maynard, **E. Gregory**,<sup>22</sup> H. Bonzek, W. Bourbeau, W. Beaubien, B. Sansoucie.

MIDGETS — R. Rice, capt.; J. Simanski, E. Wabeck, K. Powers, M. Yarmac, J. Ptak, R. Bourdeau, Jr., R. Glazeski, W. Chartier, J. Chartier, E. Duncan, P. Sikoski, W. Hildreth.

SHORTIES — J. Koldis, capt.; J. Reipold, L. Desautels. G. Tatakis, J. Rozecki, J. Cade, T. Brown, R. Vivier, P. Kennedy, R. Boivin, J. Sulda, J. Lanfair, R. Courtemanche.

MILLERS FALLS — D. Merriott, J. Merriott, P. Merriott, J. Gessing, G. Mathey, H. Burek, B. Rushford, M. Weiner, F. Campbell, J. Riley, J. Mackin, R. Gmyrek, W. Stebbins.

**July 5**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 3056.pdf](#)

### **Rain Cuts Short Movie Program For 500 Children**

TURNERS FALLS—About 900 children attended the free movies at Unity Park last night<sup>23</sup>. Because of rain, the entire program could not be shown. The Little League movie originally scheduled last night will be shown later in the summer.

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<sup>22</sup> Younger brother (4 years) of James Gregory.

<sup>23</sup> A screen was set-up on the Bandstand floor. The projector was located on a table about 5 yards in front on the ground. Paul Garrand was the projectionist. Paul showed movies on a regular basis.      *e.g.*

Attendance prizes of a carton of soda and an autographed picture were won by Jean Bassett and Paul Kennedy. The program next week will include cartoons, comedies[sic] and a soap box derby film., A quart of ice cream will be awarded to a boy and girl as attendance prizes.

**Aug. 15** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 3759.pdf](#)

### **Champ To Show Planes at Park**

TURNERS FALLS—Raymond Jarvis of Greenfield, 1952 New England model plane champion, and Edward Jablonski of South Deerfield will give model plane exhibitions at Unity Park tonight at 7 as part of the playground program.

Both have been giving exhibitions in Worcester for two years. Jarvis said they will exhibit team flying and combat flying, the latter with paper streamers attached to the planes. The object of this is to cut the streamers of the opposing aircraft. The boys will also operate maneuver routines used in model plane meets.

Four additional attendance prizes have been offered by local organizations. The Franklin County Boat Club will give a Montague spinning rod; Lapierre's Candy Shop, quart of ice cream; Equi's Fruit Store, box of chocolates, and Rivervu Roller Way, 26 free passes.

**July 20, 1955** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1955 - 4401.pdf](#)

### **Benefit Games Proceeds to Send 175 to Boston**

TURNERS FALLS—Tickets for the Unity Park playground day are selling fast and, if the pace continues. 175 to 180 playgrounders[sic] will make the trip to a big league game in Boston Aug. 6. Director George Bush reported today.

Playground teams will engage in a benefit doubleheader Aug 5. starting at 5:30 p.m. at the park.

Bush said returns should be made to him as soon as possible. The trip includes boys from both Turners Falls and Millers Falls playgrounds. Montague youths were treated by a group there.

An anonymous \$2 donation has been received for annual Field Day prizes. The event will be the final week of August.

Last night n Greenfield, Turners Falls Pony League All-Stars dropped a 5-4 decision to the Greenfield All-Stars.

**August 4, 1956** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1956 - 3482.pdf](#)

### **Big League Trip Thursday for Turners, Millers Boys**

TURNERS FALLS—Professional baseball will be on tap for 160 Millers Falls and Turners Falls playground boys Thursday.

Unity Park Dir. George Bush today announced four buses owned by George Chapln of Montague Center will leave Highland Park, Millers Falls, Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and Unity Park a 9.

Boys, he said, should take a large lunch and spending money. All tickets returns should be made as soon as possible.

July 30, **1957** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1957 - 3203.pdf](#)

### **Koldis Hero All The Way For TF Outfit**

TURNERS FALLS—Jimmy Koldis of the White Sox in the Turners Falls Playground Little League struck out 22 batters in eight innings and whacked the game-winning homer in the last of the eighth to beat the Yankees, 1-0, yesterday.

The Turners Falls PeeWee All-Stars downed the Camp Shelloy club, 4-3, yesterday, at Shelloy.

**Aug. 17** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1957 - 3710.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls Little League**

Instructors Joe George and Junie Waryas have announced selection of two All-Star teams who will play a two-out-of-three series next week.

Selected on Team No. 1 were: Paul Kobera, Richie Rice, Louis Krol, Billy Smith of the Yankees; Joey Simanski, Carl Hoynoski, Paul Sicard and Richie Wondoloski of the Tigers; and Steve Kocsis, **Ed Gregory**, Lenny Desautels and Lee Perkins of the Indians. They will be coached by George.

Named to Team No. 2 were: Jim Koldis, Richie Brunelle, Bob Golonka and John Riepold of the White Box; Fred Cassidy, Ray Berry and John Helbig of the Red Sox; Fran Pollard, Soupy Campbell and Henry Burek of the Athletics, and Denny Loveland, Gordon Pfersick and Matt Jakutowicz of the Orioles. They will be coached by Waryas.

Times of the games has not been determined because of the Montague Softball League playoffs, but it is likely the games will be played in the morning if Unity Park is not available for evenings.

**Aug. 21** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1957 - 3941.pdf](#)

### **Military Band Ends Season Tomorrow**

TURNERS FALLS—The Military Band will give their final concert of the summer Sunday at 1 p.m. at Unity Park under the baton of Benjamin Weiner.

The concert is co-sponsored by the PTA and Daly-Solomon VFW Post, through the cooperation of the Franklin County Musicians Association, American Federation of Musicians.

January 21, 1958 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 0142.pdf](#)

### Ice Skating, Basketball for T.F. Youths

TURNERS FALLS—With the winter recreation program in full swing, Turners Falls kids have opportunity for ice skating at Unity Park and a hall for basketball five afternoons a week and Saturday afternoon.

Superintendent Matthew Care said the gate at Unity Park is open throughout the day and until 9 p.m. Two floodlights illuminate the rink at night.

The Hibernian Hall program consists entirely of basketball. Children use it from 1 to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, except from 2 to 4, when it is used by Turners Falls High School freshmen and grammar school teams for practice.

Each Tuesday evening Care reported is reserved for girls.

The latter program has not proved very popular, only about a dozen attending Tuesday nights. About 75 participate in the boys programs, Care said. High school age boys have use of the hall each night from 8 to 9. The hall is open Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a. m.

Most popular event, Care said is the boy's basketball league, which has four teams. At present, the Knicks lead the league with a 7-4 record. Trailing them are the Hawks, 6-6; Warriors, 5-6 and Celts, 5-7.

Aug. 4 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 3705.pdf](#)

### Playground Notes

A parade on wheels will be featured at all Montague playgrounds Wednesday at 9 a. m.

Christopher Garrahan will instruct in tennis at the Unity Park courts Thursday evening.

Rotary Little League All-Stars beat Wilmington, Vt., 2-1, Saturday to wrap up the championship of the Inter-Town League.

May 14, 1959 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 2197.pdf](#)

### NOTICE PAINTING BIDS

Bids will be accepted for the painting of Unity Park Band Stand and building. This includes Bandstand, toilets, and addition. The exterior shall be scraped and sanded of loose paint, and shall have two coats of Grade A lead white paint complete. The interior shall have one finish coat, two (2) coats where repairs are being made. The roof or Gondola to be of two (2) coats of aluminum paint. Toilets white, iron railing black, light fixtures black.

Bids will be accepted at the Town Office, Turners Falls, Massachusetts up to 7:00 P.M., May 19, 1959 at which time all bids will be opened.

The Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Signed James Guy. Chairman.

David Soloman, Anthony Bialecki, Louis Zankin Joseph Garbiel, Secretary.

**June 30**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 3109.pdf](#)

### **Playgrounds Hit New Montague Record Figures**

TURNERS FALLS—Montague playgrounds today had an all-time high registration of 436 children, a 43 per cent jump from a year ago.

This was credited to two factors: unproved and expanded program inaugurated by the registration commission a year ago, and inauguration of a second Turners Falls playground at the high school field.

Dir. George Bush reported registrations include 237 boys and 199 girls. A year ago first day registration was 303. This year there are 48 more boys and 85 more girls. Two years ago there was no program for girls.

First special event of the season will be Wednesday with a treasure hunt at all playgrounds. Prizes will be awarded. Donations toward prizes have been voted by Turners Falls PTA, \$10, and Clarence W. Allen American Legion Auxiliary, \$3.

Registrations by playground and age group follow: Unity Park, boys 8-9, 44; 10-12 61; and 14-15 four. Girls 5-8, 39; and 9-12, 66. High School boys, 6-9 28; 10-12, 36. Girls 5-8, 42; 9-10, 26. Montague Center boys, 6-9, 12; 10-13, 20. Girls 5-9, six and 10-13, 11.

**March 1, 1960**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1960 - 5706.pdf](#)

### **Vandals Damage Park in Auto**

TURNERS FALLS—Some damage was caused to the Unity Park baseball areas by a group of boys in a car Wednesday evening. Unity Park was closed as a playground for the winter two weeks ago. Police said the vehicle made skidmarks on wide areas. A call about the car was received by Officer Eugene Zewinski at 8:30. He went there immediately but the car had gone.

Chief James P. McHugh said today if the driver or any of its occupants are found court action will result.

**Aug. 6**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1960 - 3875.pdf](#)

### **Concert Sunday**

The Turners Falls Military band will play a concert Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Unity Park band shell. The program will consist of marches, classical selections and popular numbers under direction of Ray Dumas.

August 30, 1961 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1951 - 3180.pdf](#)

Note: A "cut" from a lengthy article published in the Recorder Gazette for the date given.

"Unity Park was originally covered with water, it was later filled in. The Turners Falls Unitarian Society purchased this piece of "made land" and presented it to the town for a recreation center with the understanding that it was to be known as Unity Park."

March 26, 1962 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 1344.pdf](#)

### Turners Topics

THIS AND THAT: Boys nine to 12 who want to play baseball will have their chance to register all day April 16 at Unity Park, for the Newt Guilbault Little League.

Speaking of baseball, "Cooch" Care dropped by the other day and wound-up reminiscing. Cooch, who was great in his day, by any standards, recalled the days when crowds of 2,000 or more would jam Unity Park to watch local and semi-pro ball. He started playing with adults when he was around 14 and before he was "washed up", had played ball nearly everywhere in this immediate part of the country.

There's something about a circus that stirs excitement in all hearts, young or old. The Rotary Club's planned sponsorship of the Mills Brothers Circus here July 25 is already sneaking into local conversations.

The Turners Falls Military Band is planning a busy season. On the schedule, says Donald Girard, new manager, may be such entertainments as an "All-Gershwin" concert and a "Jerome Kern" night. Lovers of good music will appreciate anything along these lines as relief from the "twist" or other rock 'n roll. We have nothing against the latter, but a little deeper and fuller music can enrich life and offer a refreshing variation from the popular stuff.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING: The circus July 25 will have to go some to exceed attendance reached at one circus here around 1900. About 10,000, according to records, attended one engagement. When the circus came to town, back then, as many did in the late 1800's, nearly all stores and mills were shut down and the town took on a holiday atmosphere. Perhaps the circuses were a relief from the brawling, hustling everyday life of a center of pioneer commerce. Those who ferried barges or floated logs on the Connecticut River all day, or sweat buckets in a mill, probably found exposure to the thrilling acts and traveling "hucksters" a welcome change.

May 24, 1963 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1963 - 2405.pdf](#)

### Montague Names Summer Staff for Playgrounds

TURNERS FALLS—Thirteen young people will supervise children at four Montague playgrounds this summer, Mrs. Ruth Grimard of the parks and recreation commission said today.

Under the direction of George Bush, who heads the local recreational summer program, and Irene Verrier, coordinator of the program for girls, the young people will work daily for an eight-week period, June 24-Aug. 15.

"The parks and recreation department is fortunate in securing these young people for the summer program," Mrs. Grimard said. "All are interested in education and will provide a required service to our young children this summer. Their high caliber and physical and educational background is a definite asset to the local recreational program."

Carol Cavanaugh, a student at Anna Marie College in Worcester and Peter Mahiak, student at St. Cloud College in Minnesota, have been assigned to Highland Field in Millers Falls; Donald Bray and Edward Prasol, both TFHS students, will be at Montague Center playground; John Pond, TFHS graduate, tennis instructor at Unity Park.

Others at Unity will be: Richard Rice, TFHS senior, James Koldis of UM. Elizabeth McCarthy of Lady of the Elms College, and Margarete Daignault of Greenfield Community College.

Assigned to Hillcrest are: Sandra McCarthy, Leonard Desautels and Richard Wondoloski, all of TFHS and Jerry Grimard of Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, Rice and Richard Wondoloski will also work part time with Park Supt. John Skrypek afternoons, Mrs. Grimard said.

Girl instructors will be assigned shifts for the wading pool at Unity Park. The pool is under the direction of Wilfred Parenteau, who will provide Red Cross swimming instructors five days a week for three weeks on a schedule to be announced.

**July 2**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1963 - 3063.pdf](#)

### **Montague Playgrounds Prove Popular**

TURNERS FALLS—Summer playground registrations rose sharply over last year, according to, figures released by Directors Eileen Verrier and George Bush today.

Registrations at all four fields under direction of Montague's parks and recreation department totaled 626, up 36 over 1962 when 596 boys and girls participated in the eight-week summer program of arts and crafts, baseball, tennis, basketball, and swimming.

The figures include, for the second straight year, 30 boys ages 13-15 who registered at Unity Park for pony league tryouts, Bush said.

Complete registrations this week were:

	Boys	Girls	Total
Unity Park	109	105	214
High School	111	123	234
Montague Ctr.	42	58	100
Millers Falls	<u>38</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>78</u>
	300	326	626

Formal little league and Pee-wee activity began this morning with the Shorties against the Pee-Wees at Unity Park and the Dwarfs vs the Midgets at the high school. Players were given league rosters and a schedule after final practice Monday.

Bush reminded parents that transportation between playgrounds will be provided by the park department, but boys must report to the field where they have been registered. Players on teams not scheduled will participate in tennis, basketball and bowling on off days, Bush noted.

Boys who take part in park department -little league games at Unity Park and the high school will be taken to Boston to see the Red Sox play Kansas City Athletics July 25, Bush said. Only those who attend morning games regularly will be eligible. Players at Montague Center and Highland Park will make their own trip arrangements, as usual.

In lieu of the ball game, pee-wee league participants will be given a picnic the final week of the season. Plans are being formulated for a "playground day" and picnic at Unity Park July 23, at 6 p.m. to raise funds to finance the Boston trip, Bush said.

**Aug. 9**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1963 - 3655.pdf](#)

### **Band To Play to Car Audience**

TURNERS FALLS—Marches and polkas, chosen to attract the attention of car occupants, will be featured at the weekly concert of Turners Falls Military Band at Unity Park Sunday at 8 p.m.

Led by Ray Dumas, the band will play: "Brook's Chicago Marine March" by Settz; "Fairy Lake Overture", Auber; "Stranger on the Shore", Bilk; "The Conciliator March",--Crosby; "In a Persian Market", Intermission by Ketelbey; "A Swingin' Safari", Kaempfert; "Chicago Tribune March", Chambers; "The Chocolate Soldier's, Straus; "Wonderland by Night", Neuman, and "Chicago Stadium March", Van Loan.

Alter intermission, the band will perform: "Manhattan Beach March", Sousa; "Ju Goslav" Polka", list; Desafinado", Jobim; "Bells of, St. Mary", Adams; "Sabre and Spurs March", Sousa, and the national anthem.

**Dec. 4**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1963 - 5668.pdf](#)

### **Interest Snowballing in Unity Park Complex**

TURNERS FALLS—Construction of First Street Extension and discontinuation of Second Street through Unity Park received more backing in Turners Falls this week.

A petition urging an article for the action at a town meeting is being circulated, one copy in the town clerk's office for signatures. By noon today, 12 citizens had signed.

The petition states: "We, the undersigned citizens of the Town of Montague, request an article be inserted in a town meeting warrant calling for construction of a road from First and L Streets, easterly to the bottom of Ferry Road, and a crossover road from the proposed First Street Extension south to-Second. Street, east of William's Garage, and

further to discontinue that portion of Second Street through Unity Park; to remove the old Second Street Road surface to a depth of six inches and to replace it with loam or other material suitable to the parks and recreation commission; to enclose the new "Riverview Drive" with wire mesh fence with gates at either end of Unity Park; and further, that state funds under Chap. 782, of the Acts of 1962 be utilized for this project.

Note: The date for the following 1963 article is not available due to the way the newspaper pages were scanned at the source. *e.g.*

### **Man On the Run John**

Skrypek, supervisor of parks and recreation is the only fulltime employe of the park. He tends all equipment and grounds controlled by the commission, and to follow him as he makes his rounds for just one day would tire the most energetic of men.

Skrypek lines all four fields at least twice a week, keeps the grass at a respectable level, repairs, paints and inventories all playground equipment, takes care of little league, pony league, and girl's softball league equipment! and in his spare time, maintains budget records of his department.

### **Facilities Expand**

Park facilities, under Mrs. Ruth Grimard, Wilfred E. Parenteau, Charles J. Gloski, and new park commissioner Raymond J. Puchalski, have been expanded during the past few years.

Among major improvements has been restoration of the field house and installation of toilet facilities at Highland Park, the addition of Hillcrest playground for summer activities, installation of a basketball court at Unity Park, construction of a small field house and toilet facilities at Montague Center, and the addition, with the aid of volunteers from Montague Center, of the community center in old town hall next to the common.

Projects planned by Skrypek this year include extension of the backstop at the small field at Unity Park, construction of benches for Hillcrest playground, and reseeding and re-loaming Highland Park.

All in all, fun is hard work for many part time and full time employes of the parks and recreation commission.

April 20, **1964**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1964 - 1792.pdf](#)

Registrations for first year players in the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League for boys continues this week. Youngsters must register with John Skrypek at Unity Park during regular playground hours any day this week.

**Dec. 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1964 - 4974.pdf](#)

### **Skating Now Awaits Cold Weather, Pumping**

TURNERS FALLS—Ice skating at Unity Park will be instituted as soon as weather conditions and the Turners Falls water department can come to terms.

Park supervisor John Skrzypek said the wading pool rink will be flooded on the first cold day that finds the short-handed water department maintenance crew available. Water will be pumped from the Connecticut River rather than from depleted district water supply, Skrzypek said.

**January 5, 1965**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1965 - 0042.pdf](#)

### **River Water Provides Ice Skating in Turners**

TURNERS FALLS—There's good skating at Unity Park Supr. John Skrzypek announced today.

A water department crew pumped water from the river to the rink Monday afternoon.

Unsupervised skating is allowed each day and evening under lights. Skrzypek said skaters must activate the rink lights by pressing a button in a shack near the entrance. It will remain open until spring.

The only rules for the rink are that hockey is not allowed and common courtesy must be observed, Skrzypek said.

More water will be added to the rink Wednesday if weather permits.

**June 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 2705.pdf](#)

### **Couture Low Bidder for Park Paint Job**

TURNERS FALLS—Bids for painting the bandstand at Unity Park were opened by the War Memorial Committee last night. The contract was awarded to Couture Brothers, Inc. of 187 Avenue A, at \$679.00

Other bidders were Fiske Painting Contractor of Deerfield, low bidder at \$230, and Gilbert Campbell of Fifth St., high bidder at \$768.

**June 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1965 - 3090.pdf](#)

### **Band Concert Sunday Evening in Unity Park**

TURNERS FALLS—The third in the series of summer concerts at the Unity Park bandstand will be performed by the Turners Falls Towa Band Sunday at 8 p.m.

Polish songs and dances, marches, and popular stage tunes will be played under the direction of Ray Dumas of Athol. There is no charge.

**July 16**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1965 a - 0256.pdf](#)

### **Tool Men Ride by Rival, 10-0**

Millers Falls Tool clobbered Millers Falls Paper 10-0 last night in a Montague Softball League game at Millers Falls; St. Stan's whipped Strathmore Paper, 8-1, at Unity Park.

M.F. Tool put together hits and only allowed five for the win. Ronny Duclos hit a two-run homer in the third and **Ed Gregory** had a three-run blast in the fifth. Lou Krol went three for three.

**July 23**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1965 a - 0354.pdf](#)

### **Lots Of Study, No Pool**

TURNERS FALLS—Interest in construction of a town-owned swimming pool varied in past years and currently real active interest does not seem to be existing. Therefore, this committee recommends and asks that it be discharged at this time.

With these words in 1960, a 15-year study of site locations and s=costs of a municipally owned pool came to an end.

**Note: "Conversation" largely irrelevant to Unity Park is eliminated from this segment. e.g.**

### **Unity Park Pool**

After a careful study, the committee recommends a swimming pool 35 x 75 ft. In the vicinity of Unity Park, the water to be pumped from the Connecticut River. The committee realized that this would not solve the problem of the whole township but it would be easily accessible to approximately four fifths of the people of Montague.

An article at the 1990 town meeting was passed over unanimously, thereby ending that year's search for a pool.

Last March, Raymond Suprenant appeared before the Chamber of Commerce and Montague selectmen to plead for additional recreational facilities. He urged construction of a 75 x 1,500-foot swimming area at Unity Park, using filtered river water. Suprenant caught the attention of Rep. Walter T. Kostanki, Jr., who has conferred with



state and federal officials to determine if **Wading pool, Unity Park. 7.6.1968 Recorder photo (3<sup>rd</sup> gen.)** funds are available for swimming projects in Montague. A report on the development could be released soon, officials said today.

April 11, 1966

Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 4017.pdf

### **\$200,000 Recreational Plan for Turners Falls**

TURNERS FALLS—A \$200,000 recreational development the Franklin County Boat Club program for Unity Park and the South End has been proposed by Western Massachusetts Electric Co. in connection with renovation of the Turners Falls dam and other hydro-electric installations at a cost of \$2.6 million.

These plans were presented last night to Montague selectmen and yesterday afternoon to the Franklin County Boat Club whose facilities along the Connecticut River would be vastly upgraded.

The proposal is being made to the Federal Power Commission, along with the company's application for renewal in 1970 of its license to use the river at Turners Falls for hydro power generation. The amended permit would allow the company to raise the level of the dam which is necessary to make the river usable for the proposed \$70 million, one-million kilowatt pumped storage plant on Northfield Mountain, five miles upriver.

Highlights of the company proposal are: Redevelopment of Unity Park to include a new road through the park, new and improved parking; new boat docking launching ramp, raising the level of the park along the river where the water level will be higher and general improvements.

Purchase of the brick Taft house,<sup>24</sup> which WMEC has optioned, for use by the Boat Club and other community interests, even to including the possibility of serving as a historical building for she community.

—Creation of a brand-new park area along she Branch Canal off 10th Street, which would include what is now the Blassberg Junk yard. The company would deepen the canal and use the excavation material to create an island and small lagoon along the park which would also have a play area, shelters, and trees.

#### **Boaters Happy**

A company official said today Boat Club officers were enthusiastic about the proposal and are anxious to work with the utility in developing the plans for the river area. He noted that WMEC will welcome community reactions and that the plans as submitted are flexible and subject to change to suit the best interests of the community.

Further studies will be made in cooperation with town officials and the Boat Club.

#### **WMEC Statement**

Plans or the possible redevelopment of the land and water resources associated with Western Mass. Electric Co.'s Turners Falls hydroelectric generating properties have been presented to Montague selectmen, planning board, and park and recreation commission by

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<sup>24</sup> The Taft house was originally built to serve as a 'way-station' for the Bissell Ferry whose anchors were at the Gill and Turners Falls shorelines at this location. The Upper or "Red" Suspension Bridge would be built on this ferry stretch of the river in 1878.

company officials. This is the company's second major recreation proposal in Frankta County in recent months.

"Western Mass. Electric officials outlined the company's proposals for the Turners Falls project area as contained in its report to the Federal Power Commission concerning its plans for the future of the project.

"The project is operated by Western Mass. Electric under a Federal Power Commission license which expires in 1970. The commission had requested that Western Mass. Electric supply it with certain information with respect to the project to assist the commission in making a recommendation to Congress as to whether the project should be taken over by the United States upon expiration of the license. The Western Mass. Electric report takes the position that the public interest would best be served by the relicensing of the Turners Falls project to the company.

"The report discusses the role which the project has played in the development of the Connecticut River Basin and Western Massachusetts. It points out the significance of the project to Western Mass. Electric as a power development as well as its role in the Connecticut Valley Electric Exchange power pool. The report also relates the role of the project as an impetus to industrial development, as a source of recreation and as an important source of tax revenue to the local area.

#### **Recreation**

"The recreation features of the report discussed with town officials were the result of a comprehensive survey by Charles T. Main, Inc., the firm which prepared the company's nine area recreation proposal associated with its planned Northfield Mountain pumped storage hydroelectric project.

Montague officials were informed that the estimated cost of the renovations and additions planned for the Turners Falls project is approximately 32.6-million with the recreational enhancement plans adding an additional \$200,000.

"In its report to the Federal Power Commission, Western Mass. Electric states: Perhaps the most striking feature of the project's long history has been its responsiveness to the area's current needs: The project provided a means of inter- and intra-state transportation when this was the need. The project provided for low-cost run-of-the river electric power when this was the need. The project provided peaking power when this was the need. Now it is proposed that the project play its part in the newly-dawning atomic era – by supporting a plan of operation in which off-peak and very low-cost power from nuclear plants will pump water out of the project pond (the area above the Turners Falls dam) into a Northfield Mountain Lake to create important peaking and reserve power values. Further, it is proposed that the project fulfill other needs of die current day – the need for additional outdoor recreational facilities and the need for additional sources of municipal water supply.

### **No Downstream Harm**

"Significantly, this statement indicates the close tie between the Turners Falls hydroelectric project, and its modifications, and the proposed \$70-million, million-kilowatt pumped storage hydroelectric plant atop Northfield Mountain. The effect of the Turners Falls modifications would be to permit the raising of the Turners Falls Pond. The increased volume of water would allow the Northfield Mountain project to operate without adversely affecting operations at Turners Falls, or any other downstream projects.

"In addition, the proposed modifications would eliminate the annual expense of replacing flashboards at the dam which are lost each spring, provide improved regulation of flood discharge passing Turners Falls and increase total spillway capacity by approximately 10 per cent.

"The Turners Falls hydroelectric project was licensed by the Federal Power Commission in 1944 for a term which began Jan. 1, 1938, and will end on June 30, 1970.

The company's report to the commission points out that during this period the project has made substantial contributions to the six communities in which the project is located through tax payments. By way of example, the report points out that from Jan. 1, 1938, through 1965, the Towns of Montague and Gill have received 17,263,000 in tax revenues attributable to the project. This amount is approximately 34.5 per cent of the total revenues collected by these two communities. Total taxes paid during this period by the company to the two communities amounted to \$9,095,000 or 45.3 per cent of the total taxes collected.

\*If the project were taken over by the federal government or licensed to a tax-exempt organization and no provisions were made for some payment in lieu of taxes, the project's taxes would be lost to the communities involved. The report also cites other adverse effects such a take over[sic] by the federal government would have on Western Mass. Electric Co.'s customers and owners. The report concludes with this statement:

"It is submitted that this long history of development both in response to and in anticipation of need demonstrates superior stewardship of a natural resource, a stewardship which private enterprise can and should carry on. In view of this record, Western Massachusetts Electric believes that it should retain ownership of the Turners Falls project and thus be able to continue the 174-year-old tradition of using it in the public service. To this end, it will file an application for relicensing of the project.

### **Unity Park Plans**

"Physical improvements of Unity Park will be enhanced by the removal of diseased, damaged or poor-quality trees in areas where land filling will be required to accommodate the increased water elevation of the Turners Falls Pond. Replanting the area with more desirable trees, topsoiling and seeding is planned. The elimination of nonconforming use, the consolidation of internal functions and general improvement of the facilities will revitalize the Park.

"The Franklin County Boat Club which occupies land leased from Western Mass. Electric Co., will be aided in developing new and improved facilities.

"Plans for Branch Canal enhancement includes the acquisition and removal of the old Blassberg property to provide a grass area for youngsters to play and improve fishing opportunities in the (South End) area.

"Branch Canal proper will be excavated to increase the canal's water area and provide fill to enlarge the island.<sup>25</sup>

"The shore opposite the lagoon, currently heavily fished, will be improved by the addition of a fishing deck atop a rejuvenated wall structure with the area screened by new tree plantings. The existing transmission lines bisecting the property will be relocated to add both to the esthetics and use of the area.

### **Montague City, Gill**

"Cabot Woods, divided by the power canal into two main parcels with 100 acres to the east and 80 acres to the to the west will be treated as two separate areas. Selective clearing and reforestation on a long-range program basis are planned for both sections to add to the quality of forest cover and wildlife forage. Grading and seeding will render the land topographically usable and visually pleasing.

"The western portion will be set aside for future recreational uses while the eastern portion will be made available for use by youngsters of the adjacent (Montague City) neighborhood. "Field investigation by the Charles T. Main consultants of the Gill area at Riverside revealed an impediment to its future recreational use caused by the residential waste dumped directly into the river as well as into a small stream which empties into the pond area at this site.

"According to the Charles T. Main report, consideration of the Riverside area as a favorable environment for water-oriented recreation necessitates the elimination of this influx of human waste. This will require cooperation by state and local officials leading to the installing of either adequate individual sanitary facilities or a central sewage system. Discussion between company and Gill community officials have been and are taking place with respect to this problem.

"Company officials are prepared to meet with town officers and interested citizen groups to review and discuss the proposed Turners Falls area plans to insure that the maximum recreation potential will be realized from the proposed plans.

**May 25**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 2494.pdf](#)

### **NOTICE PAINTING BIDS**

Bids will be accepted for the painting of Unity Park Band Stand and building. This includes Bandstand, toilets, and addition. The exterior shall be scraped and sanded of

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<sup>25</sup> "*To enlarge the island*" is an ambiguous statement . . . what island is this reference to? The South End (the "Patch") IS a man-made island. Where would the excavated tailings be placed?    *e.g.*

loose paint, and shall have two coats of Grade A lead white paint complete. The interior shall have one finish coat, two (2) coats where repairs are being made. The roof or Gondola to be of two (2) coats of aluminum paint. Toilets white, iron railing black, light fixtures black.

**July 8**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 3445.pdf](#)

UNITY PARK—Wading Pool, Second St., Turners Falls. Weekdays, 14:30 and 6-8; Saturday-Sunday, 1-4:30; dosed Wednesday. No charges. Opens June 27.

**Aug.11**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 4017.pdf](#)

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Highlights of the company proposal are: Redevelopment of Unity Park to include a new road through the park, new and improved parking areas, new boat docking launching ramp, raising the level of the park along the river where the water level will be higher and general improvements.

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*Note: the above article goes on to mention other renovations irrelevant to the Unity Park theme. e.g.*

Bids will be accepted at the Town Office, Turners Falls, Massachusetts up to 7:00 P.M., June 2, 1966 at which time all bids will be opened.

The Trustees reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Signed James Guy, Chairman.

Marita Hillard, Roland Welsh, Louis Zankin Joseph Garblel, Secretary.

**Aug. 13**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 4071.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls Band Ending 65th Season**

TURNERS FALLS—The season's final concert at Unity Park will be conducted Sunday from 8 to 9:30 p.m. by the Turners Falls Military Band.

The next and last performance of the band this year will be at the Montague Old Home Day, Aug. 27.

### **Successful Year**

This has been the 65th year of the Turners Falls Military Band and, according to Director Donald Girard, one of the more successful in recent years. Girard has expressed his appreciation to all town organizations and agencies who have assisted in promoting the concerts and citizens of Montague who attended them.

The present Turners Falls Band had its beginning in 1892 when six persons, all beginners on different instruments, organized under Oscar Milde and took the name of the Germania Comet Band.

Five years later another group, employees of the Montague Paper Co., organized a musical group and called themselves the Paper Makers Band. In 1902 the two groups merged, becoming the Turners Falls Military Band.

In those days the concerts were given from an old wooden stand at the corner of Avenue A and Second St. where Aubuchon's store is now located. Eventually they expanded their range and played concerts at Lake Pleasant also.

Excursion Financed Funds for the Lake Pleasant visits were supplied by the Connecticut Valley Street Railroad, which had trolley excursions to the lake during the summer. Funds for the regular weekly concerts in town were provided through solicitation of local candy, tobacco, ice cream and drug stores.

In 1935, through the efforts of Henry Maddern who was then band director, the Eastern States Band Assoc, was formed and included Turners Falls, Shelburne Falls, Westfield, Orange, Athol, Springfield, and Holyoke. The first massed concert was at Unity Park in 1938 and drew over 15,000 spectators.

Today the picture has changed considerably. While members still perform faithfully during the summer months, they have been finding turnout decreasing. This year, though not exceptionally large, was better than past years.

Band members try to create interest in the concerts in young people today. They make every effort to encourage them to join the high school band, thereby assuring the military band of a new crop musicians as older ones retire.

Aug. 20 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1966 - 4342.pdf](#)

### [Through the Keyhole](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Montague selectmen are in the process of appointing a committee to sit down with officials of Western Massachusetts Electric Co. to discuss their proposed recreation plan. This committee will consist of representatives from various agencies and the meetings will be conducted behind closed doors.

The announcement of intended executive sessions has created a stir among concerned citizens, who feel they are being deprived of a voice in the matter. The selectmen have stated that letters of suggestion may be sent to their office and will be brought up at the meeting, but Joe Public is not pacified.

SINCE EXECUTIVE session also bars the press, we can only suppose what will go on behind those thick, heavy doors at the town office. With a recipe obtained from a local soothsayer, we somehow foresee the following minutes recorded.

Gene Koch, chairman of the board of selectmen— "Good evening, gentlemen. This meeting will now come to order. May we hear from Wen Wentworth of WMEC first."

Wentworth—"Good evening. The matter which we are here to discuss ism one of pleasurable quality, specifically, not what you can do for WMEC but what WMEC can do for you. It has been our goal from the onset to provide this town with the maximum of recreation at our own expense. We have, as you are well aware, proposed a generous project entailing not only enhancing of Unity Park, but the establishment of a park at the

South End and the preservation of Cabot Woods near Montague City. Are there any questions before the plan is accepted?"

John E. Provost of the Planning board—"Well, yes. I'd like to know what you consider to be the most significant thing the proposal offers our town?"

Wentworth—"That's a very difficult question, Johnny. There are so many fine points to the plan that I don't feel qualified to elevate one above the others. Next question. "

Charlie Nadeau of the Recreation Commission "Well, let's strip all the flowery language away from the proposal and then see what it looks like. What you're offering us at Unity Park is a lot of nice shrubbery and trees for my men to take care of. The present ball fields and wading pool will remain, and as far as I can see, in the way of actual recreational facilities, darn little is offered."

Wentworth—"Now Charlie, you're being unduly harsh. We're also offering additional land area which, with a little initiative on the part of the town, could be developed for the future needs of the town. We must keep foremost in our minds the welfare of little children, the happiness of our youth."

Herb Foley of the Franklin County Boat Club—"Yes, I quite agree with Win; the sake of our children must be considered first."

Walt Philipps of the conservation commission—"This is all very touching, especially since I have small children of my own, but it's all a lot of double talk. If it's the children you have in mind, why isn't a proposal offered which will include swimming facilities for them? That is undoubtedly the town's greatest need."

Wentworth—"According to our planning engineer, who surveyed the entire town, the greatest needs have been considered in the present proposal."

Nadeau—"Brush? That's our greatest need?"

Phillips—"Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club had an Olympic size pool installed for \$50,000. The cost of your present proposal allocates \$200,000 for recreation. It would seem as though some revision could be made."

Wentworth—"Now gentlemen, gentlemen! I live in this town as well as you. I could never let my professional interests interfere with affairs of my heart. Turners Falls is my town, my home, but I do think we should listen to the professional advice of our engineer."

Ed Pleasant of the water commission—"Hogwash! Here before you sit duly appointed representatives of the town, stating their opinions as formed through discussion with the man on the Avenue, and you turn a deaf ear to them. The town wants and needs a pool. It has for some time, and this looks like the only way it will ever get one. Do you swim Win?"

Wentworth—"I have in the past."

Pleasant—"Well try the swan dive at Unity Park wading pool!"

Koch—"Ahem, ahem. I have a letter here from a resident of Montague who feels a cricket field should be created to attract more English immigrants. There is also one from a

Polish organization recommending a pavilion be created for Saturday night dances. It seems every facet of society is interpreting the proposal in their own interests. How can we satisfy them all? "

Rocky Craig of the Chamber of Commerce—"We can't; that's Just it. We have to come up with something that will appeal to them all."

Nadeau—"Like Japanese yews."

Wentworth—"Hey, I just got a great idea. I bet the town could use a swimming pool! Young and old, rich, and poor, they all like to swim. And in the winter, it could be used as a skating rink. Why didn't I think of it before?"

Nadeau—"Good idea. Win, we commend you on your insight."

Wentworth—"Well you know mine is a chancy job and it makes a guy nervous, and a little lonely. But I'll recommend it to the higher echelons, although I can't guarantee anything you realize."

Koch—"A very productive meeting, I'm sure. Meeting adjourned."

June 3, 1967 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1967 - 2867.pdf](#)

### **Military Band to Open Season in Turners**

TURNERS FALLS—The Turners Falls Military Band will open its 66th season with a concert in the Unity Park band shell Sunday at 8 p.m. Earlier that afternoon the Band will play for the Cub Scout Circus, that performance sponsored by the Recording Industries Music Performers Trust Fund in co-operation with Local 621 of the American Federation of Musicians.

The band is under the direction of Raymond Dumas and managed by Donald Girard. The evening program will be as follows:

March-"American Eagle" by Boehme; Overture-"Cavalier" by Peter Buys; Pop Tune-"Jumping Bean" by R. J. Farnon. "A Tribute to Glen Miller," overture for brass by Henry Gass. March- "Zacatecas." by Codiner and Walters. "Folk Song Suite," for military band by R. Vaughan Williams. No. 1 March, "Seventeen Come Sunday" No. 2 Intermezzo, "My Bonny Boy," and No. 3 march, "Folk Songs from Somerset,"

Also pop tune; "This Can't Be Love, "by Rodgers and Hart" and a march-"Northwind", arranged by Paul Yoder. Intermission will be followed by a march, "Pageant of Progress", arranged by Paul Yoder; selection, "In A Monastery Garden" by A. W. Ketelbery; pop tune, "Speak Low," by Weill; selection, "Scottish Rhapsody", by W. E. Rhoude, and march, "The Billboard," by J. H. Klohr.

**June 24**

Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1967 - 3280.pdf

### Monday Opening Day

TURNERS FALLS—The summer playground "program will start Monday morning at 8:45 with children of kindergarten age and up to enroll at Unity Park, Hillcrest, Montague Center and Highland parks.

The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission has outlined an eight-week program with George Bush as superintendent, aided by a new team of 10 boys and six girls.

They are: Edward Bourbeau, III, tennis instructor; Mark Galvis, Michael Rubashkin, Paul Charest, Kathleen Gloski and Joanne Long, Unity Park; Arthur Burke, III, Richard Regan, William Tessier, Michael Hmieleski, Cynthia Burnham and Fay Jean Guy, Hillcrest; Gary Banish and Betty Fisk, Highland Park, Millers Falls; Robert Grimard and Karen Waryas, Montague Center.

Mrs. Geri Charboneau will be in charge of arts and crafts.

Registrations will continue through the week at the four parks with more than 500 children expected to enroll. The program will feature a special event every Wednesday with a treasure hunt slated in all parks the first week.

The program will run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. during the entire eight-week period.

The program for boys the first week will include baseball fundamentals, scrub games, kicker, and dodge ball. At the end of the week boys will be divided up into teams with a regular league schedule to follow.

The other daily event will be tennis where children will alternate using the Turners Falls High School and Unity Park courts.

Golf instructions will be given once a week by Burke and bowling will take place once a week at the French King Bowling Lanes under supervision of Ralph Semp, who will also provide transportation. Twenty-five cents a string will be charged.

The actual day and hour of golf and bowling events will be announced.

Girls' activities the first week will feature arts and crafts to include leather craft, metal work, gimp craft, pottery, slapstick, and mosaic work, under direction of Mrs. Charboneau. Sports activities will include softball, volleyball, and kick ball.

Red Cross swimming instructions will commence July 17 and run daily until Aug. 4. Boys and girls from eight years are eligible and may register for this course Monday. Instructions will be by Mrs. Charboneau.

Monday will also mark the opening of the Unity Park wading pool with hours from 1 to 4:30 and 6 to 8 p.m. Mrs. Charboneau will be life guard.

July 12, 1968

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1968 - 3687.pdf](#)

### Concert Sunday Night at Park in Turners

TURNERS FALLS—The fourth concert of the season will be offered by the Turners Falls Military Band at the Unity Park bandstand at 8 p.m. Sunday, conducted by Ray Dumas.

The first portion of the program will include a march, "Peace and Freedom", by Darcy; overture, "Trapelo", by Fulton; "Creme de las Creme", Tobani; march, "Parade Front", Holmes; "The Bells of St. Mary's", Adams; "Freckles", Coleman; and march, "Band Day", Bennett.

After intermission, march, "Minstrel Jamboree", Yoder; "Flamingo Trumpets", Butts, featuring a trumpet trio and band accompaniment; "Brasilia", Wechter; a Henry Mancini selection; "The Work Song", Adderley and Brown; march, "Admiral Byrd", Holmes; and the national anthem.

March 13, 1969

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1969 - 1352.pdf](#)

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1969 - 1363.pdf](#)

### River Recreational Proposals Reviewed

TURNERS FALLS—New recreation proposals for Turners Falls along the Connecticut River, necessary for renewal of the Turners Falls dam license by the Federal Power Commission, were reviewed last night in the Western Mass Electric Co. building.

Montague selectmen, Montague Recreation Commission members appointed to work-up proposals with WMEC, and Franklin County Boat Club officials, heard the new proposals.<sup>26</sup>

The presentation was by Donald E. Wirth, assistant engineer for Northeast Utilities Service Co., who pinned on the wall four maps showing possible recreation plans.

The recreation commission was chosen to work with WMEC after original plans were considered unsatisfactory dealing principally with the lower river area near Cabot Station.

The new proposals allow for development of that area but also for improving and preserving Unity Park and inclusion for a public marina near the old bridge abutment off the park's edge.\*

Boat club officials were assured the club would be to continue leasing WMEC property there and have the opportunity of acting as concessionaire in running the public marina.

WMEC Vice-Pres. Paul J. Sullivan gave a brief history of what has happened and an explanation of the fact the company must receive a new license for the dam in order to

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<sup>26</sup> \* Never materialized.

perform recreation proposals. Total WMEC cost estimated for the recreation plans was put at \$330,000.

Sullivan explained the Northfield Mountain project was a Northeast Utilities project of which WMEC was a part and that a license has already been obtained for that project.

The Turners Falls project was strictly a WMEC project and that company must apply for license renewal in June, one year before it actually expires June 30, 1970.

"In applying for the application for the license renewal, we must show plans for improving recreational and land and water resources of the project in the area," Sullivan said. "What you hear tonight is purely a proposal and hinges on the company getting the license for the dam. We cannot do these things without the license."

### **New Dam Plan**

Discussion also revealed plans for a new dam at the Gill side erected 100 feet in front of the present dam. The old dam will be removed late next year.

Three Tainter gates 40 feet high will be installed which will let water over the dam.

Bascule gates six feet high will be constructed on the dam about itself on the Turners Falls side being built and doing away with flash boards now being used. Water will flow over these gates.

### **Fill Operation**

A cut and fill operation along the riverbank above Unity Park and nearby areas. The area's low spots would all be filled in to provide a level higher than the highest the level the pond would reach.

Chevalier said flooding of the park area, a concern of many residents, would not be any more a possibility than now.

In explaining recreational proposals, Wirth began at Cabot station near Rock Dam and Rawson Island.<sup>27</sup> He said there is a program by technical fisheries people to restore shad and salmon fishing in the Connecticut River.<sup>28</sup>

If, through use of the Holyoke fishway, he said, shad and salmon do get up here, plans are included for development of a fishway at Cabot Station to make it possible for them to get further up river.

The plan is to allow the general public to cross WMEC land and use it for fishing, picnicking, hiking, and other outdoor pursuits.

### **Gates Planned**

Wirth explained gates would be provided on roads leading from the South End and a one-way road along the dike by the canal would permit travel to the area by car. He

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<sup>27</sup> Rawson Island is a misnomer for Smead Island. *e.g.*

<sup>28</sup> This program continues presently. Shad counts have depleted. Millions have been spent for the construction of two oversized fish ladders at Cabot Station as well the fish ladder at Turners Falls Dam and the canal gatehouse conduits. Salmon are virtually nonexistent. *e.g.*

pointed to provisions for turnouts for cars on the road so passage could be maintained since the whole of the road will be in view of motorists.

Establishing a wildlife area was proposed for land on the east side of the river near Cabot Station.

In a Branch Canal proposal between Rockdale store and the South End, a clean-up plan and protective fencing was proposed from the railroad trestle to the canal. It would be developed into a picnic and play area for South End residents and at the same time clean up an eye sore for the community.

Talk concerned an old vacated factory at one end of the project. Selectmen noted title for the building was in land court now, indicating the building was expected to come down under town control soon.

### **Park Plan**

Alternate proposals were made for Unity Park. One suggested the extension of First St. along the river bank to the Boat Club area. The river bank would have a 10-to-1 pitch. Both plans were in favor of elimination of Second St. as a through street connecting with Ferry Rd for through traffic. "It is a designer's first thought to eliminate through traffic through the park," Wirth said. "It cuts the park in half and creates a traffic hazard.

Both Unity Park plans provide for a family picnic area near the dam, an active park area further in where sports activities are carried on and public marina at the other end

The marina would be designed for 100 boats at the outset with maximum of 200 eventually.

### **Ramps Removable**

Boat ramps, removable for winter, would be stationed along the riverbank which would have by then lined with rock. The ramps would have small catwalks, anchored in place on the river bottom with crossed chains to keep from moving about.

Wirth suggested a piece of architecture at the old abutment to capture the spirit of the park. "If a building were to be built this would be the place giving it and the park a view from the Turners Falls—Gill bridge," Wirth commented.

Selectman Henry G. Waldlich commented that the community, "We should be involved accepting this whole unit. The town should be concerned with the time table."

### **License Needed**

Sullivan explained that not only was the project dependent on obtaining the license renewal for the dam but that it could not be started until it was received. If the government stalls in Washington, it could result two in two to three years before the actual renewal would be received, Sullivan pointed out.

General Mgr. Allen Abercrombie arranged with members for another meeting at the WMEC building Wednesday at 8 p.m. He asked that all present take proposals into consideration and come back next week with further suggestions.

It was noted that nothing was being proposed here that would need town meeting approval. Maintenance of the Cabot Station area plans would be the company's responsibility while a joint maintenance sharing of Unity Park problems would be sought.

Wirth said the company would be responsible for any water pressure problems in connection with the Unity Park wading pool due to rise of the water level in the bac of the dam.

"This is a problem, " Wirth said, "but a solvable one."

**June 27** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1969 - 3591.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park Concert**

TURNERS FALLS—The second concert of the season for the Turners Falls Military Band will be in the Unity Park bandshell at 8 p.m. Sunday. Ray Dumas will conduct.

The first half program will feature a march, "Men of Ohio", by Fillmore; overture, "Horizon", by Peter Buys; ballad, "Rosalie"; march, "Attack", Reeves; selection from "Mikado", Gilbert and Sullivan; "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise"; polka, "Prisi"; beguine, "Speak Low", and a march, "Farsonian", by Gutch.

After intermission, the group will offer another march by Fillmore. "Noble Men"; a cornet solo by Allyn Washburn, "Waltzing Bugle Boy"; a selection from "South Pacific"; a novelty number, "Jumping Bean"; march. "Boston Commandery", Carter; and the national anthem.

**July 11** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1969 - 3806.pdf](#)

### **Band Concert Sunday**

TURNERS FALLS—A solo by Doreen Gleba of Wentworth Ave. and a trumpet trio by three members of the Turners Falls Military Band will highlight that group's band concert, Sunday night at 8 at Unity Park Bandshell.

Miss Gleba will offer "Hey Jude" in the first portion. The trumpeters, Warren Partenheimer of Turners Falls, Harold Maddern of Gill, and Allya Washburn of Athol will offer "Trumpets Wild" by Walters.

**Aug. 26** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1969 - 4718.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park To Close Pool Sunday**

TURNERS FALLS—The Unity Park wading pool will be open every day this week through Sunday, Parks Supervisor John Skrzypek said. He sees no reason to drain and clean for a final four-day period.

The pool will be closed for the year on Sunday.

### Changes Suggested in Unity Park Area

TURNERS FALLS—Montague's town meeting members will be asked to authorize some changes in town buildings and sewer lines near the Connecticut River.

The Western Mass. Electric Co. today issued a news release outlining changes it is proposing as part of its huge Northfield Mountain project. By raising the height of the Turners Falls dam approximately five feet, the utility is liable to seepage damage claims. It is therefore seeking to make advance provisions to avoid damage.

Its offers to town officials, which the utility release says should go to town meeting, include a \$4,000 renovation to the Unity Park bandstand, construction of a First St. storage shed or reinforcement of the existing building and raising sewer lines to higher levels.

### Report Given

The utility, which invited the public officials to its Greenfield service center last week, today released this report.

Western Mass. Electric Co. invited a wide range of Montague town officials to their Greenfield Service Center last week for a discussion and exchange of ideas relating to physical changes which will occur in the general area of Unity Park. The area studied is one which has the lowest ground elevations and is presently at levels below 187feet. Much, but not all of the property belongs to the utility company.

"Invited were the Selectmen, Planning Board, Superintendent of Streets, Finance Committee, Trustees of Soldiers Memorials, Superintendent of Parks, the Parks and Reaeration Commission, and the Turners Fatts Fire District Commission.

WMECO's Wentworth, in a step-by-step presentation, described the necessary alterations to sewer lines catch basins, the rising of sections of roads at low elevations and other properties which would be affected by a higher river elevation at the completion of the Northfield Mountain Power Project.

### Work Underway

"Alterations are now underway at the Gill and Montague dams where a new system of gates is being installed and will allow the pond to be operated at higher levels than in the past. The normal once-a-week high operating level of the pond will be 183.5 feet and the highest anticipated level, during flood flows would be 186.5 or less.

"At these maximum pond elevations, certain low-lying areas would be inundated or affected by seepage unless land filling and bank protection work is carried out. This work is scheduled by Northeast and must-be completed to a great extent by the fall of 1970.

"Specific projects described low-lying areas. Land fill will by Wentworth were sewer line replacements at higher levels and alteration or replacement of the town's storage barn located on the town office property off of First Street.

### **Offer Made**

"Northeast made the offer to town officials of reinforcing the present structure which would possibly be affected by seepage or to replace the structure with a totally new pre-engineered steel building.

"Another public property which would be affected by seepage is the Soldiers Memorial Band Stand and WMECO's Wentworth pledge to undertake a revamping of the structure "Wentworth's presentation was at an estimated expense to the utility of about \$4,000.

"Northeast Utilities has accepted the full responsibility and expense associated with the raising of sewer lines which the power project will affect NU engineer's town officials their making pointed out to the wisdom of their making certain other changes to their sewer lines at this time, rather than at a later date and at a much greater expense. These changes, however are not being necessitated by the utility's project and were recognized as a town responsibility.

### **Plan Illustrated**

The company illustrated their plan to cut back the existing riverbank and to face it with rip-rap and filter material. The bank cuts will be made on property owned by WMECO, and the material excavated will be used to raise grades in the low-lying areas. Land fill will also improve a small low-lying area at the Unity Park.

"Wentworth pointed out that it would be necessary for WMECO to pay certain sums to the town for seepage rights on three parcels of town property. They were Unity Park, land on which the town storage barn stands, and a lot on 1st St.

"Involved also, and discussed, was a matter of several easements both by and for the town for the implementation of the new sewer lines and altered routes.

Wentworth's presentation was followed by an hour-long period of questions and remarks from town officials.

It is expected that these matters would be taken up at the next town meeting.

In attendance were: Eugene Koch and Joseph Bonnette, board of selectmen: Andrew Rastallis, superintendent of Streets: Donald Inglis, Alfred Lucas and Warren Gould, finance committee: Harold Churchill, W. Edwin Potter and William Reum, Planning Board: James Gut, Alfred Burnham, Louis Zankin, Joseph Garbiel, war memorial committee: Ruth Grimard and (Supt.) John Skrzypek, parks and recreation: James Steiger, Turners Falls fire district: R. Foresi, and George Brosky, NUSCO: John Hickey, HWPCO: Semanie and Wentworth, WMECO.

## No Tide Water Here

TURNERS FALLS—Last week a fella came into the office and said, "Da you, know we're going to get 15-to-20-foot tides on the river at least twice a day? They're going to wash away Unity Park."

These startling comments came from a former Turners native who still loves his town. He said he didn't believe them himself but that was what a lot of people feared through talking among themselves about the consequences that are the huge renovation at the Turners Falls dam.

Saturday, town meeting members here will be asked to consider a nine-part article wherein street elevations in the Unity Park area will be raised, tree belts changed, drainage lines increased in size and a general redevelopment created in the whole area of First, Second, Third and L Sts., lower Ferry Rd., Unity Park, and the Franklin County Boat Club.

If members approve the plan as presented by Western Mass. Electric Co., the town will receive much long-needed updating of surface drain systems and most likely a vastly improved Unity Park, certainly not a ruination as some persons suspect.

Most important, the town is to get all this updating without paying for it. That's right, WMEC foots the bill. You see, the town fathers and other town committees drove a hard bargain with WMEC.

**BUT 15 to 20-FOOT TIDES** at Unity Park when the pumped storage project goes into operation on Northfield Mountain in 1972?

Winnie says, "Pooh!"

The most spectacular tides in the world occur at the Bay of Fundy between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and they only come to a 25-foot maximum! No—wonder—Winnie—says. "Pooh! "

Much has been written by this writer and others and by WMEC and Northeast Utilities Service Co. on what they are going to do at the dam for themselves and the town.

But the bare fact elevation figures always seem to get lost in the article. They are there but the reader usually has had to ferret them out for himself.

**OUR WINNIE** who says "Pooh!", is Winslow C. Wentworth, WMEC's real estate agent. He just happens to be the Montague—Town Engineer as well.

We had a good talk with him and his assistant Bill Semani the other day and here are some cold hard facts.

The attitude at Unity Park is 190 feet, give or take a half a foot in either direction.

The current level of the Turners Falls dam, without water flashboards, is 172½ feet. Adding flashboards brings the current pond level to 179½ feet. This means that the normal river level at the dam is at least 11 to 13 feet below the average elevation of Unity Park.

The bascule is a hinged gate that will fold down to let high water go over the top. With this new type of gate, the utility will be better able to control the amount of water it lets over the dam than flood gates could ever let through the bottom.

Flood gates will remain operable on the Turners Falls side although a new dam on the Gill side is being constructed and will have no flood gates. That new dam instead will be fitted with Tainter gates, a hinged gate that will let water through the top of the dam rather than over the top. The old Gill dam will be removed, blasted out.

**WENTWORTH ADMITS** there will be a daily fluctuation of water at the Turners Falls Pond as the Northfield Mountain hydroelectric pump storage project stores and releases water daily.

But it cannot be anywhere near the 15 or 20 feet cited. of the Rather the fluctuation will be nearer to a three to a four-foot daily maximum early in the week, lessening as the week progresses.

Wentworth views the outcome as "a tremendous improvement" in the whole Unity Park area as well as on the river.

The pond level average will be about three to four feet higher than it is now, or roughly still seven feet lower than the Unity Park elevation.

Even, at high water freshet in the spring, in a flood stage setting, the park would not be inundated, Wentworth promised because of the utility's ability to spill water more quickly than before.

Wentworth is convinced that boating will be enjoyed more than ever on the river. The pond level for eight or 10 miles back to Northfield Mountain will be higher than normal. It stands to reason that a three-to-four feet hike in the river level the dam will spread to much less than that as the miles go back up stream.

Barton Cove will have more water and provide more recreation for boating. The river will be deeper and will provide more water and navigable channel with the project completed. This in turn should provide more cover for fish and other marine life. There will be more water generally on weekends, the prime pleasure time.

**A FURTHER WORRY** is that the-the higher water table will undermine Unity Park from underneath. This simply is not so, according to Wentworth.

He noted that several instances in the past of pools forming in Unity Park are the result of huge rock fill that was used to fill in the park in the first place. The company furthermore has promised to stand responsible for any problems that might occur to the land in the park due to the higher water table.

They will bring in the necessary fill to make such corrections. But all engineering reports aimed at studies in this direction show no appreciable problem.

It also has been asked if a retaining wall is going to be built along the side of the river at the park. The answer is no, but that bank cutting and dredging will be performed.

The bank will be" rip-rapped all the way from the dam past the Boat Club to the section above it known as Red Rock.

The rip-rap will be done with large, heavy rock at a pitch from the bank to below the pond lever of one foot elevation in three feet of river bank. The rip-rap will prevent erosion of the river bank and protect the park as well.

The pitch of the rip-rap will be so gradual that it will provide a safety factor for youngsters who do happen to be near the river. There will be no large drop-off or "cliff" as some fear.

One resident questioned what would become of the dozen or 15 private boat ramps built along the river just above the dam but below the boat club.<sup>29</sup>

He complained in a forum letter that the company had not attempted to talk to these ramp owners and that they would be out of luck.

Wentworth says the company intends to talk to this group, but does not know who makes up the group. He has invited to those persons to contact the utility for such talks. Rip along the river bank here is absolutely vital and will not be conducive to further use by private individuals with boat ramps, he Admits.

**THE HIGHER WATER TABLE** is a problem for the utility to protect itself against seepage, back up stream. it bought 13 buildings and has razed four to this date. The others it hopes to renovate and perhaps sell to individuals. But the seepage isn't expected to be a damaging factor in regard to the land area, only to those buildings built in the lowest of all spots there.

Street elevations, particularly at the First and L St. corner, will be raised no more than five feet, all graded, and L St. levelled back to Second St.

The town has an increasing surface drain problem. An 18-inch line will be relocated off Ferry Rd. to come into the river near the old bridge abutment.

The town also must get its surface water out of its sewage line. The surface drain line will be doubled in size, from 18 to 36 inches along L St. to First St. and then from 24 to 48 inches along First St. to the canal where it will empty in at a point five feet higher than now.

The company has offered to extend the sewage line from the Unity Park Pool area to the bandstand – to renovate the bandstand structure with a cinder block partition and to replace all wood supports with concrete. It proposes to spend \$4,000 on the bandstand alone.

The utility also has offered to build the town a new prestructured[sic] steel building 40 by 60 feet to replace the barn that is located behind the town garage now or to renovate the barn, whichever the town prefers. Wentworth says the cost to renovate or build the new building would be about the same, somewhere around \$10,000.

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<sup>29</sup> This area is known by locals as the "Polish Navy Yard".

Assessments for the buildings torn down will be lost to the town, but they amount to very little. The town will get an immensely improved Unity Park and any buildings the utility has bought and renovates for re-sale will be reassessed at far higher a tax value, Wentworth insists.

All in all, the article encompasses a lot of proposed work and a lot of value for the town if it accepts. Estimates of the cost to WMEC for these improvements alone range upward from \$100,000.

Wentworth also made t a point to stress that these improvements, which will include grading and planting of trees, in no way replace any part of the recreational programs the company has described before and will still be obligated to provide in the future.

**Mar. 23**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1970 - 1625.pdf](#)

### **Power Company Gets OK to Raise Low Spots**

TURNERS FALLS—Western Mass. Electric Co. received the go ahead with a big renovation project in the area of First, Second and L Sts., Ferry Rd. and Unity Park at the annual Montague Town Meeting Saturday.

Winslow C. Wentworth, WMEC's real estate agent, introduced his presentation with the remarks, "This is a prelude to a big industry for the town. Assessors have agreed to \$181,000 in assessments this year be added to the tax base. This week, another \$50,000 is expected to be agreed upon. This \$230,000 is only a very small part of the whole ultimate picture.

The work is a byproduct-of the \$77-million Northfield Mountain pumped storage project 10 miles upstream on the Connecticut River. Because millions of gallons of water will be released at times of electric power need, the river can be expected to rise briefly above its normal flow level. The company is raising the around the Turners Falls dam about five feet to help contain the controlled inundation.

It is possible, however, that water will seep into low-lying areas, such as that between Second St. and the river and between Avenue A and Ferry Rd., the company has said. As a result, the utility has offered to build up this low-lying area to help prevent any seepage damage.

Walter Sojka Questioned the advisability of agreeing to a 10-year limit in holding the company responsible for damages from seepage to property or from work done or for sink holes appearing in the center of the park.

WMEC Atty. Paul Trudel and Town Counsel Douglas E. O'Neil noted that the town could not hold the company responsible "forever"; that is illegal. Any problems that can occur should occur within 10 years, they said, and the town meeting members accepted this.

Joseph Welcome questioned the possibility of conflict of interest for Wentworth, who is representing the company while also being the town engineer.

Wentworth offered his resignation after denying that any of the engineering "on this project was done by your town engineer". Chester Tela closed the discussion by asking how all this work was going to reflect in his electric bill "I am concerned in my electric rate since I went all-electric," he said. He received no answer. The entire article was voted with little opposition. WMEC officials indicated the work would begin in May and be finished, or nearly so, by fall.

**June 23**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1970 - 3554.pdf](#)

### **River Bank is Changed**

**Note: The writer of this article is careless regarding the historical correctness of many of the topics mentioned.** See footnote(s) for the facts.      *e.g.*

Residents of the "White Coal" City, Turners Falls, have been reminiscing lately about the area north and south<sup>30</sup> of the Montague side of the Turners Falls dam.

WMEC, in conjunction with Northeast Utilities has finished the first phase of clearing a 2800-foot stretch of land immediately north<sup>31</sup> of the dam in preparation for altering the river bank, bringing to an end an era of Turners Falls history.

Old-timers and not-so-old-timers will remember the Davis ice house, where ice cut from the river each winter was stored for sale year-round.

Remember the cannon in Unity Park? Up in the woods on the north side<sup>32</sup> where the flagpole used to be are two stone abutments—the cannon was taken and melted down for the war effort almost 30 years ago.

Remember the old frog pond?<sup>33</sup>

There used to be several firms<sup>34</sup> where the Montague end of the present bridge<sup>35</sup> is now located. The Boston & Maine Railroad had a train house there complete with turntable. Montague Machine first started business there. The old axe factory is long since gone.<sup>36</sup> The McCarthy coal shed and the International Paper pulp mill are gone. What was once-the largest cutlery firm in the world, John Russell Cutlery, is long since past.

Past bridge construction in Montague and Gill prior to the present connecting links accounted for over \$2 million. Where the present Montague City

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<sup>30</sup> Montague shoreline has no north side at his point. The Town of Montague is on the south bank of the Connecticut River.

<sup>31</sup> This would be heading in a southerly direction along the south shoreline.

<sup>32</sup> The "woods" lie at the south end of Unity Park.

<sup>33</sup> The "frog pond" was located at the west side of Peskeompskut Park.

<sup>34</sup> Two firms were located at the Montague end of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. The Company -made faux leather products, and the Clark and Chapman Machine Company (predecessor to Montague Machine Co.)

<sup>35</sup> Referring to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

<sup>36</sup> The "axe" factory (Electric Steel Products" was located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street at the Capitol of Turners Falls . . . the "Patch".

Bridge stands now was an 863-foot-long covered bridge<sup>37</sup> built by Alvah Crocker and Associates in 1868. General contractor for the project Aaron Wright of Greenfield. At the time of its construction, it was [the] only covered bridge country with trusses and laminated arches, which were added in 1901 when B&M put tracks atop the roof.

Upstream was the White, or lower suspension bridge where the present span next to Esleek Manufacturing now exists This 445-foot-long bridge was completed in 1872 at a cost of \$36,000. Cheap for those days, I guess. Contractor was Charles MacDonald of Greenfield.

The old Red Bridge, which area residents tell me came down during the war to be converted into war toys,<sup>38</sup> was built above the falls where ferry boats used to transfer men and materials from Montague to Riverside. Completed in 1878, the 573-foot span cost \$42,000 and was sturdy enough to stand in the '36 flood.

The newer bridges? Well, the present Montague-Gill<sup>39</sup> span costing over \$1 million was completed in 1938 by Daniel O'Connell Sons of Holyoke. The Montague City Bridge, cheap at only \$90,000, was built by J.F. Fitzgerald and Co. in 1948.

Well to get out of the past you and back to planned alteration of the shoreline just above the dam on the south side, Roland Foresi of Northeast Utilities said the clearing is 95 percent completed. All of the debris and stumps have been brought to the landfill dump in Turners except for wood acceptable for fireplace burning. Anyone interested in getting some good cordwood?

Foresi said after licenses from the Division of Waterways are obtained and other contractual arrangements are made between the utility and the town, bids will be let out for the actual alteration of the shoreline. The clearing operations were carried out by Mackin's of Greenfield.

**July 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1970 - 4020.pdf](#)

### [Military Band to Play at Unity](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Turners Military Band will present another summer concert in the Unity Park Bandshell Sunday night at 8.

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<sup>37</sup> The covered bridge ran along the north side of the General Pierce Bridge. Its east side abutment remains today. Portions of the west side abutment are in the wood line, partially covered with overgrowth.

<sup>38</sup> The "Red" bridge came down in 1942. The metal materials were used for WWII effort. There are no "toys" in war.

<sup>39</sup> The Montague-Gill bridge does not exist. The PROPER and ONLY- name for the structure is the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

July 16, 1971      Greenfield MA Recorder 1971 - 4233.pdf

### Chaperones Desired for Swimming Lessons

TURNERS FALLS—Playground Director George Bush has appealed for chaperones to accompany playground children to the Greenfield Swimming Pool for Red Cross swimming lessons, starting Monday for three weeks.

The chaperones only duties will be to check off the names of children as they board the bus going to and returning from Greenfield. While the children are actually at the pool, Red Cross instructors take over responsibility, Bush said.

The buses from Turners Falls leave Unity Park and the high school daily at 1:30 and return about 3:15 p.m. Other buses leave Lake Pleasant and Montague Center at 2:30 and Millers Falls at 2:40 for the 3-4 p.m. lesson for those children.

Swimming lessons start Monday and last until Aug.6.

January 6, 1972      Greenfield MA Recorder 1972 - 0093.pdf

**UNITY PARK** has been flooded<sup>40</sup> and there will be ice skating during the weekend, according to Recreation Dir. John Skrzypek.

May 1      Greenfield MA Recorder 1972 - 3141.pdf

### TF Carnival In Planning

TURNERS FALLS—Chr. Edmund Cadran of the Montague Democratic Town Committee, announced that the local committee will sponsor a carnival from June 15 to June 18 at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

It was also voted that all organizations on a first come basis will be allowed to erect a booth at the carnival and are urged to contact Donald Skole. No duplication will be allowed.

The carnival will be operated by the Renault's Rides which Cadran claims is considered reported in "good condition" at one of the largest and finest carnivals of its kind in the region. In addition to many new rides, the Democratic Town unusual committee has made the arrangements to sell tickets to the rides at a reduced rate.

**July 28**

### Jimmy Fund Day Plans

TURNERS FALLS—Boy Scouts of Troop 348 will be canvassing the town Saturday morning, selling Jimmy Fund Day tickets. Also, James Baird and Joseph Leprali will be running the refreshment stand at Unity Park Aug. 13.

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<sup>40</sup> The wading-pool. Locally referred to as the "baby pool."      *e.g.*

June 16, **1973**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1973 a - 1071.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Turners Falls Military Band will open its concert season Sunday with a performance on the bandstand at Unity Park. Selections from "Oliver", the Henry Mancini Concert Band Medley and a variety of popular and semi-classical songs are scheduled. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m.

**June 22**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1973 a - 1219.pdf](#)

### [History 50-years ago](#)

Turners Falls Now that the baseball diamond at Unity Park is nearing completion plans for the industrial league are getting underway. After the formal opening of the park on the Fourth of July it is planned to have industrial games at least two nights a week, the games to start at 6 o'clock or thereabouts. The mills in town have been invited to send representatives to a meeting Monday evening.

**Aug. 14**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1973 a - 2266.pdf](#)

**Note: A truncated article. Much is not germane to this writing**

### [WMEC Will Consider Recreation Updates](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Representatives of Western Mass. Electric Co. will meet with Montague government officials during the next two months to determine whether any changes should be made in WMEC's proposed recreation areas.

The proposal is a result of a meeting Monday between Selectman Donald H. Stole and WMEC's Greenfield Area Mgr. Alan Abercrombie, Senior Real Estate Agent William Semanie and Vice-Pres. Paul Sullivan.

Skole requested the meeting on hearing WMEC had informed the Planning Board last week the proposed recreation areas for Montague still "a long way off".

In a proposal for the modification of the Turners Falls-Gill Dam in 1966 WMEC announced the construction of a number of recreation areas including the revamping of Unity Park. The areas are required by the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in the granting of long-term licenses. . . .

June 15, **1974**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1974 - 3051.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Thursday concerts will be at the bandstand in Unity Park. New director for the program is Clarence Frigon. The band includes 20 members and plays state—band style.[sic]

**Oct. 7**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1974 - 5434.pdf](#)

### [Concert Big Success](#)

TURNERS FALLS—More than 500 music lovers turned a Jimmy Fund benefit here Sunday into summer's last fling. A parade led by several bands, followed by a concert in

Unity Park running until after dusk, brought the coffers of the annual drive between \$300 and \$400. According to publicity Chr. Lee Guilbault, the event was a "complete success."

July 29, **1975**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1975 - 4584.pdf](#)

—Granted permission to members of the Renaissance Community to use the Unity Park bandshell Monday and Wednesday evenings for band practice.

**August 13**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1975 - 4868.pdf](#)

**BEER AND WINE** licenses have been granted to the Montague Softball League to sell beverages at Unity Park ball games during August.

The league is attempting to raise \$8,000 to install lights for night games at the park. The licenses were sought to aid the fund.

Parks Supt John Skrzypek noted the league originally started with five teams and has grown to 13. "We can't play many games this way," Skrzypek said "but we could if we had lights."

Selectmen issued four temporary licenses, and more may be issued later. The sales are to be restricted to Unity Park only, and only during league games.

**Dec. 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1975 - 7374.pdf](#)

### **Greenfield Recorder Editorial Section**

#### **Unity Park Improvement is not Being Maintained.**

*"To the Editor:*

*I am writing to you to bring a matter to your attention that I feel is important. I have worked in this region of New England a long time. I have worked in three other counties besides Franklin County, since graduating from Turners Falls High School Class of 1942 (a great class, if I may say so!*

*I was born in the Town of Montague at the Farren Memorial Hospital in 1923, and I have always taken an interest in the affairs of my township. In those years of working by the sweat of my brow, I have had varied experiences.*

*My present position is as a skate guard at the Greenfield Area Skating Arena, under the new reorganized Department of Environmental Management, which became into being under former Gov. Sargent and completed under reorganization by Gov\* Dukakis.*

*In my years of labor, I worked for James K. Stewart of Stewart's Nursery and Garden Center, Millers Falls Rd., Turners Falls. Mr. Stewart is a graduate landscape architect of the University of Massachusetts under whose employ and guidance I became a plantsman, learning many things related to landscape work. It was no easy job. Most of the time it was just plain hard physical work. All the while I worked for Mr. Stewart my regular job was working as a gear-cutter for Millers Falls Co. on the night shifts. Under Mr.*

*Stewarts direction I helped to plant the trees in the park area near Unity Park in Turners Falls, along the river above the new dam which was built at least five or six years ago.*

*The utility company in agreement with the United States government, in order to get their license to build the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility, agreed to improve the environment which we live in the Town of Montague.*

*My complaint is, and I feel very strongly about this, is why the park is allowed to deteriorate in such a fashion. I took a leisurely walk through the area one day and I was amazed at what I found. Trees that I helped to plant in this park area lack maintenance, as living, growing things. Stakes that were put in place to support the new trees were rotting in the ground, and were loose around others, unable to support anything, let alone a living tree. The wire that was placed also to support and keep the trees straight and vertical, broken, and the bark of the tree growing around this wire, which will eventually strangle the tree or scar it for its life, as long as it grows. The crabapple trees that were transplanted there are a sorry sight with branches growing into one and another. They need to be pruned and thinned out. The maple trees have bark skinned right off from their trunks.*

*All of this is a lack of maintainence.[sic] Who is responsible for this sad state of affairs? It is no way to treat living, growing things: This area is being paid for by all of us and I would like to see this area maintained in a proper manner because I am proud in that I had a small part in its coming into being as a restful, beautiful place to enjoy and appreciate. Will you please look into this matter and let me know why this park area is not maintained as it should be. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?"*

Robert H. Parenteau, Greenfield

June 24, 1976 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1976 - 3651.pdf](#)

RENAISSANCE CHURCH<sup>11</sup> is sponsoring a free outdoor concert at Unity Park bandstand Sunday from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Featured will be the bands "Rapunzel".

July 22 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1976 - 4110.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Turners Falls Summer Band, under the direction of Clif Symonds, will present a concert in Unity Park bandstand, Thursday from 8 to 9:30p.m. The free concert will include selections by Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Count Basic Duke Ellington, and by rock music composers, including the Carpenters.

Composers such as Henry Mancini, Michele Legrand and Leonard Bernstein also will be featured.

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<sup>11</sup> Michael Metelica aka Michael Rapunzel. Band; Spirit in Flesh.

### Unity Park Spawns Disunity

TURNERS FALLS—The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission has charged Western Mass. Electric Co. (WMECO) with using "leverage" because the commission is urging development of the WMECO-proposed recreational area at Unity Park.

A company official denied the claim.

The commission referred to a recent WMECO request to meet with town officials to discuss a license for the town's present use of utility land for recreational purposes.

WMECO officials recently discovered that land the town has been using since the early 1960s for recreational purposes is owned by the utility.

WMECO's Franklin County Area Manager Arthur Brodeur told The Recorder today, "I resent the implication that WMECO is using leverage against the commission. Our request for the license is to simply absolve the company of responsibility in case an accident occurs on the property.

"We undoubtedly will issue a license to the recreation commission for use of the land," Brodeur continued, "with certain safety and maintenance standards. We want the thing done legally so we don't have a suit if an accident occurs."

WMECO, in a March 29 letter, said the recreation commission has installed an ice skating rink and basketball court on WMECO property off Second Street without a license from the utility.

WMECO said the town's facilities on WMECO land were noticed during a "normal inspection" of the area made by WMECO's Albert J. Brule.

Commissioners Richard E. Kovalsick and Michael Connelly said the "normal inspection" occurred after the commission questioned why the WMECO proposed recreational facilities had not been built.

Town and WMECO officials met a month ago to discuss the proposed closing of Second Street through Unity Park and other recreational facilities in town.

The commission favors closing Second Street at the Unity Park entrance. The commissioners asked why a "normal inspection" should occur now when the basketball court has existed since 1961. They believe WMECO is reacting against the commission's suggestion.

Kovalsick said WMECO promised in 1972 to build new facilities at Unity Park, near a south end branch canal and in Cabot Woods. "It was a selling point then," he said, "when they were going for their license."

Brodeur said "No company or corporation in their right mind will put several hundred thousand dollars into development if there is a chance they may lose the land."

The Federal Power Commission issues a license to WMECO on a yearly basis, although the utility wants a long-term license.

Brodeur said, "The Federal Power Commission understands our situation. They aren't putting any leverage on us to complete the recreational facilities until the (long-term) license is given."

Brodeur said he ran across the town's facilities on WMECO land recently when he dropped off a car for servicing at a commercial garage. He later asked Brule to check WMECO's boundaries in relation to the recreational facilities.

"It was a normal inspection for Brule when I asked him to go out It's as simple as that" he said.

The recreation commission claims that relationships between WMECO and Williams' Garage employees have in part caused WMECO to require a license for use of the rink and basketball court.

Joseph (Dickie) Williams of Williams' garage has publicly opposed the recreation commission's proposal to close off Second Street.

Also, commissioners said, if Second Street is closed to traffic, an alternate route could be First Street to Ferry Road, but extending First Street around the park would require paving by the town. Since the dirt road is presently owned by WMECO, members claim WMECO would rather see Second Street remain open.

Recreation commissioners said it is "ironic" that WMECO wishes to keep the road open, since the utility proposed closing the road in its 1972 plans.

Brodeur said the company is "noncommittal" on closing the street because it is owned by the town.

"We have no jurisdiction over Second Street." he said. "Closing off the street is part of the earlier plan, but it's not up to us. "

An article for Montague's annual town meeting warrant May 7 asks for approval to barricade Second Street running through Unity Park.

Commissioners said safety hazards caused by the road's cutting through the park must be resolved. They claim William's business will not be adversely affected by closing the road beyond the garage.

Comm. Connelly says, public opinion "is absolutely incredible. They're for the closing."

"Mothers take their kids to the park to play, not to dodge traffic." He said.

**June 8**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1977 - 4166.pdf](#)

### **Referendum Set**

TURNERS FALLS—The controversial referendum on the closing of Second Street through Unity Park—win 20, as residents attempt to overturn town meeting action in May that defeated the proposed closing.

The referendum is the first in the town's history to arise from a town meeting vote.

Montague selectmen Monday set the special election date for by June 27, but Car. William J. Powers Tuesday changed the date to June 20.

By law, the board must designate the election date to fall within 14 days after last Monday's meeting when the selectmen met to set the date. The June 27 date exceeded the 14-day period.

Fighting to alleviate traffic safety hazards in Unity Park, about 240 residents petitioned the selectmen for the special election.

The petitions were circulated by the Montague Parks and Recreation Commission which believes the May annual town meeting vote, which defeated the closing of Second Street, is to not representative of the entire town.

The article to permanently close the section of Second Street that bisects the park was defeated by a 35-60 standing vote. The controversial traffic proposal, petitioned by town residents to be included on the warrant, was debated for an hour, the longest discussion at town meeting.

But opponents of the closing have stated that no accidents have occurred in the past in Unity Park, and they object to the rerouting of traffic from the road through the park. The section of Second Street by William's Garage would remain open when the park section is closed.

By town laws established in 1962, 25 per cent of about 5,000 registered voters must turn out to vote on June 20. If 1,250 voters do not cast ballots, the town meeting vote is upheld. The road will remain open.

Only two others have occurred in Montague: the 1963 binding referendum which established the representative form of government, and a 1972 Parks informational referendum on the regional high school.

On the new Gill-Montague high school, 1,455 residents voted.

**Aug. 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1977 a - 1458.pdf](#)

### **Christian Concert Tonight**

TURNERS FALLS—A free Christian music festival will be tonight from 7:15 to 9 at the Unity Park bandshell in Turners Falls. The concert is sponsored by the Turners Falls Baptist Church and features two Greenfield performing groups.

October 16, **1978**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1978 a - 6456.pdf](#)

### **LEGAL NOTICES: NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission invites bids for the following Re-shingling of Unity Park Fieldhouse Specifications are available at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, Second Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376.

All bids must be in the hands of the Commission on or before Monday, October 23, 1978, at 7:00 p.m., at which time they will be opened.

The Park and Recreation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Christopher R. Shea, Michael K. Connelly, Marilyn Kostanski.  
Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

January 29, 1979 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1979 - 0670.pdf](#)

### [Memorial Plan Slated for Study](#)

Headquarters for the Montague's recreation department are now located at the Unity Park Fieldhouse in newly-renovated offices. Recreation Director Don Longo has joined the threesome in the park department – John Skrzypek, Billy Hildreth and Doug Brown. The phone number remains unchanged.

April 16, 1980 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1980 - 2203.pdf](#)

### [Referendum Challenges Closing.](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Some issues die hard.

For the second time this decade, a referendum has been called to challenge a town meeting vote approving the closing of a section of Second Street running past Unity Park.

A special town meeting April 10 voted to close the road, but an irate Second Street businessman has collected the 180 signatures necessary from registered voters in all six town precincts to place the question before voters as a referendum on the May 19 town election ballot.

"I'm going to fight it all the way," said Joseph Williams Sr. of Gill, owner of Williams Garage, after handing the petition over to Selectmen's secretary Helen Muszynski.

Bernard J. McCarthy, town clerk, said the question would be placed on the ballot.

And Williams said he would sue the town if the referendum does not pass. Closing the road will shut off access to Ferry Road, which will cut business at his gasoline station in half, he said.

Selectman Walter M. Garbiel's name appeared on the petition. Select men opposed closing the road at the April 10 meeting.

But town Parks and Recreation commissioners, who asked town meeting to shut off the Second Street section to ensure safety of children playing in Unity Park, say the question won't be dropped even if the referendum passes.

"I anticipate the question will come up again at a special town meeting at the earliest time possible if the referendum passes," said commissioner Gary Lambert.

And next week, Lambert said, Commissioners will block off the road with sawhorses, although the referendum bars them from setting up the cement barricade that was approved at town meeting.

"Town meeting declared the road a safety hazard" by voting it should be closed, Lambert said. "So, we have to close it until a referendum orders it be opened."

Commissioners included \$1,600 in their proposed budget for 1980-81, due to go before the annual town meeting May 3, to purchase two swing-gates to block off the road if the April 10 meeting did not vote to close it.

Lambert said that sum will remain part of the budget, because the town meeting will precede the referendum, but will not be spent if voters support closing the road.

The mini-war between Williams and parks commissioners is a replay of the same dispute in 1977, except that roles have been reversed.

Then, commissioners were the ones to call for a referendum vote on the same question when the annual town meeting voted not to close Second Street.

And Jack D. Curtiss, who is now William's lawyer, and advised him to pursue the referendum option this year, was then Montague Town Counsel.

After Curtiss said in 1977 it was illegal to hold a referendum on a negative town meeting vote, selectmen cancelled the voting process.

Identical questions surrounding the issue in 1977 have surfaced in 1980, too. In 1977, William's lawyers argued the town could not close the road because it was county-controlled. Commissioners and county engineer Andrew Wait have said this year town documents show it is owned by the town.

**June 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1980 - 3435.pdf](#)

### **Montague Notebook**

Northeast Utilities officials will be asked to allow Montague to construct a new road around Unity Park, crossing part of the utility's property, so Second Street can be closed.

Selectmen and the town Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday to consider alternate ways of satisfying commissioners' desire to shut Second Street to ensure safety of children playing there.

Although an April special town meeting voted to close\* Second Street, a\*May 19 referendum reversed that decision, largely because of complaints by Joseph Williams of Gill that losing Second Street access would cut his service station business in half.

"Relocation of Second Street would allow access to the garage, but close off the section of road running through the park.

The unpaved First Street extension, owned by the utility, seems the simplest alternate route, but utility officials have consistently refused to consider that suggestion, saying they might need that property in the future.

Because Second Street is designated within the "federal aid urban boundary," said Joseph G. Janikas, town streets superintendent, relocation would be 100 percent state-reimbursable.

But there's no telling how long such a project would take. Reconstruction of Greenfield Road, a similar but larger goal, won't be accomplished for another five years because of lengthy design stages and hearings.

Commissioners will take the matter up with selectmen and utility officials after they have surveyed the park and determined exactly where its boundaries lie, long a mystery. Surveying is expected to be completed in July.

October 5, **1981**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1981 - 3016.pdf](#)

### **Road Switch Serves All**

Perseverance and patience brought a happy conclusion last week to a Turners Falls controversy that had dragged on for years. All parties in the dispute over closing Second Street through Unity Park have agreed to a compromise plan and a safer park should result. Thanks to a recent round of negotiations, some concessions were made by both sides to steer dangerous traffic away from men, women and children using the Unity Park playground area. No longer will the temporary barricades be needed.

The town to reroute Second-Street around the park's northern boundary.

The unpaved First Street extension will be eliminated, ending the pesky hot-rodding and dust storms that neighbors objected to. All concerned businessmen and town officials are to be congratulated for their persistence in finding a satisfactory solution to a dangerous problem.

January 9, **1982**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1982 - 0128.pdf](#)

### **Montague Enriched by Unitarianism**

The Town of Montague once had two Unitarian churches—one at the junction of what is now K Street and Columbus Avenue in Turners Falls and one in Montague Center.

Although both ceased to exist as churches earlier in the century, the buildings continue to serve the community. One is occupied by the Elks Club on Columbus Avenue in Turners Falls and the Montague Grange in Montague Center.

Unitarianism began to creep into Montague in the early part of the 19th century. At that time, all taxes were paid, not only to support town services, but for support of the Congregational Church in Montague Center.

By 1826, Unitarians and Episcopalians were clamoring for their share of time in the church, in proportion to the tax they paid. Church members voted against such a move.

By 1828, the Unitarians and Episcopalians seceded and formed the Second Congregational Church of Montague. Together they built a church across the common in 1834. Within a few years, the Episcopalians dropped out and the church became the First Unitarian Society of Montague, continuing worship in that new building.

Although records were not found for the Turners Falls church, documents at Franklin County Registry of Deeds indicate the First Unitarian Society of Turners Falls bought property in 1884, indicating that a church was probably built at that time.

The church was active until March 1910 when the building was sold for \$4,500 to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield. It became Our Lady of Czestochowa Church.

With information not available locally, Carl Seaburg of the Unitarian-Universalist Association in Boston was contacted for further facts on the Turners Falls church

Finally, on Feb. 10, 1922, the remaining members of the Unitarian Society voted to "devote the funds in hand for the benefit of the children in Turners Falls." The funds were to be used to purchase a playground as a Unitarian memorial in Turners Falls—the origin of Unity Park on the banks of the Connecticut River.

However, the archives reveal that the American Unitarian Association (the Universalists and Unitarians had not yet merged) and the Connecticut Valley Conference of the AUA took the society's 11 trustees to court, claiming that the money they received for the church should go back to the association for Unitarian work, not a playground. Although the records stop there, the church must have at least won its point, because Unity Park was established in the fall of 1923.

Since that location was a swampy pond, filling and draining necessarily preceded the park's dedication. Eugene Koch of 16 Maple St. says he remembers catching frogs in the pond.

At one point, records in Boston show, the Montague parish was affected by the feelings in Turners Falls which led to the creation of Unity Park and thought was given to possibly donating the church to the village as a social center.

January 12, **1984**     [Greenfield MA Recorder 1984 - 1747.pdf](#)

### [Sledder's Nightlight on at Turners](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Thrill seekers—Montague Parks and Recreation Department workers are turning on the nightlight for sledders at the hill in Unity Park while there's good snow.

**May 15**     [Greenfield MA Recorder 1984 - 4023.pdf](#)

### [Jazz Band to Begin Montague Art Series](#)

TURNERS FALLS—An outdoor June concert by the Paradise City Jazz band is slated to kick off a new season of arts events sponsored at least in part by the Montague Arts Lottery Council.

The band is tentatively slated to perform outdoors at Unity Park band shell on June 3, 7 p.m. to dusk, but that date has already been changed once, so watch this space for scheduling details.

Led by Montague resident David Pinardi on trumpet, the Paradise City band plays spirited Dixieland-style jazz from the 1920s and '30s, and performs around the country, often stopping in Northampton. After the Turners concert, the group is slated for a summer-long engagement on Block Island.

The Unity Park concert is free, but all are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets.

January 22, 1987 Greenfield MA Recorder 1987 - 0454.pdf

### Going . . . gone

Montague highway workers demolish the Unity Park Bandstand in Turners Falls Wednesday. The bandstand, erected sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s, fell victim to dry rot and carpenter ants. It was condemned last fall.

A plaque on the bandstand, which was removed before its demolition, made it a memorial "**To the sons of Montague who gave their lives for their country.**"

The workers also managed to save some parts of the bandstand, which may be used in the proposed Heritage Park's town common. Plans for the common include a bandstand.



Unity Park Bandstand razing. e.g. archive

### January 13, 1986 Bandstand Removal.

For a complete pictorial suite, may I suggest the reader/researcher access the following resource.

**The Montague Historical Society Website/Database offers insight into the subject.**

For the Website: <https://montaguearchive.org>

From the home page; click **Database** at the upper menu field.

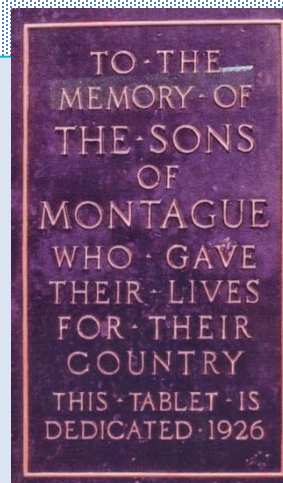
In the Database; click **Montague MA Historical Society** navigate to; **Infrastructure**.

Find; **Unity Park, Turners Falls, MA-Bandstand Removal January 13, 1986**

OR . . . copy and plug this into your browser;

**Unity Park, Turners Falls, MA-Bandstand Removal January 13, 1986**

Enjoy. e.g.



Nov. 25 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1987 a - 5745.pdf](#)

### Cost of Turners Recreation Center Would Exceed \$1M

Note: a truncated article. Much is irrelevant to this writing. *e.g.*

TURNERS FALLS—A proposed community recreation center would range in cost from \$1,029,000 to \$1.3 million, according to estimates presented to the Montague Parks and Recreation Commission Tuesday night by Greenfield architect Joseph Mattei. The commission does not know when it will request town approval for the proposed project, or even where it will be located.

The building would include classroom and conference space, and a gymnasium about the size of the Sheffield School's, according to Montague Recreation Director Cynthia Erho.

*“A Unity Park location may prove too expensive, as costly pilings might need to be installed to support the building's weight because **the park is located on filled-in land along the Connecticut River,**” Mattei said.<sup>42</sup>*

But before ruling out Unity Park, Mattei said he wants to talk with Montague Superintendent of Streets Silvio Baruzzi. Baruzzi got the go-ahead to dig test holes in the park from Montague selectmen Monday night. Selectman Clarkson Edwards predicted the digging would reveal a high-water table. Public sentiment favors a Unity Park location, according to Erho.

Erho suggested building the new facility on the site of the current recreation department office at Unity Park. “The present building doesn't necessarily have to stay there, as far as many of us are concerned,” she said. . . .

January 5, 1988 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1988 - 0054.pdf](#)

### Winter Carnival

TURNERS FALLS—The Montague Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor the second annual Great Falls Middle School Winter Carnival on Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Unity Park.

All Great Falls students are welcome. Students must sign up in their homerooms by Jan. 13 to participate in the hot dog and marshmallow roast. Carnival activities will include a snow sculpture contest, relay races, ice skating, sliding, music, games and more. Further information is available by calling the parks and recreation department at 863-2091.

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<sup>42</sup> As the Turners Falls Power Canal was being widened and lengthened (1903-1916), tailings from the project were used as fill for the then inundated area that Unity Park would eventually occupy. The water is backwash from the Connecticut River. *e.g.*

**April 15**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1988 a - 2992.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park Project to Begin This Summer**

TURNERS FALLS—Unity Park picnickers should plan on using one of the town's other parks this summer, since most of the picnic area there will be ripped up for road construction, according to the Montague Parks and Recreation Department.

Two projects will require removing the parks hibachis and picnic tables for most of the summer, according to Cynthia Erho, the department's director of recreation.

The first, slated to begin June 1, will affect First Street from L Street to Ferry Road, according to Montague Executive Secretary Francis Abbondanzio. Second Street, from L Street to Ferry Road, is slated excavation, and will the areas will be seeded and landscaped. Abbondanzio said the project will be going out to bid soon.

Erho said the \$200,000 park project is scheduled to begin in August. The overall cost was projected at \$406,000 but the town couldn't come up with the 50 percent match required by the state. Instead, the town will pay \$93,000 for the trimmed down project, she said.

Park improvements include relocating the basketball court; The old court is used all year, Erho said, but the new First Street extension is planned to go right through the existing court.

**May 3**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1988 a - 3529.pdf](#)

### **Skateboarding Posing problem for Turners Falls Selectmen**

TURNERS FALLS—Skateboarders in town are looking for a place to push air, grind, and shred their decks. Selectmen—even those who don't understand their specialized jargon—are trying to help them.

An article on the town meeting warrant, petitioned for by Police Chief Michael Saharceski, would prohibit skateboarding, scootering, coasting, and sliding on all ways and streets in Montague, except those set aside for such activity by the selectmen. On days when a street is designated for skateboarding, traffic would be prohibited, except for vehicles doing business in the area or residents who live on the streets.

Saharceski is concerned with the latest craze of skateboarding, which he said is similar to a wave that passed through town a couple years ago. But he has little legal recourse to keep skateboarders off the streets. At one selectman's meeting, the chief said he was concerned that one of the youths—zipping into traffic—will be struck by a car. He also doesn't want drivers in town to have to live with the anguish of accidentally maiming or killing a youth.

Monday night, five skateboarders, along with Montague Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman William Brown and Director Cynthia Erho, came before selectmen to propose ideas for the boarders. Several ideas were discussed, from multiple

bowl and ramp skateboard parks to movable plywood ramps. Bowls are basically empty concrete in-ground pools with curving sides

In the end, boarders got permission to use part of Second Street running through Unity Park—a section which can be closed off to traffic with existing gates. That solution will last at least until June, when construction on Second Street is slated to begin.

Selectman Clarkson Edwards suggested the board and recreation committee meet with the school committee to explore using part of the parking lot. He also asked Highway Superintendent Silvio Baruzzi to come up with an estimate for a 20-foot skateboard bowl for one of the town's parks.

April 22, **1989**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1989 - 3289.pdf](#)

### [Legal Notice](#)

ARTICLE 54 To see it the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the purpose of installation of a guard rail / protective fence in Unity Park along First Street, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

December 3, **1992**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1992 - 7000.pdf](#)

### [Park Field House to Be Rededicated](#)

MONTAGUE—Friday at 3 p.m. the town will rededicate the Unity Park field house in memory of John Skrzypek, who was director of parks and recreation from the late 1950s to 1970. Under his administration, the number parks in town went from three to 11.

September 12, **1993**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1993 - 5522.pdf](#)

### [Montague Building Permits](#)

Town of Montague, Turners Falls, playground structure.

February 15, **1994**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1994 - 2145.pdf](#)

### [Connecticut River Museum](#)

*Note: An abbreviated article to show Unity Park content only.      e.g.*

Project(s) set for the near future. A boating facility at Unity Park, to include docks, canoes, and boathouse, with management to be coordinated with the Montague Park and Recreation Department.

**June 22**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1994 - 3753.pdf](#)

### [INVITATION TO BID](#)

The Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, on behalf of the Town of Montague, Invites sealed bids from General Contractors for Unity Park Playground Renovations Project at Unity Park, located between First Street Extension and Ferry Road

in Turners Falls, Ma. in accordance with specifications contained in the Bid Documents and those prepared by David Jensen, Town of Montague Building Inspector at (413) 863-3203.

This project consists of, but it not limited to, the removal and reinstallation of several pieces of existing playground equipment, installation of new handicapped accessible playground equipment and fall-absorbing surface, enclosing groups of playground equipment with landscape timbers and putting a layer of coarse sand under the pieces of equipment. The contractor will be required to furnish a 100% Payment Bond upon award. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$13,994.00.

Contract documents, including specifications, will be available starting Thursday, June 23, 1994, 9:00 a.m. at the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, 80 Canal Street, P.O. Box 30, Turners Falls, Ma. 01376. These documents will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

May 6, 1996 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1996 - 2662.pdf](#)

[Town Meeting Article Approved.](#)

\$2,000 to resurface the Unity Park basketball court.

July 25, 1998 [Greenfield MA Recorder 1998 - 4462.pdf](#)

**Note: This truncated article provided only Unity Park reference.**

. . . Edwards said the need for an outdoor swimming area "has been an expressed interest, but it's never been compelling." Years ago, he said, the town considered buying a property off Swamp Road that had a house and a pond that he thought would have been "perfect" for a town swimming hole and picnic area. "We referred it to Parks and Recreation, but in their competing budget priorities, it didn't become one. It never gained support," he said.

The issue was never brought up for a town meeting vote. There were other swimming options in town at the time, according to Edwards: the 18-inch wading pond for tots at Unity Park and swimming at a commercial pool at the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club.

Unity Park's concrete wading pool was removed more than 10 years ago, because it was old and cracked, it leaked and became too expensive to maintain. Also, noted Edith Bourbeau of Montague City, children were always coming away with scraped knees and toes because of its rough surface. . . .

**Sept. 21**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 1998 - 5753.pdf](#)

### [Town Meeting Member to Vote on Skateboard Park . . .](#)

**Note:** This truncated article provided only Unity Park reference.      *e.g.*

Several youths from the town have been campaigning for a skateboard park. Now voters will decide whether the town will lease an empty lot near Unity Park. The land is owned by Francis "Chick" Ahearn, and the 10-year lease would require the town to reimburse Ahearn for his property taxes on the land. Currently that rate is \$995.

**May 25, 2000**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2000 - 3344.pdf](#)

**Note:** This truncated article provided only Unity Park reference.      *e.g.*

### [Swimming Plans Stall](#)

A proposal forwarded by the swimming committee that called for the construction of a swimming pool at Unity Park was rejected by residents at a January public forum. Because of this, the committee has reached an impasse, said Town Planner Robin Sherman, another member of the committee.

No future meetings of the committee have been scheduled, she said. Residents at the January forum insisted a natural swimming area was the only way to get teen-agers to come to a monitored area. Before the forum, the swimming committee identified three natural bodies of water that had potential to be developed into natural swimming areas, Lake Pleasant, Green Pond, and the Connecticut River. The committee believed a safe swimming area could be developed off the river opposite Unity Park, but rejected the idea due to the repeated refusal of Northeast Utilities to allow swimming in the river.

**October 5, 2001**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2001 - 4472.pdf](#)

### [Turners Falls Native Dobosz Returns to Town as Parks and Recreation Director](#)

TURNERS FALLS—In his third day in office as the new Montague Parks and Recreation Director, Jonathan Dobosz was looking at old black and white photos from the department archives.

"I was like 8 years old in this one," he said, looking at a picture of a summertime "mini-Olympics" contest that the different playgrounds in town used to compete in.

Dobosz, who comes from a similar job in Barre, Vt., is from Turners Falls. In fact, while he was at Turners Falls High School, he was a playground leader—first at Sheffield and then at Unity Park—in the department's playground program. His first day as director was on Monday. After spending some time "out in the world," Dobosz has returned home with his wife, Kelli, who is from Greenfield.

"Growing up in the area, the values and the people, it's something that we've held dear to us," said Dobosz.

Along with local knowledge, the 31-year-old Dobosz said, he brings a vested interest in the community and a certain passion for his new job. Although he didn't want to go into

detail just yet, Dobosz said that he's had his eyes on this job for a while and he's got some ideas as to what he might do with the department.

"Parks and Recreation is a unique field," he said. "It requires a strong level of people skills, not only in relating with adults, but also with children."

Although he says that he's naturally a reserved person, Dobosz said that he continues to push himself forward in his job. In dealing with teen-agers, he said that he tries to remember how he was feeling when he was that age.

"It was the whole 'Don't trust anyone over 30' thing," he said.

Dobosz thinks that trying to build a sense of ownership and a self-patrolling system around the skate park may be a particular challenge in his new job. Rather than being authoritarian, Dobosz said that his approach is to try to relate to the children and teenagers that he deals with.

"It's a more challenging position to be in, more so than just 'butting heads,'" he said.

Dobosz studied health and fitness in college and went on to work at a resort in New Paltz, New York and a country club in Millis, Mass before changing directions and going into municipal parks and recreation. He said that he feels like that's where he can see himself making a difference in people's lives.

"I'm in the business of having fun," he said.

Dobosz said that he'd like to broaden every aspect of the department, including programs for adults, children and senior citizens. He said that he would like to expand services and facilities that take advantage of Montague's abundant natural resources. Perhaps a trails system or programs that focus on eco-tourism.

Dobosz said that he's busy in the new job, developing new programs while learning the ropes. "I'm learning how things are done around here, while at the same time adding my own personal touch," he said.

Currently staying with family, Dobosz, his wife, and his 18-month-old daughter, Kasia, are hoping to find a place to live in Montague.

August 28, 2002

[Greenfield MA Recorder 2002 - 5313.pdf](#)

### Youth Football

#### Punt, pass and kick.

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department and the Turners Falls High School football program will cosponsor a local NFL Punt, Pass & Kick qualifying competition Sept. 29 at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Punt, Pass & Kick is free of charge and open to all boys and girls ages 8-15. All participants must show proof of age at all levels of competition.

Boys and girls will compete separately, and age divisions are 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15 (as of Dec. 31, 2002). The top scorer from all eight divisions advance to the sectional

competition. Registration deadline is Sept. 27. Contact the MPRD office (863-3216) for an official entry form, competition rules and a waiver form.

September 20, 2003      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2003 - 3253.pdf](#)

### [Unity Park Has Plenty to Offer](#)

Note: Condensed from a larger article) e.g.

Looking for a beautiful picnic area on the banks of the Connecticut River? Why not visit Unity Park, near the Fishway in Turners Falls. It has picnic tables and charcoal hibachis available on a first come, first-serve basis. They are open, free of charge, and close at 5 p.m. A perfect place for a retreat, reunion, or family barbecue.

November 15, 2005      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2005 - 7322.pdf](#)

### [Property Owner Wants to Know Town's Plans](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Town officials are once again trying to find a way to reopen the skate park.

Artist Tim DeChristopher, who owns the skate park property and leases it to the town, asked the Board of Selectmen Monday if there are plans to reopen the park. He said the lease is up in two years, but if the town does not want to have a skate park anymore, he can cancel the lease and proceed with his sculpture project plans. In the past, he has said that he wants to start an artist-in-residence program and create a sculpture garden on the property. But, he said he is pro-skate park if the town still wants to do that.

The skate park was built in the late 1990s and closed in spring of 2003 because nails were coming loose and the wood on the ramps and half-and quarter-pipes were warping and chipping.

Since then, some groups have tried to raise funds to reopen the park, but have been unsuccessful.

The park was originally maintained by a group of volunteers who used the park, but most of them grew up and moved away or lost interest in skating and the newer generation started skating in Greenfield's skate park.

Three parents attended Monday's meeting and said they would be willing to help form a new group that could organize fund-raisers to renovate and maintain the park.

Part of the problem is taxes. The lease gives the town permission to use the land in exchange for the town paying the property tax. But the taxes are between \$1,100 to \$1,200 and that eats up a lot of the recreation department's budget. The selectmen discussed writing to the Department of Revenue to abate the taxes and ease that burden.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the town's insurance company is coming to inspect the park in about a month and estimate how much it would cost to get it up to code and be usable again.

Two of the parents at the meeting, Ralph Morris and Matthew McMullin-Lego, were interested in the park as a way to keep teens entertained and out of trouble. The

other was Nancy Holmes, who was on the original skate park committee with her son, Zack. She said her son was moving away, but continues his interest in extreme skateboarding. She was concerned that Turners Falls teens skateboarding in Greenfield were less supervised and not required to wear helmets while skateboarding.

DeChristopher suggested taking back part of the property that is not used for the park to start the sculpture project and reduce the town's tax burden.

The selectmen sounded interested in his suggestion. The selectmen said they will talk about the park again after the insurers to their inspection.

February 19, 2009

[Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 1030.pdf](#)

### [Montague Recreation Notebook](#)

Special Announcement: Unity Park Rehabilitation Planning Committee and The Montague Parks, & Recreation Commission is looking for one more Montague resident to fill a vacant position on the Unity Park Project Planning Committee. The successful candidate will be working with the committee and Parks & Recreation Commission in formulating a final design plan relative to Unity Park. Committee members will discuss and provide input on the Master Plan (which includes two meetings and one public presentation—begins this month and ends June 2010), and when the grant is awarded a total of three meetings from September to December of 2009, with a public hearing in January 2010.

Meetings will be primarily held in the evening, and will typically last 1 to 1/2 hours in duration, and will be held at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First St., Turners Falls. All meetings are open to the general public. The first meeting will be held on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Unity Park Fieldhouse. Interested candidates should contact the MPRD Office at 863-3216.

**Feb.26**

[Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 1186.pdf](#)

### [Parks Recreation Notebook](#)

Special Announcement: The Unity Park Project Planning Committee will meet tonight at 6 to discuss the park's master plan. The meeting will be held at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First St., Turners Falls.

**May 5**

[Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 2752.pdf](#)

### [Turners Skateboard Park Being Retooled](#)

MONTAGUE—Plans for a new state-of-the-art skateboard park hit a snag at a special town meeting, but town planners hope to resolve the issue and bring it back before town meeting members next month.

Town planners are hoping to build a 5,000 to 7,000 square-foot new concrete skate park on the western edge of Unity Park by abandoning Williams Way and using a town owned lot.

But, on Thursday landowner and artist Tim DeChristopher told town meeting he's concerned the new skate park would block access to a lot he owns behind the Williams Garage and lower the value of the parcel.

DeChristopher had hosted the skate park in one of his lots on Second Street at no cost to the town. But, last summer he announced he could no longer offer the parcel for free. The skate park has temporarily moved to a lot on the corner of 11th Street and Avenue A while it works on plans for the state-of-the-art park.

On Thursday, town meeting voted down a request to abandon Williams Way after DeChristopher raised his concerns, but town planners said they will work with DeChristopher and bring the request to abandon the road back to voters at town meeting in June.

**June 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 3956.pdf](#)  
**Unity Park Money Decision Due Within Month**

TURNERS FALLS—Within the next month, the town should know if it has \$51,000 in community development money to complete designs for a revamped Unity Park.

A conceptual plan shows new playground equipment, a new backstop, a home run fence more parking (near the field house as well as by the basketball courts), new crosswalks, a new beach volleyball court and a repositioning of the driveway so it's not between the parking lot and playground.

After several public meetings, planners also decided to add a community garden space (next to the basketball court), special gardens to help absorb rainwater and a path that leads all the way around the park.

"We're pretty much going to be touching every aspect of the park with a major emphasis on the playground," said John Dobosz, director of the Parks and Recreation Department. That includes making the playground fully accessible he said.

The proposals are part of the park's master plan, and the town may not be able to include all the items, depending on the cost of the project, said Town Planner Daniel Laroche.

On Monday, the Board of Selectmen approved using \$19,000 from program income money to design a concrete skate park, which will be built on the west end of the park.

The skate park is to be built on Williams Way and an adjacent piece of town-owned land. At town meeting this spring, the town had hoped to abandon Williams Way, a street that connects Second and First streets, but that effort hit a snag when abutter Tim DeChristopher raised concerns.

The town is still working with DeChristopher to address his concerns, said Laroche.

Next February, the town will apply for more community development money to make the improvements and build the new skate park, he said. The work will likely be done in phases over at least- two years and the town may look to the state Division of Conservation Service's PARC program to help fund the project, Laroche said.

**July 15**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 4369.pdf](#)

### [Legal Advertisement Town of Montague](#)

#### [Unity Park Improvement Project Scope of Services](#)

The following outlines a Scope of the Services for which the consultant will perform for the Unity Park Improvement Project component of the Town's FY 2009 Community Development Block Grant Program funded by the U.S. Department of HUD. The basic objective of the Consultant's efforts will be to design and prepare bid ready plans and specifications for the project. The fixed fee amount for the scope of services outlined below is \$51,270.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to continue with the selected engineer/landscape architect for additional services. These services may include: bidding and construction oversight. These services may be extended by contract with a negotiated fee for service. Towards this goal, the consultant will be responsible for the following scope of services in accordance with all Federal/State/Local laws and regulations, including but not limited to HUD regulations under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, applicable M.G.L. Chapter 149 requirements, as well as related Federal and State Labor Standards Provisions HUD form 4010; HUD Handbook 1344.1 Federal Labor Standards. Compliance; Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149. Section 27; and Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries (Labor Laws); Davis-Bacon and Related Acts; the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act" and compliance with all applicable Federal/State/Local ADA requirements:

#### **Scope of Services**

The Engineer/Landscape Architect will be responsible for the design and preparation of bid documents for the project. They will perform the following tasks: 1. Perform a topographical survey of the entire park and extend a minimum of 25 feet of the park's property line. The survey is to be prepared at a scale of 1"=20' and show the following at a minimum: 1' contours, spot elevations at corners of paved areas, wetland flagging, all utilities, vegetation (trees), inverts of storm drainage and sanitary sewer system, existing park elements, and location of abutting buildings and streets. A baseline and temporary benchmarks are required to be established for the construction phase of the project. Perform a photographic and video inventory of the entire site. 2. Wetland Determination & Request for Determination of Applicability 3. Prepare Final Site Plan/Design Development Drawings 4. Construction Documents Bid Ready Plans and

Specifications 5. Attend at least 3 meetings with town officials, the building committee. HRA and residents to discuss the project design. Also make project presentation at one grant informational meeting and one grant public hearing. 6. Upon approval of building committee, prepare and assemble 3 sets of bid documents for funding applications. Proposals should include the firm's qualifications and relevant work experience, particular reference should be made to state and/or federally funded projects, with the above mentioned type of project, a listing of all personnel who will be working on this project and their responsibilities and qualifications, a timetable for completion of the scope of services, documentation that the firm meets insurance requirements (Errors and Omissions Insurance, coverage to be equal to 10% of the construction costs with a minimum of \$250,000 and if the designer has a deductible to their policy, this deductible will be subject to approval by the HRA) The complete list of evaluation criteria is available upon request. Six (6) copies of the sealed technical proposals and one (1) sealed copy of a separate fixed price proposal for UNITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT should be submitted in writing by 2:00 p.m. July 29, 2009 to the Town of Montague, Selectboard Office, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls Massachusetts 01376. The envelope containing the non price proposals shall be marked "UNITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NON-PRICE PROPOSAL" and the price proposal shall be marked "UNITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PRICE PROPOSAL". For additional information, please contact either Bruce Hunter by phone at (413) 863- 9781 extension 133, or at the above address A site walk through inspection is scheduled for July 21, 2009 at UNITY PARK, Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA at 1:00 P.M. If you are in need of directions contact the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority at (413) 863-9781 x133.

The HRA and the Town of Montague reserves the right to reject all proposals in the interest of sound business practices. The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Town of Montague are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage proposals from qualified minority and women owned businesses.

**Aug. 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 5137.pdf](#)

### **Montague Eyes Next Round of Block Grants**

**Note: An abbreviated article will show Unity Park content only.**

MONTAGUE—Improvements at Unity Park, more housing rehabilitation and social service projects are among the items the town hopes to fund with the next round of community development money.

Last week, the town learned it got \$51,270 for to prepare design plans for Unity Park. The town hopes to get money for the first phase of the project, which is expected to total \$1.2 million, in the next round of community development money.

The town will apply for that next round in February.

A conceptual plan for the park shows new playground equipment, a new backstop, a home run fence, more parking, new crosswalks, a new beach volleyball court, a repositioning of the driveway so it's not between the parking lot and playground, community garden space, special gardens to help absorb rainwater, a path that leads all the way around the park and a state-of-the-art skate park.

Once the town determines a need, it will ask agencies to submit proposals, which will be reviewed by a committee of townspeople who will recommend which proposals the Board of Selectmen should approve.

**Sept. 9**            [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 5624.pdf](#)

### **Designer Named for Unity Park Renovation**

MONTAGUE—Berkshire Design Group will draft bid-ready designs for a revamp of Unity Park. That work will be paid for with \$51,270 of community development money the town was awarded this year.

A conceptual plan for the park shows new playground equipment, a new backstop, a home run fence, more parking, new crosswalks, a new beach volleyball court, a repositioning of the driveway so it's not between the parking lot and playground; community garden space, special gardens to help absorb rainwater, a path that leads all the way around the park and a state-of-the-art skate park.

Berkshire, which drafted a master plan for the park that was used to apply for community development money, was chosen from three others who submitted proposals.

The town hopes to use the plans Berkshire drafts to apply for a first phase of the renovations in the next round of funding, which must be submitted in February.

**Oct. 13**            [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 6440.pdf](#)

### **Family Fun Day on Saturday**

TURNERS FALLS—The Montague Parks and Recreation Department's eighth annual Family Fun Day is Saturday.

The festival, which is from 1 to 3 p.m. at Unity Park, includes scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin carving, a bake sale, and more.

The recreation department recommends you adopt your scarecrow now as they go quickly. Scarecrows are \$6 per each and Pumpkin Carving is \$2 per pumpkin.

The recreation department is also looking for old clothes to use for the scarecrows. Those who have clothes to donate are asked to drop them off at the office or e-mail John Dobosz at: [recdir@montague-ma.gov](mailto:recdir@montague-ma.gov).

**Dec. 16**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 8000.pdf](#)

### **Montague Backs Skate Park, OKs G-M Money**

MONTAGUE—Town Meeting took the first steps toward bringing a state-of-the-art skate park to town by abandoning Williams Way, which will one day be home to the park.

The park won't be open for another two to three years, but without Tuesday's votes, the Skate Park Committee would have not have been able to start the process, committee member Ellen Spring told town meeting members.

Besides abandoning Williams Way, which connects First and Second streets, Town Meeting agreed to pay abutter Tim DeChristopher \$1,000 from free cash in exchange for him agreeing to relinquish his right to pursue damages and allowed the town to reduce the size of the easement DeChristopher has.

After Tuesday's votes, the Skate Park Committee will join with the town's Parks and Recreation Department in applying for community development money for a multiphase revamp of Unity Park.

Once built, the Skate Park Committee will work with the town and Brick House Community Resource Center, which has agreed to have its AmeriCorps volunteer spend a portion of his or her time on the park, to make sure the skate park is kept clean and safe.

**Dec. 28**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2009 - 8265.pdf](#)

### **LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF MONTAGUE**

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Ave A, Turners Falls, MA. A snow date has been scheduled for January 25, 2010 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Ave A, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and solicit public response to the Town of Montague's FY 2010 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Local citizens are requested to attend and discuss the activities which the Town should apply for in this application in the FY 2010 application, the town is applying for a housing rehabilitation program in a regional application, Unity Park Phase One construction project and a social service program.

Local citizens are also requested to attend and discuss the activities which the Town received in the FY 2009 application. In the FY 2009 application, the town applied for and received a housing rehabilitation program, Unity Park design project and a social service program.

The Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the FY 2010 Community Development Block Grant Program. The HRA will be available to discuss the application process.

Representatives from the various agencies that are proposing projects will also be available to discuss their projects.

The Town wishes to encourage local citizens to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Selectmen Town of Montague

January 1, 2010      Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 0011.pdf

### Turners Pursues Multi-Phase Park Upgrade

#### If Funded, Unity Park Construction Could Begin in September

TURNERS FALLS—If all goes according to plan, children should be playing in a new playground late next fall. Last year, the town got community development money to design improvements for Unity Park and in February it will apply for more of that money to make those improvements, which include a new playground, a revamped parking lot and picnic areas, said John Dobosz, director of parks and recreation.

All improvements are being done, in part, to make the area more accessible, he said.

The revamped playground includes a water feature, an area specifically for toddlers and a rock adventure area.

"The playground is one of the most popular aspects of the park," said Dobosz.

The town finds out if it gets the community development money in late summer. If it does get money for Unity Park, construction is expected to begin in September and finish by November, he said.

The improvements are part of a multi-phase plan for the park. In the future, the town hopes to apply for more money to make additional changes including improving the playing fields (softball, baseball, and soccer) and basketball courts, building a beach volleyball court, building an asphalt walk around the perimeter of the park with exercise stations and setting up community gardens.

Also planned for a later phase, in two to three years, is a state-of-the-art skate park on the western edge of the park. Town Meeting members agreed to abandon Williams Way to make room for that new park. The new park would be made of concrete, which would be easier to maintain, said Bryan Dolan of the Skate Park Committee.

The skate park's temporary location is in a lot at 11th Street and Avenue A. The volunteer Skate Park Committee, the town's Parks and Recreation Department and the Brick House Community Resource Center are working together to take care of the temporary park as well as the permanent park, once it is built. The Brick House has agreed to assign its AmeriCorp volunteer to spend some of his or her time working on the park, he said.

Those wishing to help with the skate park are asked to e-mail: [gfskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:gfskatepark@gmail.com).

On Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, the town will hold a public hearing on all the projects, including Unity Park, that have applied for the next round of community development money.

**June 7**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 3545.pdf](#)

### **Turners Board OKs Money for Design of Skate Park**

TURNERS FALLS—The Board of Selectmen has authorized Berkshire Design Group to draw up plans for a new, state-of-the-art skate park on the western edge of Unity Park.

The \$17,650 for that work will come from the program income fund.

The skate park is part of a larger, multi-phase renovation of Unity Park, which the town plans to fund mainly through federal community development money, and will come in the later phases of the project.

**July 21**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 4563.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park Improvements on Hold**

#### **Montague misses block grant by one point**

TURNERS FALLS—Plans for a new playground, design improvements and revamped parking area for Unity Park may have to wait, unless town officials can secure part of the Community Development Block Grant that they had applied for in January.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio told Montague selectmen Monday that the town narrowly missed being awarded a Community Development Block Grant this year, which is a competitive grant. "We had 100 points, and the lowest (ranked) grant project to be funded had 101 points," said Abbondanzio. He said the grant application included a social services component, and it's possible that the next-highest ranking community had stronger social service needs than Montague's.

"We're hoping that, when the review notes come in, that the park project got a higher score," Abbondanzio explained.

In 2008, Buckland and Shelburne's combined Community Development Block Grant application for road reconstructions and for social services, which was ranked "97," lost out to a community with the score because that community had greater social needs. But the towns were able to secure the block grant about a month later for the road construction projects alone. Montague's Community Development Block Grant proposal included about \$576,000 for Phase I of the Unity Park project, which is to include new playground equipment, more parking, more walkways, more handicapped-accessibility, and repaving beneath playground structures with safer materials.

In the future, the town hopes to apply for more money to improve the playing fields and basketball courts, building a walking path around the perimeter of the park, with exercise stations, and setting up community gardens.

**Sept. 17**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 5943.pdf](#)

### **Turners Falls Skate Park Could Run \$500,000**

TURNERS FALLS—It could cost \$500,000 to build a state-of-the art concrete skate park on the former Williams Way on the western edge of Unity Park.

That estimate includes the 7,200-square-foot concrete skate park as well as fencing around that park, and a walkway with benches, trees, and bleachers.

The custom-designed park would have a variety of skating features like bowls, steps, edges, and a half-pipe.

Peter Wells, principal of Berkshire Design Group, said he will try to reduce the price tag, possibly with more grading along the outside edges of the park.

Berkshire is working with Pillar Design Studio, an Arizona firm specializing in skate parks.

Several Skate Park Committee members said the group shouldn't cut costs by taking away features.

"I think we need to work to make this a destination," said Ellen Spring of the Skate Park Committee. "We know we're not going to wow them with size, so it has to be a really skateable park."

Fundraising and volunteer labor could also help make the project cheaper, said Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Organizers hope to pay for the new skate park with community development money, other public and private grants, and fundraising, said Brian Dolan of the State Park Committee.

Before work can begin on the skate park, the first round of improvements must be completed at Unity Park, said Hunter.

The town was turned down last year in its bid to pay for those improvements with community development money. It's applying for the next round of funding.

A public hearing for that first phase of work is scheduled for Nov 1. The skate park is currently slated for the second phase of park improvements, to be completed in 2012, pending the completion of the first phase.

Those interested in more information about the skate park may e-mail: [gfskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:gfskatepark@gmail.com)

The Skate Park Committee usually meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6 p.m. at the Brick House Community Resource Center on Third Street.

Oct. 2 [Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 6311.pdf](#)

### Off the Record

At this week's Montague selectmen's meeting town officials were singing the praises of the Montague Soapbox Races, which drew large crowds to Unity Park on Sept 19. Chairwoman Patricia Allen said there's been talk of having town departments, fire districts and maybe even the schools enter carts in next year's race for a little friendly competition.

Nov. 5 [Greenfield MA Recorder 2010 - 7129.pdf](#)

### Montague Eyes Park Fixes, No-Interest Loans

[Items among town's wishlist for next round of community development grant](#)

MONTAGUE—An improved Unity Park, as well as a no-interest loan program for homeowners, are on the wish list for the next round of federal community development money for the town.

Plans for Unity Park include a new playground with age-appropriate areas, a bike rack, new benches, redesigned parking areas, several improvements to make more of the park handicapped accessible, a walkway connecting areas and a crosswalk to the bike path.

"I'm pretty excited about this," Dennis Grader, chairman of the town's Recreation Committee, told the Board of Selectmen on Monday. "If the project goes through, Unity Park would be like a diamond for the whole community."

The improvements will have something for all ages, not just young children, he said.

"It's one more piece that will draw people into downtown," agreed Selectmen's Chairwoman Patricia Allen.

The town is applying for \$652,700 in community development money.

Montague will contribute \$77,700, which will come from the program income fund and from community development money that's administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers community development money for the town, said Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

Last year, Montague applied for money for Unity Park, and although the project itself was highly ranked, it did not get funding, he said.

Montague is also asking for \$143,200 in community development funding for the ongoing housing rehabilitation program, which provides no-interest loans for low-and moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes up to code

This money will be targeted at five homes in Turners Falls and Montague City, said Bruce Hunter of the regional housing authority. There are five homeowners on a waiting list for the loans, he said.

On Monday, Montague's Board of Selectmen approved the community development application. In April, the state, which administers the federal money, will announce awardees.

The improvements at Unity Park are part of multi-phased projects at the park. In the next phase, the town also plans to build a state-of-the-art skate park just west of the existing park on what was once Williams Way.

Town officials and a committee of downtown residents, including skaters and parents of skaters, are working to find the money for that skate park. Berkshire Design, which designed the park improvements, is also working on the skate park and estimates it will cost \$500,000 to build a skate park.

July 27, 2011      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2011 - 4660.pdf](#)

### [Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds](#)

July 27, 2011

Town of Montague

Frank E. Abbondanzio, Town Administrator

Office of Board of Selectmen 1 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 Extension 110

On or about August 8, 2011 the Town of Montague will submit a request to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the release of Town of Montague Community Development Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383) as amended, to undertake two projects known as:

a) Town of Montague Housing Rehabilitation Program for the purpose of the project the Town of Montague Residential Housing Rehabilitation Program will utilize deferred payment loans to rehabilitate the most severely blighted income eligible owner occupied single or multi-family properties located in Target Area 1-Turners Falls, Census Tract 407.01, Block Groups 1-4 to create safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing. The goal of the program is to rehabilitate to code at least 3 units and;

b) the construction of Phase 1 of the Unity Park Improvement Project, a town owned recreation area adjacent to the Connecticut River in the village of Turners Falls. Unity Park includes open space, a playground, picnic area, ball fields, fieldhouse, and basketball court. It is located at the terminus of a newly-opened bike path. Unity Park's deficiencies limit the type and frequency of programming, as well as the numbers that can be served safely at the park. The project is important to the health and well-being of the town's residents, especially those in the densely-concentrated service area, where school yards, backyards and open space are virtually nonexistent. The project will serve 1,858 residents of the project service area in the town of Montague's Target Area 1, 76% of whom are low to moderate income.

The proposed activities are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for these projects are on file at Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), 42

Canal Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**Oct. 1**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2011 a - 0715.pdf](#)

### [Unity Park Petition Making Rounds](#)

TURNERS FALLS—A petition is circulating that urges Montague to seek grant money for a second round of Unity Park improvements.

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department, Commission, and Unity Park Improvement Committee are collecting signatures on the petition.

Montague received approval this summer for federal Community Development Block Grant money to improve the playground, main parking lot and access areas surrounding the fieldhouse.

The petition requests that the town apply for more CD money for a second round of improvements to include work on the playing fields, picnic areas and basketball court, a new parking lot on the north side of the park and a walkway connecting all activities.

The petition will be available at all Montague libraries, the Town Hall, and the Unity Park Fieldhouse and at various community events in the next couple of months.

February 12, **2012**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 0947.pdf](#)

### [Legal Advertisement](#)

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA). the Awarding Authority, on behalf of the Town of Montague, invites sealed bids for Unity Park Phase 1 improvements Project in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by The Berkshire Design Group, Inc.

The Project consists of rehabilitation of an existing playground to include new structures and surfaces, construction of a new parking lot and walkways; installation of new benches and universal access picnic table and new plantings The project also includes 3 Alternates: Alternate 1-Pave additional parking area with bituminous concrete (23,900 SF). Alternate 2-Alt 1 plus extra playground equipment (6 extra pieces) and Alternate 3-Alt 1 plus Alt 2 plus poured in place additional rubber play surface on Areas A & B (5690 SF).

The work is estimated to cost \$575,000.00 including Alternate # 1, 2 & 3. Bids are subject to M.G L c 30 § 39M and to minimum wage rates as required by MGL, c 149 §§26 to 27H inclusive, and Federal Davis Bacon wage rates and shall pay the higher of the two rates

General Bids will be received until 3:00 PM, Wednesday, March 7, 2012 and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be delivered to Montague Town Hall, Selectmen's Office, 1 Avenue A. Turners Falls, MA 01376 and received no later than the date & time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Town of Montague.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up on or after February 15, 2012 at [www.BidDocsOnline.com](http://www.BidDocsOnline.com) (may be viewed electronically or a hardcopy can be requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc at 433 Mam Street, Hudson, MA 01749(978-568-1167)

There is a plan deposit of \$2500 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to the BidDocs Online Inc Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check.

This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty days of receipt of general bids Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority Additional sets may be purchased for \$2500.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to the BidDocs Online Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The Contract Documents may be seen in person at

Protect Dog

18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport, MA 01950

(978)499-9014

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

42 Canal Road Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413)863-9781 x133

A site walk through inspection is scheduled for February 27, 2012 at Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA at 2:00 P M If you are in need of directions contact the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority at (413)863-9781 x133.

The Town of Montague and HRA reserves the right to reject all proposals in the interest of sound business practices The Town of Montague and HRA are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage proposals from qualified minority and women owned businesses and Section 3 businesses.

**April 19**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 2349.pdf](#)

### [First Phase of Turners Falls Park Improvements Under Way](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Summer is near, and with it summer vacation and the prospect of endless hours of play uninterrupted by study.

At Unity Park, between First and Third streets near downtown Turners Falls, earthmovers have begun excavating the groundwork for a revitalized park.

The new park will allow children to expend their energies on eight new play structures and cool off in the belly of a whale.

According to plans, a tail will project from one end of the abstract aquatic mammal, while a series of arches equipped with water nozzles give shape to the body.

Also available for play will be some old favorites, including the existing central play structure and the large blue slide. Perhaps of greater interest to parents, the plans include a larger, paved parking lot with marked parking spaces to replace the undelineated[sic] parking free-for-all of the old gravel lot.

Also in the works are improvements to the playground's accessibility for those of limited mobility, a major consideration in planning the changes according to Director of Parks and Recreation Jon Dobosz.

The existing sandpit surrounding play structures will be replaced with a rubber surface in some areas and wood chips in others, and the gravel path around the field house will be paved. A rain garden will catch runoff from the parking lot and other impermeable surfaces. Dobosz said the park has always been good, noting the location with its Connecticut River backdrop. "Once these improvements are put into place it's going to be just a spectacular area (for recreation) for the entire community," Dobosz said.

The planned completion date is June 30, Dobosz said, with construction ongoing until then and periodic closure of certain areas.

Dobosz said progress can be followed through the department's Facebook page, under the name Montague Parks & Recreation.

These improvements represent Phase 1 of the Unity Park Improvement Project. The price tag for Phase 1 runs to about \$652,000, and is financed in large part by a portion of the \$900,000 Community Development Block Grant to the town of Montague from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development by way of the state.

Phase 2, which would include work on the playing fields, picnic areas, basketball court and walkways, is included in the town's CDBG application for this year.

**May 24**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 3163.pdf](#)

**Unity Park Improvement Project:** To stay up to date on the project, visit our Facebook page and friend us! Montague Parks & Recreation Department 56 First St. Turners Falls, MA 01376 Office hours: Mondays to Fridays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**July 5**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 4066.pdf](#)

**Unity Park Play Area Reopening Delayed; Still Aiming for July Debut**

TURNERS FALLS—Park users will have to wait a little longer than expected, but officials hope to have the remodeled Unity Park play area open this month.

Work continues on the improvement project, with the play area and parking lot closed but the athletic fields, picnic area and basketball court open.

Jon Dobosz, Montague director of parks and recreation, said Tuesday he anticipates opening in 2½ to three weeks, barring further delays.

Officials had originally planned for a June 30 completion.

The new park will be a mix of old play fixtures and new, and Dobosz said the project was first slowed by the discovery that the decking of an existing structure needed to be replaced, and orders for the new structures also took longer than expected to come through.

"We appreciate the continued patience of our patrons, it's just going to take a little longer, and, once things are up and running it's going to be a brilliant park," Dobosz said. Some of the new play structures, including the whale-shaped sprinkler and a rock-climbing area made up of artificial boulders and rocks, are already in place, Dobosz said.

"There's progress every day and we do anticipate additional items being installed probably in a week or so," Dobosz said, adding after that it's a matter of some painting and putting up fencing.

The current work represents the first phase of planned improvements. The price tag for Phase 1 runs to about \$652,000, and is financed in large part by a portion of a \$900,000 federal Community Development Block Grant.

Phase 2, which would include work on the playing fields, picnic areas, basketball court and walkways, is included in a \$865,509 block grant awarded Montague in June for Unity Park work and housing rehabilitation in Turners Falls. Dobosz said he expects that work will begin in the spring, but officials will not begin discussing a schedule until the current phase is complete.

**July 18**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 4338.pdf](#)

**NOTICE of FINDING** of no SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS July 18, 2012 Town of Montague Office of Board of Selectmen 1 Avenue A Turners Falls. MA 01376 (413) 863-3200 Extension 110.  
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

On or About August 3, 2012, the Town of Montague will submit a request to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383), as amended, to undertake the following FY 2012 CDF-I projects

**PROJECT 1: Phase II of the Unity Park Improvement Project** The project will result in the construction of Phase II of the Unity Park Improvement Project, a town-owned recreation area adjacent to the Connecticut River in the village of Turners Falls. Unity Park includes open space, a playground, picnic area, ball fields, field house, and basketball court. It is located at the terminus of a newly-opened bike path.

Conditions that will be remedied through this Project Include: • Improved accessibility throughout the Park by installing accessible walkway which will provide for accessible viewing areas for all activities and also connect all activities to parking areas • Increased safety and playability of two multi-purpose fields (Softball and baseball with soccer overlay) • Improved fencing (540 LF) at two multi-purpose fields that provides safer playing and viewing conditions as well as designated accessible areas for viewing • Installation of a wood guard rail (730 LF) along the Park's frontage on First St. to improve safety at picnic and play areas • Installation of 9 seating areas (benches and paved pads for wheelchair users) throughout the Park for passive recreation or resting • Resurfaced and repainted basketball court that will allow for safer playing conditions • installation of 1 handicapped accessible picnic table • Replacement of 5 barbeque grills • New paved parking lot with 35 spaces (2 HP - 1 van accessible) on east side of Unity Park • Improved site drainage through construction of a "rain garden" - limited impact design solution which meets the Conservation Commission's Notice of Intent. • Creation of a 16-plot community garden for use by community members • Creation of 2 areas with native plants that attract endangered butterflies/moths with interpretive signage • Creation of an accessible fitness walkway with 4 exercise stations.

**July 21**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 4414.pdf](#)

### **New Turners Falls Playground Set to Open**

TURNERS FALLS—artificial boulders and rocks. Parents of playground-starved children might do well to keep an eye on Unity Park this weekend.

The playground and parking lot closed for renovation may reopen today, according to Montague Director of Parks and Recreation Jon Dobosz, although he said the opening is not certain.

Officials had originally planned for a June 30 completion.

The new park will be a mix of old play fixtures and new. New structures include a whale-shaped sprinkler and a rock-climbing area made up of artificial boulders and rocks.

Work was still in progress on the playground renovations at Unity Park in Turners Falls. At the center is a water feature with a rock-climbing area next to it made up of artificial boulders and rocks. The \$652,000 project is expected to open this weekend. Recorder photo



The price tag for Phase 1 runs to about \$652,000, and is financed in large part by a portion of a \$900,000 federal Community Development Block Grant.

Phase 2, which would include work on the playing fields, picnic areas, basketball court and walkways, is included in a \$865,509 block grant awarded Montague in June for Unity Park work and housing rehabilitation in Turners Falls.

Dobosz said he expects that work will begin in the spring.

**July 23**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 4444.pdf](#)

### [New Structures Draw Kids to Unity Park](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Unity Park playground opened for business this weekend to apparent appreciation.

Renovation work had kept the playground and parking lot closed since April and both are now open, one freshly paved and the other with new play structures and improved handicap accessibility.

Sunday, the park was alive with children swarming over the structures, a mix of old and new including artificial climbing boulders and a whale sprinkler.

Changes include a rubber surface or wood chips in place of the sand around play structures, pavement in place of the pitted gravel parking lot and a rain garden to capture runoff from the resurfaced areas. Renovation of the playground and parking area represent the first of a planned two-phase project.

The price tag for Phase 1 ran to about \$652,000 at the last check this month and was financed in large part by a portion of a \$900,000 federal Community Development Block Grant.

Phase 2, which would include work on the playing fields, picnic areas, basketball court and walkways, is included in a \$865,509 block grant awarded Montague in June for Unity Park work and housing rehabilitation in Turners Falls. Officials had originally hoped to complete the renovation by the end of June, but the project was pushed back by delayed orders and unanticipated repairs, according to Jon Dobosz, director of Montague Parks and Recreation.

**Aug. 7**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2012 - 5006.pdf](#)

### [Unity Park Celebration Today](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Montague Parks and Recreation will celebrate the completion of the first phase of Unity Park upgrades today with free cotton candy, balloons, and music from DJ Bobby C. The park reopened in late July following extensive renovation. Jon Dobosz, director of parks and recreation, said the whale shape sprinkler among the new structures has proved a huge hit. The festivities and ribbon cutting are scheduled for 4 to 6 p.m., rain or shine, in the park between Third and First streets.

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

Town of Montague invites sealed bids for Unity Park Phase 2 Improvements Project in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by The Berkshire Design Group, Inc.

The Project consists of the improvement of two existing softball fields, resurfacing and painting of an existing basketball court, new asphalt perimeter walkway with exercise stations, new park benches, new 35 space asphalt parking area, new rain garden, new community gardens and a new butterfly garden.

The work is estimated to cost \$400,000 including Alternate.

1 Furnish & install extra playground equipment. Bids are subject to M.G.L c 30 §§ 39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c I49 §§26 to 27H Inclusive and Davis Bacon and shall pay the higher of the two rates General Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M., Thursday, March 21, 2013 and publicly opened, forthwith. All Bids should be delivered to: Montague Town Hall Selectmen's Office, 1 Avenue A. Turners Falls, MA 01376 and received no later than the date & time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Town of Montague.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up on or after February 27, 2013 at [www BidDocsOnline com](http://www.BidDocsOnline.com) (may be viewed electronically or a hardcopy can be requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749(978-568-1167)

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to the BidDocsOnline Inc.

Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty days of receipt of general bids Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority. Additional Sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to the BidDocsOnline Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The Contract Documents may be seen in person at: Project Dog 18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport. MA 01950 (978)499-9014

Franklin County Regional Mousing 8 Redevelopment Authority 42 Canal Road Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413)863-9781 X133

A site walk through inspection is scheduled for March 11, 2013 at Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First Street, Turners Falls MA at 2:00 PM If you are in need of directions contact the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority at (413) 863-9781 x133.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to reject all proposals in the interest of sound business practices The Town of Montague and HRA are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage proposals from qualified minority and women owned businesses and Section 3 businesses.

**Apr. 25**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 2361.pdf](#)

Unity Park Improvement Project: Ground-breaking for Phase II of the Unity Park Construction Project began on Monday.

The grant-funded project will entail a reseeded of both ballfields, a new outfield fence and backstop, a paved fitness path going around both ball fields with fitness stations, refurbished basketball court and picnic area, community garden, rain garden, butterfly garden and a newly paved parking lot.

This project is funded through the Community Development Block Grant, administered by the Franklin County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority.

If you have any questions regarding the project, feel free to contact MPRD at 863-3216 or recdir@montaguema.gov.

The Parks & Recreation Department will also publish photos as the project progresses on its Facebook page

**May 1**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 2476.pdf](#)

### **Town Meeting Warrants**

**Note: Unity Park items will be given. e.g.**

\$4,500 to repair or replace a backstop at Unity Park. **(from 2012)**

- \$1,750 to install surveillance cameras at Unity Park.
- \$8,000 to replace windows at the Unity Park field house.

**May 2**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 2499.pdf](#)

### **Unity Park Construction Project:**

Ground-breaking for Phase II of the Unity Park Construction Project has begun. The grant-funded project will entail a re-seeding of both ball fields, a new outfield fence and backstop, a paved fitness path going around both ball fields with fitness stations, refurbished basketball court and picnic area, community garden, rain garden, butterfly garden, and a newly paved parking lot.



Unity Park from Prospect Street. Lookin' east. 5.22.2013

*e.g.* photo

This project is funded through the Community Development Block Grant, administered by the Franklin County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority. Questions regarding this project? Feel free to contact MPRD at 863-3216. The Parks & Recreation Department will also publish photos as the project progresses on their Facebook page.

**May 23** [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 2964.pdf](#)

**Unity Park Improvement Project:** The project is in Phase 11 of its construction. The grant-funded project entails a reseeded of both ball fields, a new outfield fence and backstop, a paved fitness path going around both ball fields with fitness stations, refurbished basketball court and picnic area, community, rain and butterfly gardens and a newly paved parking lot. Questions regarding this project? Contact MPRD at 863-3216 or email: [recdir@montague-ma.gov](mailto:recdir@montague-ma.gov). The Parks & Recreation Dept. will also publish photos as the project progresses on its Facebook page.



Unity Park from Prospect Street. Lookin' east. 6.10.2013

*e.g.* photo

**July 25**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 4335.pdf](#)

### [Montague Rec. Notebook](#)

Summer Playground Program Information: The department has some spots available for weeks 5 to 7.

Week 5 is Superhero Week. Week 6 is Around the World Week and Week 7 is Wet & Wild Water Week. The program goes until Aug. 16, Monday through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Discovery and Sports & Adventures), (Pre-School Playgroup: 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.). Fee schedule: Pre-School Playgroup: Montague residents, \$35 per child per week; Nonresident, \$45. Discovery Program, Montague residents, \$65 per child per week; Nonresident, \$80 per child per week. Sports & Adventures, Montague residents, \$75 per child per week; Nonresident, \$90. Field trips, theme weeks and special events.

The Whale Spray Feature is now on through Labor Day.

Unity Park Improvement Project, Phase II, has begun. Ground-breaking for Phase II of the Unity Park Construction Project has begun. The grant-funded project will entail a reseeding of both ball fields, a new outfield fence and backstop, a paved fitness path going around both ball fields with fitness stations, refurbished basketball court and picnic area, community garden, rain garden, butterfly garden and a newly paved parking lot. This project is funded through the Community Development Block Grant, administered by the Franklin County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority. Questions regarding this project, feel free to contact MPRD at (413) 863-3216 or [recdir@montague-ma.gov](mailto:recdir@montague-ma.gov) The Parks & Recreation Department will also publish photos as the project progresses on its Facebook © page.

Montague Parks & Recreation Department, 56 First St., Turners Falls, MA 01376, Office hours: Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m., 863-3216, [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net). "Like" us "on our Facebook £ page. The department now accepts VISA & MasterCard.

**Sept. 12**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 5415.pdf](#)

### [Park Almost Done, But Stay Off the Grass](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The second phase of the two-year Unity Park improvement project is nearly complete and the park should be almost fully operational sometime next week, according to project manager Bruce Hunter. The ball fields are the exception They have been resurfaced and Hunter said the grass turf win not be usable until spring . . . at the earliest.

**Dec. 26**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2013 - 7759.pdf](#)

### [Unity Park Hill Off-Limits for Sledding](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Unity Park hill, a popular winter destination with the younger set is closed to sled traffic this year.

The Board of Selectmen announced the ban at the request of the Montague Parks and Recreation director.

"I guess they would just as soon you didn't go zipping down the hill and then splat against the fence," said Selectman Mark Fairbrother.

The closure is a temporary move due to the presence of the construction fence protecting the newly seeded ball fields at the base of the hill. The fence should come down before the next sledding season.

January 2, 2014 [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 0036.pdf](#)

Unity Park Hill closed: The Unity Park Hill is closed to sledding and snow boarding for the winter, due to Phase one construction.

Jan. 15 [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 0298.pdf](#)

### [Legal Advertisement](#)

Montague invites sealed bids for Unity Park 2.2 Improvements Project in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by The Berkshire Design Group, Inc.

The Project consists of the installation of one new play structure in the existing playground and a new sand volleyball court.

The work is estimated to cost \$38,500.00.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §§ 39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. C.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive and Davis Bacon and shall pay the higher of the two rates.

General Bids will be received until 3:00 P.M., Thursday, February 6, 2014 and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be delivered to: Montague Town Hall, Selectmen's Office, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 and received no later than the date & time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount and made payable to the Town of Montague.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up on or after January 15, 2014 at Nashoba Blue, Inc., 433 Main St., Hudson, MA 01749, 978-568-1167 or online at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested).

There is a plan deposit of \$25/set (refundable), payable to BidDocsOnline, Inc. Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a certified or cashier's check. Mailing fee is \$40/set (non-refundable), payable to BidDocsOnline, Inc. (electronically or certified or cashier's check).

The Contract Documents may be seen in person at: Project Dog 18 Graf Road Suite #8 Newburyport, MA 01950 (978)499-9014

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority 42 Canal Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-9781 X133.

A site walk through inspection is scheduled for January 28, 2014 at Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA at 2:00 P.M. If you are in need of directions contact the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) at (413) 863- 9781 x133.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to reject all proposals in the interest of sound business practices. The Town of Montague and HRA are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage bids from qualified minority and women owned businesses and Section 3 businesses.

Town of Montague 32S3011 Board of Selectmen

**Jan. 21**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 0422.pdf](#)

The [Unity Park Accessible Swing Project](#) is wrapping up its Cruise Raffle ticket sales proceeds will benefit the installation of the accessible swing.

**April 25**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 2412.pdf](#)

### [Montague Meeting to Decide on Skate Park](#)

MONTAGUE—The annual town meeting is around the corner, with town representatives asked to approve the town budget, a school district assessment up more than the recent trend, substantial sewer system repairs and a skate park.

Volunteers have constructed a string of temporary skate parks, all of which have fallen prey to weather and the complications of using borrowed land, since the idea was first brought to the Board of Selectmen in 1997 by a group of young skateboarders. There is at present no park in Montague or elsewhere in Franklin County.

In 2009, a town meeting abandoned Williams Way on the western edge of Unity Park to create a permanent home for the park. Volunteers involved in the latest effort plan to build a permanent concrete skate park on that land. The request is for up to \$400,000, money to be spent if the town wins a state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant reimbursing 68 percent of the cost. Proponents believe the cost estimate is conservative, and hope to have independently raised close to \$30,000 by town meeting.

**May 5**      [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 2613.pdf](#) and [Greenfield MA Recorder 2014 - 2620.pdf](#)

### [Montague Backs Skate Park Funds](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Turners Falls residents Cecilio Sanchez, 11, and friends Jeremiah Russell and Ramon Rodriguez, both 12, said they are looking forward to having a place to skate where they won't be yelled at, as they are now when they skate on the sidewalk or the street.

Montague town meeting voters unanimously endorsed spending to build a permanent skate park downtown, to applause and cheers from an audience of Unity Skate Park supporters. Spending is contingent on a state grant, but if the town wins that grant the concrete park could be constructed by next fall, according to Recreation Department superintendent Jon Dobosz.

Speaking for the volunteer skate park committee, Bryan Dolan said some think of the skate park as a luxury and for some it is, but kids need something to do and for some it's serious.

"For a lot of kids I've met in the past six years living and working on Third Street it's an emergency," Dolan said. Dolan illustrated his point with a photograph of a hypodermic needle of the type used for diabetics and heroin injections lying on the ground, a picture he said was taken the day before by a teenager in one of the abandoned buildings along the canal where he said kids play.

Dolan and others also invoked the names of the park supporters who have died in the 16 years since the idea was first brought forward, including two boys who drowned playing in the Connecticut River and a friend of theirs who died in a car accident this winter.

There was not a word of opposition to the park. Montague Police Chief and town meeting member Charles "Chip" Dodge III said he supports it 100 percent as a parent and chief.



Skateboard Park site work. Sept. 30, 2015

*e.g. photo*

"We really care about the youth in this community and we need them to have something to do," Dodge said. Dodge said it will also show young residents they are being listened to. Sanchez spoke on behalf of the group of children, teenagers and families who turned out to support the park.

"I think we need this park just so people can be more active," Sanchez said.

Town Meeting member Jeffrey Singleton said that as a parent who used to take his son to the former Greenfield skate park, he feels the planned Turners Falls Park will be insulated from problems that plagued the Greenfield Park because it is centrally located rather than isolated from the community.

The plan is to construct the park on the former Williams Way, along the edge of Unity Park facing Town Hall. The vote authorized up to \$400,000 for the park, that sum to be lowered by ongoing fundraising efforts and not to be spent unless the town wins a state grant for reimbursement of 68 percent of the project cost.

At present, Dolan said donations total \$35,000, so the town will be responsible for \$93,000 maximum.

"It's still expensive, but durable, high-quality things always are, and it's worth it" he said.



Unity Skate Park opens summer, 2015.

Boarders, bikers, and scooters enjoy the feature. *e.g.* photos



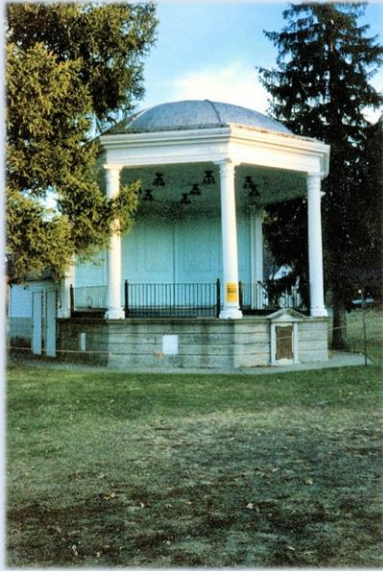
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(for now)



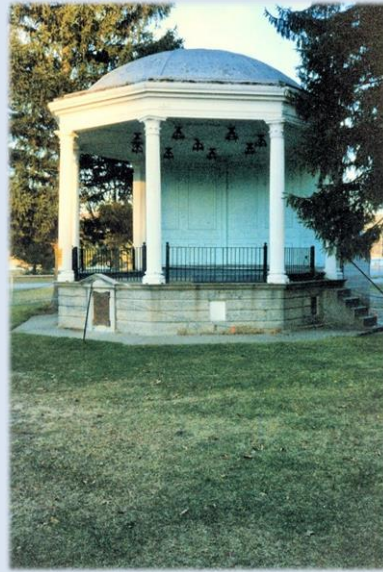
A few more views . . .



Bandstand c1985 *e.g. archive*

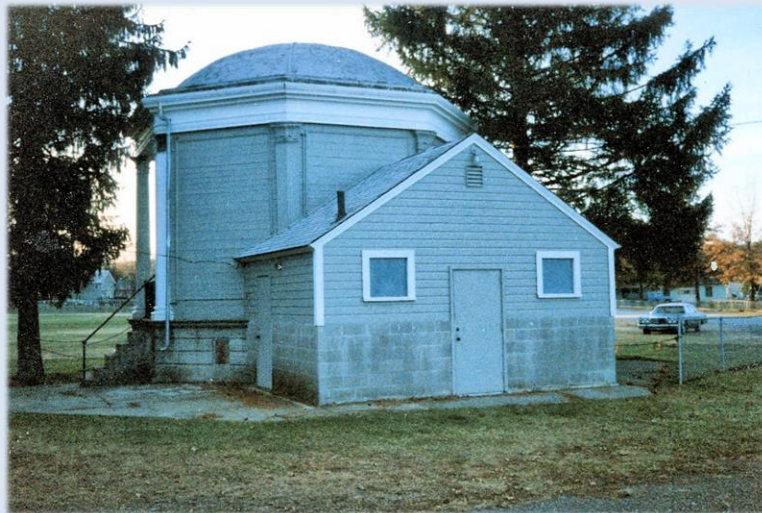


North exposure.



West exposure.

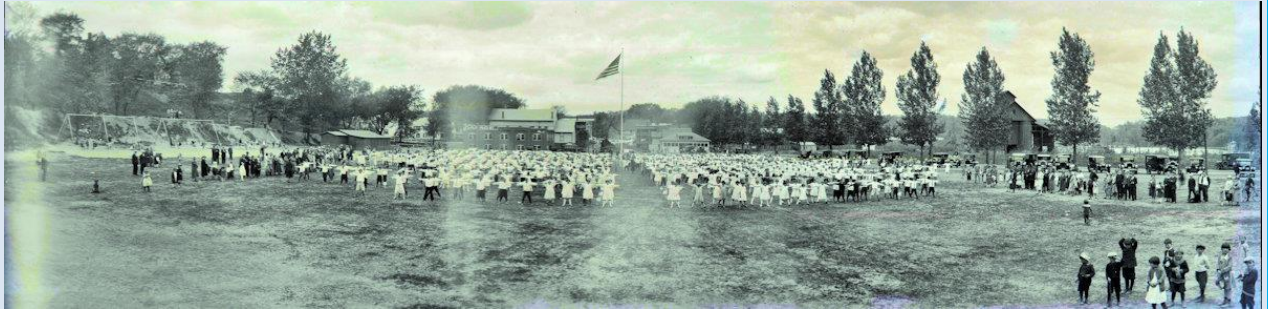
Difficult to see in these photos, the area within 10-feet of the bandstand is cordoned off to disallow access to the structure. The yellow notice on the column in the north exposure is a warning to keep off. The structure is unsafe



East exposure.

The addition houses the bathrooms and shower rooms.

Unity Park is (was) used for various events.  
Montague Historical Society



Above and below; Field Day at Unity Park. 1925



Winter Carnival. 1924

Codicil.

August 26, 1948      Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1948 - 3003.pdf

### End Successful Play Program in Montague

TURNERS FALLS—The biggest playground season in local history was closed here today. The 13-week schedule had an estimated 900 children present every week. Many contests and special events were arranged and hundreds of awards given by merchants, organizations, and individuals in the town.

Chief among the expansion plans inaugurated this year was establishment of playground areas under town direction in Millers Falls, Montague center, and Montague City. Playground budgets were approved in March to operate these three additions to the Unity Park area on Third street.

Dir. Edward Bourdeau, who supervised a staff of six in arranging daily programs, said today attendance here averaged 500 a week. In Montague there were about 30; Montague City, 40; and in Millers Falls, 50. Robert Maynard directed the Highland, park recreation program with funds from the Millers Falls Improvement association and the town.

New swings were installed in Montague and Montague City and swings for smaller children were erected at Unity Park. The playground in Montague will be enlarged this fall by the street department with \$1200 voted at town meeting.

Among play special events conducted this summer were a track meet, bathing beauty contest sponsored by Rendezvous, cafe, a trip to Boston for members of midget, junior and senior leagues sponsored by TFAC, marble, tournament sponsored by VFW, hop-scotch golf tourney sponsored by Junior and senior Woman's clubs, bean guessing contest by Valley Studio and Grimard's, field day by Eagles, pet show by Clinton Jarvis, "Mr. Junior America" by Herman Sons, Montague center pet show by the Montague garage, Graves' and Buckmaster's baseball schools, ARC swimming classes. Elks' "kiddie day", competition with Shelburne Falls children, checker tournament, picnics, and baseball, soft ball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, badminton, horseshoes, and the wading pool.

"The staff." Bourdeau said all organizations that donated time to help during the special events" Miss Mildred Zak was director of girls' events; Miss Dorothy Thomas, wading pool; Harold Fugere, roving instructor; and Matthew Care and Frank Cadran. Unity Park supervisors.

September 21, 1959      Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 4098.pdf

### Skrzypek to Supervise Montague Playgrounds

TURNERS FALLS— John Skrzypek, 43, of 200 L Street today started work as supervisor of the Montague's playgrounds.

Announcement of Skrzypek's appointment to the \$4,500 per year post was made today by Chr. Charles J. Gloski of the recreation commission. He was selected following interviews with about 20 applicants Friday night.

Job of the supervisor includes both maintenance work and participation in leading portions of the recreation program. He will take the place of two men. Skrzypek replaces Matthew H. Care who resigned several months ago to move to Florida. Care had an assistant for the playground work but the present recreation board feels that the work can be done by one man within a normal work week.

To make the job attractive salary was increased from \$3,200 previously paid to \$4,500 for the new post.

Gloski observed the \$4,500 figure will be well below the \$6,300 formerly paid two men.

Skrzypek is a native of Webster, attended school in Gill from Grades 1-6 and moved to Turners Falls in 1929. He graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1935.

A carpenter by trade, he has been an international approved basketball official for eight years and is an approved baseball umpire. He has managed boy's and men's basketball teams at the Greenfield YMCA for the past 10 years and. this past season managed the St. Stanislaus' Softball team which won top honors in the Greenfield Community YMCA Softball League. He has managed softball teams locally 11 years. He is president of St. Stanislaus' Society and a member of St. Kazimier Society, TFAC and the Greenfield YMCA.

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Additional **Unity Park** reference may be found in the historical account of the **Turners Falls Athletic Club . . .**

**Turners Falls Athletic Association;**

**Turners Falls Athletic Club;**

One and the same?

Let's find out.

By Ed Gregory 2024

. . . Visit the Montague Historical Society website.

Navigate the database repository for this, as well as wealth of local historical information.

<https://montaguearchive.org>.



Unity Park south end. 1925 *e.g. archive*

## Unity Park Directory

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**Codicil**

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Bandstand views top to bottom: Lookin' north; East side; North side; South side; Addition, south & east sides.

~~ notes ~~

*Additional reliable information may become available following this documentation. If so, it'll be included accordingly. e.g.*