



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 44

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

The Discovery Center: Will The Dream Unravel?



By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “The Old Montague Paper Company’s machine shop, located on 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, is now an outstanding center of natural history exhibits focused on the

Connecticut River Valley.”

So began a *Montague Reporter* account of the opening ceremonies of the Discovery Center, which took place nearly 12 years ago on Saturday, October 18, 2003. More than 300 visitors were reported to have taken the “grand opening tour.”

Speakers at the opening ceremony included Montague selectboard member Patricia Allen, Jay DiPucchio of the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, state representative Steve Kulik, state senator Stan Rosenberg, and congressman John Olver.

Officials from the Division of see GFDC page A5

\$500 Reward Offered for Creemee Meat Thieves

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – On Monday morning, September 14, as Robyn Mason, owner of the Country Creemee, opened the doors to begin her day selling ice cream, sandwiches and soft drinks to her customers, she began to notice certain things were out of place.

“I noticed a trash can was turned over, a box had been moved, and the safe door was open,” she said. Mason also noticed dirt near the front windows, the ones she opens to serve her customers.

“They took the jug full of pennies,” she said. “I think they climbed through the window, and



went through the envelopes, so they had to know where to look.” She showed me the envelopes up on a shelf. Tucked away among a lot of other things, there was nothing about them to draw attention. She said there wasn’t any cash in them, so “they didn’t get anything.”

see CREEMEE page A4

Lake Pleasant Prepares for 40th Anniversary

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – Ruby red is the color of the month for Montague’s youngest and smallest of five villages. A day-long celebration on Saturday, September 19 will observe the 40th anniversary of incorporation of the Lake Pleasant Village Association in 1975 and of the LPVA’s most significant accomplishment, construction that year of the Bridge of Names.

The 220-foot wooden walkway spans a ravine at the southwestern tip of the community’s namesake body of water, and reunites two sections of the village which

Mother Nature separated 10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. The bridge is lined with 1,400 routed pickets purchased through the years.

Celebrations at the Lake Pleasant Road grounds of the Independent Order of Scalpers include: Can auction set-up, noon; talk and walking tour of village historical sites, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.; live music by Sean Booker, acoustic guitar: country and 1980s pop at 12:30; Tricassium, global improvisational music, 2 p.m.; Elligers Duo, jazz, at 4; pie auction at 3; can auction and raffle drawings at 5 p.m.

see ANNIVERSARY page A7



Volunteers at work in 1975 constructing Lake Pleasant’s Bridge of Names.

Twice-Made Art Heads to Auction



LOOT co-owners John McNamara and Erin MacLean hold Christa Snyder’s contribution, an homage to ET, inside the freshly painted Gary’s Coins space at 56 Avenue A.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – “This is FUN work!” said Erin MacLean, co-owner of LOOT, a Turners Falls shop specializing in vintage industrial items and hand-

crafts. Erin was referring to the many hours she has spent putting together the “Rescued Art for Rescued Dogs” art show and auction LOOT is hosting as a benefit for the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter on Saturday, September 19.

Driven by a love of animals and a desire to support the shelter’s efforts to enlarge – or relocate – their facility, Erin and co-owner John McNamara started collecting garage sale landscape paintings almost three years ago. After reaching a critical mass of “bad art,” they put a call out several months ago for artists to “rescue” the paintings by adding in some type of creature. They gave away close to 80 or 90 paintings.

“A lot of people came out of the woodwork to do this, a really cool bunch of people that we wouldn’t have normally met. They weren’t all customers or people we knew, but folks who wanted to do this, who wanted to help,” commented John.

A happy coincidence resulted in the availability of the perfect gallery space to host the art auction, at 56 Avenue A – right next door to LOOT. Gary’s Coins and Antiques has renovated a large storefront and will be moving from 115 Avenue A next week. Owner Gary Konvelski not only donated the space for displaying

see AUCTION page A8

Locavore – or Local-Chore? The Challenges of Sourcing Local Food

By ERIC DAMKOEHLER

ATHOL and TURNERS FALLS – Ed Maltby, the soft-spoken, British-accented business manager for Adams Farm, a family owned and operated slaughterhouse with a retail store, knows local meat.

“There is no legal definition of ‘local.’ Even in Vermont, you could be 15 or 30 miles from the border and be called ‘Vermont,’ and only need to be in the state for 6 months or a year, or something like that,” said Maltby, who was kind enough to sit down for an interview despite his prejudice towards the likes of me, a Sous Chef: “I don’t know if you’re really going to like this, but dealing with chefs is a nightmare.”



The daily produce order at Great Falls Harvest.

Certainly, he wasn’t talking about Chef Chris Menegoni of Great Falls Harvest, the quintessential establishment to be featured in a story in a Turners Falls-based newspaper focusing on local food in restaurants,

and the surprising disconnect between the two.

In a side room adjacent to his small restaurant, the future site of a local-food market, which now holds bits of furniture and kitchen equipment, Menegoni attempted to define local food.

“Local is a state of mind; it’s not just something that came right from your back door. It’s something that could be made somewhere else, like Europe. Cheese is a wonderful example. Let’s say it’s made with a very small flock of animals, maybe it’s a Highland cheese or something like that, and there’s certain things that are just unique to that spot and when it’s done with the same concept – mindset – to me, that is local.

see SOURCING page A4



Workers pack meat at Athol’s Adams Farm.

A Fresh Catch of News at the Tech School

By MARK HUDYMA

FRANKLIN COUNTY – It’s been a busy start of the year at the Franklin County Technical School, with a new principal, recently added advanced placement courses, a just-opened apprentice restaurant, and a presentation to seniors by local celebrity Nicholas Tokman.

Shawn Rickan, formerly principal at Narragansett Regional High School in Baldwinville, was hired to fill the principal post when former principal Rich Martin became superintendent. Rickan says he is focused

on building an administrative team that can work together, and spent the summer in preparation for a new year. He is excited about the unique combination of a strong academic program combined with the vocational shops, a new element in the trials he will face as principal.

The number of high school students taking advanced placement (AP) courses is increasing dramatically every year, and the number of students graduating with AP credit has doubled in the last decade in Massachusetts. Students

see FCTS page A5



Incoming Franklin County Technical School principal Shawn Rickan.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Leverett Congregational Church will host a **farmers market and tag sale** this Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine.

Claim a 12' square tag sale space for only \$10 – no reservations are required. Come to buy homemade baked goods, preserves, home-grown produce, and assorted tag sale items. The church is located across from the post office.

All proceeds will benefit Heifer International.

Come to greet, meet and be dazzled by Frye Angel. Megan Thompson magically transforms herself into Frye Angel as she **performs with fire on the front lawn** of the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, September 19, starting a 10:30 a.m.

Prior to the live event (weather permitting), come and join Megan inside for some background history, discussion and questions.

Celebrate the beginning of fall and a new school year with a **children's cruise** on board the Quinnetukut II Riverboat on Saturday, September 19 from 11 a.m. to noon.

These cruises are the perfect length for children to get a taste of the river as we head downstream through the scenic French King Gorge. Travel beneath the French King Bridge, towering 140 feet above the boat. Watch the depth finder quickly climb as we go over "Deep Hole." Cruise alongside rocky cliffs, and enjoy an outing on the beautiful Connecticut River. \$6 for all ages.

For more info call 1 (800) 859-2960 or email northfield@gdfsuezna.com.

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee of Mt. Toby Meeting will present concerts monthly at their meeting house at 194 Long Plain Road (Route 63) in Leverett, starting in September. These concerts will present singer-songwriters

of music for social change, in service of the Committee's mission of working for social, economic and environmental justice.

The first concert will host Charlie King on Saturday, September 19, 7:30 p.m. King is a musical storyteller and political satirist. He has been at the heart of American folk music for half a century. He sings and writes passionately about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people.

Suggested donation is \$10 to \$20. For more information about their first concert and the schedule of future concerts visit www.mtto-byconcerts.com.

Learn about the **Upper Fall River Dam** at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Sunday, September 20 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Meet in the Great Hall for a slideshow presentation, and take a virtual forest hike with Ed Gregory as he visits an obscure and beautiful section of Gill, the site of the 1886 dam that was built by the Montague Paper Company.

The dam was constructed to provide a clean source of water for their use in pulp and paper making. The dam and spillway will be shown before and after the spillway removal in December of 2014.

Who were they? Where did they come from? Where did they go? Some individuals step into our his-

tory and then they are gone. Let's explore Erving's history.

Sara Campbell and Shari Straban will give an evening presentation on the **history of Farley**. They will share their research into the Farley family businesses that made the hamlet thrive at the turn of the 20th century. Meet J.B. Farley and his brothers who gave their name to the Erving Village of Farley.

Held on Monday, September 21, at 7 p.m. at the Erving Community-Senior Center. Funded by the Erving Cultural Council, and hosted by Friends of the Erving Library and Friends of the Erving Senior Center.

The Great Falls Discovery Center and Turners Falls RiverCulture present a talk on **"Latino Migrants and Agriculture in Franklin County"** with Manuel Matos of UMass-Amherst on Thursday, September 24.

This talk, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall of the GFDC, will explore the links between land and agricultural policies in Latin America and the US through an examination of Latin American migration.

Extensive interviews with farmers and workers in Franklin County were conducted as source material for this talk.

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Wendell Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

The Wendell Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2015 deadline to apply for grants that support community oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

This year, the Wendell Cultural Council will distribute about \$4,400 in grants.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the WCC, contact Phyllis Lawrence at phyl-law@excite.com.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx.

Application forms are also available at the Wendell Library, Post Office, Senior Center, and town offices.

Do You Live in Gill, Erving or Wendell?

The *Montague Reporter* is looking for correspondents from these three towns, either to provide coverage of more local events, or to consult with our editors and writers about what's going on.

We are inundated with event announcements, but would love to get more residents involved with deciding what needs to go in our shared community newspaper.

Contact editor@montague-reporter.org, or call 863-8666.

"Observations of a Thoughtful Visitor" (1905)

Local historian Ed Gregory found this entry in the May 3, 1905 edition of the Turners Falls Reporter: the "Observations" of a pseudonymous visitor to Turners Falls and Gill's Riverside neighborhood.

Over time, history has seen several successive dominant interpretations of the events of May 1676, when the area saw a bloody attack on an encampment of native people by English settlers led by Captain William Turner, who lost his own life in the ensuing battle and afterward became the namesake of the village.

This Saturday, there will be an event at the Turners Falls High School auditorium to discuss the progress

To the editor of the Turners Falls Reporter:

During the recent spring freshet, visiting, on matters of business the village of Turners Falls and the little hamlet across the Connecticut, known as Riverside, I found that which furnished to my mind considerable food for reflection.

On a little triangular piece of turf enclosed by three roads, stands a granite block commemorating the battle between Captain Turner and his savage foe, the event which gave Turners Falls its name.

As I read the brief statement on the stone, my thoughts run back two hundred years and fancy painted the scene.

The dusky children of the wilderness after a weary flight, resting here in fancied security, and, approaching stealthily through the forest glades the pursuing white men, trailing their prey like bloodhounds on the scent; the discovery, the tense, stern visages, the silent gesture of command, the angry muskets frightening death, the redmen leaping from sleep, the twanging bow strings, the swinging tomahawks, the swaying muskets used as clubs, and each party contending for what they believed to be their right, the shouts, the yells, the sweet harmonies of the woods turned into horrid discords by the passions of men unbridled and let loose, the faces of men distorted and made hideous by rage and hate, the shattered tenement of clay, the outgushing crimson tide of life, the prostrate form, the glazing eye, the upturned pallid face of death, the red man fleeing for his life, the white man master of the field.

A little epitome of the whole history of the white man's contact with the redman – beings created for social enjoyment thrust and held apart by selfishness and moral misconception.

Here, too, an old man, supporting himself upon his stick, tottered along the road, and not far away, some children played barefooted on the green, suggesting influenza, pneumonia and croup.

Then I thought how these children just stepping forth upon the stage of life might, through the sin of ignorance, be cut off, and this old man fast passing off the stage, might live to see them buried out of sight. Another instance of the thwarting of Nature's general plan.

I stood on the bridge spanning the stream and connecting the two villages, and watched the river flowing on beneath, carrying on its bosom cakes of ice and sticks and stumps and all the various units of debris a rising river could collect, each individual unit racing on and meeting obstacles and shunting off and racing on again as if impelled by some fixed purpose, and passing out of sight, and other following to take

made on a major research project made possible by a National Park Service "Battlefield Grant." We encourage our readers to attend this talk, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m.

Thanks, once again, to Mr. Gregory for the submission. We are reprinting it because it is an interesting artifact of a transitional era.

The archives of the Turners Falls Reporter, published weekly from 1872 to 1922, are pretty amazing and can be browsed at montague.advantage-preservation.com.

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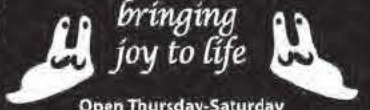


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SOURCING from page A1

It's not from here, it's local – it's a process."

Menegoni has made the process of getting local food his living for the past several years, and he makes it seem easy; rather, for him, "It's sometimes a phone call here or there," but, largely, the food he serves just appears at his back door. And he's glad to serve whatever he can use creatively.

"Dancing Bear Farm, that just came in today – he actually gave me fig leaves before. He wanted me to try them. It was like a test, because I hadn't worked with them and he had heard that you could use them. He was pruning, so he thought, 'somebody's got to use these,' and it was a lot of fun. It was an experiment. I never would have said, 'Hey, I wanna use fig leaves,' but now that I have, I'm saying when they're around, I'll use them."

The tomatoes Menegoni was preparing for a salsa dish were from the same farm, and they were delivered because of a casual conversation which occurred the last time the owners of the farm were in for dinner. Menegoni mentioned he needed tomatoes, and that his own supply wasn't enough, and so there the tomatoes appear, a week later. "You put those vibes and information out there," he said, and the food comes to you."

I was formerly the food purchaser in a restaurant with similar relationships, where three-dozen eggs would be traded for a coffee and a pastry, though the supply of those local sources could never have sustained even that small operation.

For the vast majority of area restaurants, it isn't quite as simple. In fact, for high-volume restaurants – those which serve more than 150 guests each day – the prospect of going local can be a daunting challenge, and one which can prove to be impossible in many regards.

"If we were twice as busy, it would change things. A certain farm might not be able to keep up with that kind of volume. Maybe that means you go to two," said Menegoni.

Where to Turn?

As the individual responsible for planning menus for the Delaney House in Holyoke, I know all too well how difficult it can be to create a menu and purchase ingredients

CREEMEE from page A1

Mason indicated the safe doors, which stood slightly ajar, and pointed out that the doors were bent and damaged. "We don't leave cash in there anymore," she said, "since we were robbed in June."

Mason thought they hadn't stolen anything else of value – until she opened the walk-in cooler.

"I noticed there was a trash can missing," she continued, "and thought that was strange. Then I opened the walk-in and saw they had taken a lot of the food. They took roast beef, turkey, ham, a container of home made baked beans, and two pans of brownies." She said she was upset about losing the pans, as they were favorites for baking.

Mason called the police as soon as she saw there had been a break-in. She said she has also spoken to the business's security company about improving the building's alarm system.

"We're looking into it," said Montague police officer Peter Lapachinski. "It was forced entry, and items were taken." Lapachinski



Local vegetables on display at the Tri-County Fair.

for a local-only event, such as the "Learn to Drink Like a Pro" events we hosted this past August.

About a month before the event, I started searching for the beef I needed. I was looking for 150 small steaks, or several larger cuts that I could portion myself. I went to Sutter Meats in Northampton, a specialty butcher that deals only with local meat, and left empty handed. I could have bought every piece of raw beef he had and still would have been short.

At this point, not knowing where to turn, I contacted the nice folks at Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, or CISA, a non-profit headquartered in South Deerfield, dedicated to making connections between farms and consumers. They did some leg work, and emailed a list of about a half-dozen farms that may be able to provide some of the cuts I needed.

My colleague, Kammy Nghiem, spent several hours over the following weeks getting the meat we needed, which was nothing close to steak-quality beef – but equally expensive. Instead, after some careful trimming and preparation, I served roast beef.

Why was this such a difficult product to get? I asked Ed Maltby, the Adams Farms business manager. "We sell to a few [restaurants], not very many," he said. "Most of the meat we buy locally, and there isn't the supply to do it. Most chefs don't want carcass, they want this number of cuts. We also don't want to compete with our farmer customers, because some of those have good relationships with restaurants. We don't want to interfere with that."

The local fish I served for this event was Australis Barramundi,

added that the department advised installing surveillance cameras, which would need the approval of the business's landlord. Without any witnesses, he said they don't have much to go on, and cameras would help them identify intruders, should it happen again.

Mason says the robberies have affected her sense of comfort. "It wasn't so much about what they took, as the creepy feeling of having my space invaded – that they felt they could come and go as they pleased."

She says the break-ins disturb her because she feels the Country Creemee is part of the community – "people come and stay, sit out on the lawn and watch the planes take off at the airport" – and that it makes her sad to think she may have to install bars up on the business's windows to be safe.

Anyone with information about this matter may contact the Montague Police Department at 863-8911. A \$500 reward has been offered for information leading to a conviction.

raised just a few miles from my home in the Airport Industrial Park in Turners Falls. Known also as "Australian Seabass," a chef can't just walk into the office at the fish farm and leave with forty pounds of fresh, local fish.

Due to similar non-compete relationships with their distributors, Australis recommends one of two buying options – Performance Foodservice of Springfield, or Black River Produce of North Springfield, VT.

But before the fresh local fish can arrive at the back door of the restaurant, it must be shipped to Boston, where it is processed, shipped back to Springfield where it will be loaded on a truck, and shipped to Holyoke, along with all of the other stops that particular truck makes on any given day. When it finally did arrive, the box was marked "Product of Vietnam."

While still a wonderfully tasty, completely sustainable and relatively inexpensive food source, it hardly seems local. As far as local meat is concerned, according to Maltby, "We deal with quite a few farmers – especially those that sell into the Boston market – that sell theirs as local meat, but they buy them from Pennsylvania and bring them up here."

As one of just two USDA-inspected slaughterhouses in Massachusetts, Adams Farm takes claims made by labels very seriously. "Here, if someone labels their meat on the package then they have to prove to us that it is that meat, it meets that definition," said Maltby. "Most production definitions like 'grass-based' or 'minimally processed'...they can only use certain language in certain ways.

"So, again, we get some that come in and want the most ridicu-

lous claims on their package, and we have to say, 'No, you can only do this, this or this.'" Further, he said, "Where there's money to be made, people will cut corners."

Breaking Even

But, is there money to be made with local food, in the farm-to-table movement? For the Delaney House event, the answer was, frankly, no. It was not busy enough to justify the cost and time that it required.

I asked Menegoni if being twice as busy was his goal, and he said, "Not twice as busy. A little busier would be good. But I don't want to – you get too busy, and you lose focus on what you're doing. You need to dedicate yourself to every dish."

Then the question becomes, for the high-volume, bottom-line driven restaurants out there: is all of the extra work, from planning to purchasing to modifying preparation methods and substituting ingredients, worth it? Do people really care?

Menegoni said, "I think a lot of people do. Unfortunately what happens is, people look at bottom line dollars, what you get for what you get, and unfortunately, it's marketed really well that the food that is not produced in the best way is still okay, because it's sold in the big stores."

Also sold in the big stores is Blue Seal Brand kielbasa, a refreshingly simple-to-procure addition to my local menu from Chicopee Provisions. This Polish food made a great surf-and-turf appetizer, with Pacific Northwest smoked salmon mousse.

Finally, the produce for the 'local salad' came from Joe Czajkowski Farm of Hadley. Czajkowski delivers to restaurants and some large-scale operations such as UMass-Amherst and Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and has a large selection of produce, which is bolstered by other local farms.

The ultimate reason a restaurant would dedicate itself to the local food movement, all other headaches aside, is for the relationships fostered through a reciprocal revenue stream. As Menegoni said, without any pretentiousness whatsoever, "We've built good relationships with the farmers that come here and bring us vegetables and other things. They also come here to eat, which makes us feel good."

And, I must say, it makes the rest of us look bad.



Downtown: Editor's Picks

So much is happening!

Thursday, September 17, 5 p m.:

Mask-making at 109 Avenue A; Screening of *Peril and Promise* at the Shea Theater at 7 p m. Part of Latino History Day / Third Thursday Turners Falls (T3F).

Friday, September 18, 7 p.m.:

"Noche Rara," opening at Turners Falls' newest retail and social space, Cosa Rara. 111 Avenue A.

Saturday, September 19, 6 p.m.:

Live art auction, Loot, 62 Avenue A. See story, Page A1.

Sunday, September 20, 12 p.m.:

K Street Porch Crawl...

Sunday, September 20, 4 p m.:

Screening and discussion, *Fruitvale Station*. At the Brick House, 24 Third Street.

Monday, September 21, 8 p.m.:

Hartley C. White Band; *CE Schneider Topical*; *Death Savings Flag*; *Curse Purse*; *Bromp Treb*. Eccentric and experimental pop (and some noise) from NYC, Turners & Greenfield. Also at the Brick House.

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GFDC from page A1
State Parks and Recreation, part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also spoke. “Special accolades,” the article continued, “were given to David Ziomek, the director of the Discovery Center who was, DiPucchio said, the ‘oil and glue holding the project together.’”

Ziomek is now the assistant town manager in Amherst, and in a telephone interview he emphasized the project’s long incubation, beginning in the early 1980s.

“I looked at [what was going on in] Shelburne Falls, and asked why a revitalization like that could not happen [in Turners],” Ziomek said.

“My daughter was not even born [when I started working on the project],” says DiPucchio. “She’s now almost 30.”

DiPucchio described how the EDIC acquired the property that would eventually be transformed into the center. At the time, the site’s main buildings were owned by the Thomas & Thomas Fishing Rod Company, used both for manufacturing and display. Other businesses on the site included Pioneer Litho, which occupied the current Discovery Center Parking lot, and Cumberland Farms, the shell of which is to this day called “the Cumbies building” and is still under the control of the EDIC.

The original concept was to create a state Heritage Park which would focus on Turners Falls’ industrial past. Parks of this type were being constructed in Holyoke, North Adams, Lawrence, Lynn and on the Blackstone River. In Turners Falls, this would be a riverfront park, and there were even plans for a boathouse.

But as financial support for a

Heritage Park faded, a new focus – and funding rationale – emerged in the form of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The federal refuge, created in 1997, was designed to protect and enhance plant and animal species in the Connecticut River watershed, encompassing parts of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. This involved a good deal of land acquisition.

A Successful Partnership

The Discovery Center became the “flagship visitors’ center” for the Conte Refuge. It is so described on the main page of the Conte website.

Central to the center’s design is a series of dioramas showing various ecosystems along the refuge. These are the main draw of the center, although the numerous events at the “Great Hall” are also a major attraction. Federal funds, to the tune of a million dollars, are reported to have funded the dioramas’ construction and installation.

But the Discovery Center is also a state park, involving a collaboration between U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation.

With the transfer of land from the EDIC to the state – with the exception of the Cumbies building – Montague’s official role ended. But a nonprofit called the “Friends of the Discovery Center,” composed entirely of local volunteers, plays a key role in outreach, and fundraising, managing and staffing the on-site gift shop, and even filling in as interpreters as needed.

The site is busy, with nearly 4,000 visitors counted in July and August. During those two months, the center hosted weekly children’s nature programming, weekend bike rides and hikes, wildlife pro-

grams on raptors and vernal pools, coffeehouse concerts in the Great Hall, a stage of the Upper Valley Music Festival, dance performance and arts and crafts activities during Riverfest, and the ninth annual Family Fish Day.

So far September has seen 600 visits, with the center hosting the majority of the Turners Falls History Month events, and continuing with children’s programming, hikes and concerts.

So there remains a strong collaboration with the community, if not directly with town hall. But recent events raise the question: has poor communication turned this collaboration into confusion?

A Summer Surprise

In early August of this year, U.S. Fish and Wildlife seemed to rather abruptly announce that federal support for the center would end immediately. According to the minutes of the August 5, 2015 Friends of the Discovery Center meeting,

“[Conte Refuge project leader] Andrew French started by explaining that ‘We can’t sustain what we are doing.’ Soon he will no longer be able to pay 59% of the center’s utility costs (DCR pays 41%) and/or provide an F&W person at the center... This would mean that the building was no longer manned by either DCR or USF&W and would have to close down.”

The reference in the last sentence to DCR refers to the fall and winter months, when the state, under the standing arrangement, does not provide staffing of its own beyond a maintenance worker.

At the August 24 Montague selectboard meeting, Don Clegg of the Friends told that board that it came as “quite a shock” that federal staffing had ended on August 14.

At the selectboard’s direction, town planner Walter Ramsey sent a letter to state and federal officials. This letter pointed out that the federal agency’s proposed “comprehensive plan” had recommended eliminating staffing at the center, but that plan had not been finalized, and was theoretically still in a “public comment” period until mid-November.

Then, in early September, new Fish and Wildlife staff appeared at the center unannounced, saying they would be available for two days a week.

In a telephone interview, USFW’s French emphasized that the Conte Refuge was not ending its relationship with the Discovery Center, but that “we can’t spend money we don’t have.”

French stated that the partners at the center needed to work together to find other collaborators,

to “spread out the fixed costs,” a move that might also involve broadening or redefining the mission of the Center. French said this conversation needed to happen “sooner rather than later.”

Kevin O’Shea, spokesperson for DCR, said the state considers the collaboration at the Discovery Center intact, and had not been informed of any staffing changes by the federal government.

Thus, despite rumors to the contrary, the state has no current plans to add staff to the center to offset federal reductions.

Did a twelve-year collaboration end in nine days? Will the center be staffed this winter? Rumors are swirling, but for now, no one seems to know for certain what the future holds for the Great Falls Discovery Center.



FCTS from page A1

and parents have been asking for FCTS to offer AP classes for “the last four to five years,” said administrator Michael Reardon.

This year, the school has partnered with a nonprofit called Mass Insight Education to offer students a chance to “face the standards they will be held to in higher education,” Reardon said.

Success in AP courses can mean credit at colleges, saving significant time and money in a time when college expenses are at an all-time high. They can also impact a college application, which is important when about half of the school’s graduates will go on to higher education.

The school’s AP classes feature both the vocational aspect of the curriculum, including computer programming and advanced CNC machining, in addition to the more academic English language composition, history, and math.

In preparation for offering the courses, teachers attended additional classes and delved into the subjects they would be teaching with renewed depth.

The apprentice restaurant opened for the 2015 season on Wednesday, offering gourmet food cooked by FCTS culinary students. Students work in both the front and back of the house, learning how to cook, serve, and manage a restaurant from every position.

The restaurant is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., and has a daily menu posted every morning on the culinary department’s web page, www.fcts.org/apprentice/menu.html.

Members of the public are invited to dine in or order food to “grab and go.”

On September 15, students were treated to a talk by Nicholas Tokman, a cast member of Discovery Channel reality TV show

Deadliest Catch.

Tokman went to West Springfield High School, and later Concordia University in Montreal for a bachelor’s degree in business. He found himself unhappy and unsatisfied, and struggled to find enjoyment and meaning in his education. After graduating Tokman went to Alaska and joined the crew of the Northwestern, one of the boats featured on *Deadliest Catch*.

Tokman reached out to many area schools, offering motivational presentations for their students. “He’s trying to eventually go on a professional speaking tour,” said Raye Young, FCTS business manager. “The fee was nominal, he wants to talk to the kids... He reached out to the school and I was able to book it.”

Tokman lamented that many of his past friends are now living hand-to-mouth, “taking any job they can, with a kid on the way.” He credits his success in landing on a crew to his determination: “I walked the docks for weeks, asking if anybody had a job.”

Tokman built a network of captains and fellow fishermen, and acquired a reputation as a hard worker, sometimes working up to thirty hours at a time.

“I don’t tell the kids this,” Tokman said, “but I met Sig” – the captain of the Northwestern – “at a bar, when he beat me at arm wrestling. The next time I saw him he sent me a virgin Bloody Mary with the note ‘Sig thinks you’re a pussy.’ Well, I snapped right back, and it turns out he offered me a job.”

Tokman told the assembled senior class to always reach for what they really want in life.

“Now this one,” he said, “they may even pay you well for it, but if you hate it, that’s just existing, that’s not living.”



Western Mass native Nicholas Tokman, a cast member on the Discovery Channel’s *Deadliest Catch*, spoke to FCTS seniors on Tuesday.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

District Gets Back to Work

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – The district’s school committee settled down to business as school opened the previous week. The TV studio at Turners Falls High School was quiet, with no community members or staff in attendance at the meeting on September 8.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan spoke of the opening meetings with staff, including PowerPoint presentations, covering strategic goal areas for the district. He listed five areas of concentration:

- readiness to learn;
- literacy and critical thinking;
- performance-driven curricula;
- system of adult learning; and
- community engagement.

Details and a printed copy of the presentation were provided to school committee members.

Sullivan said that MCAS and PARCC scores will be released in the fall with individual scores slightly later than state and district wide reports. He said that schools, such as those in the Gill-Montague school district, that administered PARCC tests, will have their 2015 accountability and assistance level “held harmless” this year, which means their level rating will stay the same or improve from 2014 levels but cannot decline.

In November 2015, the Massachusetts Board of Education will

vote on whether to use PARCC for grades 3-8 English language arts and math assessments in spring 2016. The tenth grade MCAS will continue to be a graduation requirement through at least the Class of 2019 – this fall’s incoming freshmen.

Sandra Brown, chair, said there is still no Erving representative to the school committee, but hopes there will be soon.

New district treasurer Cynthia Caporaso joined the school committee meeting, sitting next to business and operations director Joanne Blier, contributing to discussions, and demonstrating knowledge of the district and community.

Blier discussed the problem of well water at Gill Elementary School. She said recent testing showed elevated levels of coliform bacteria. A notice will be sent to families. Water coolers with safe drinking water are being provided for students and staff. Ray Purington, administrative assistant to Gill’s selectboard, has notified the school district that the town is ready to begin an engineering study of the Gill Elementary water well, aimed at creating a system design that will treat for manganese and coliform bacteria. Meetings with engineers and interested parties began September 8.

Blier said that at Montague’s special town meeting on October 1

the district will request funding for repair or replacement of the Sheffield boiler, in preparation for this winter. The energy committee was recently awarded a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant for \$12,500 for an audit to determine the most energy efficient heating solutions for Sheffield Elementary. The results will provide information for the future, but repairs on the current heating system need to be completed before the start of the upcoming winter heating season.

The Sheffield window project continues to move forward. According to Blier, the project is in the construction document phase, with the district owner project manager, Tom Kondel and designer Loren Belida.

If all stays on track, Blier said, they should be ready to go out to bid by early November. She added this is a long-term project, and that the order and delivering materials will take a long time, but that work should begin next summer.

The next school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Turners Falls High School television studio.

Complete coverage of this and other school committee meetings are accessible online through MC-TV’s website at montaguetelevision.org. Most meetings are broadcast live and rebroadcast later in the week. Check TV listings for details.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Backs Two-Town Conservation Grant Plan

By JEFF SINGLETON

The selectboard returned from its summer schedule of bi-weekly meetings Monday night and the result was a short, businesslike agenda almost free from contention.

Almost. The one notable exception was an initial “public comment” by Charles Kelly denouncing the recently approved cable contract between the town and Comcast. Kelly has been a persistent and vocal critic of a cable license, arguing that it represents outmoded technology at the very time Montague is exploring a new fiber-optic system.

At Monday’s meeting, Kelly was particularly incensed by the decision last week to approve the contract, which he seemed to feel had been negotiated by former selectboard member Mark Fairbrother. The license was negotiated by cable lawyer Peter Epstein and recommended to the selectboard by the town’s cable advisory committee.

Kelly’s statement – he called the contract a “terrible piece of junk” – drew responses from selectboard members, who do not ordinarily comment on public comment. Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz stated that a cable contract was necessary under present circumstances, and chair Mike Nelson said that the license had been publicly “reviewed for many months.”

In another public comment, Fourth Street resident Aiyana Masla asked about the process for proposing racial sensitivity training sessions for town employees. Mike Nelson stated that he needed to see “specific costs and specific dates” so the sessions would fit the schedules of employees. “I’ll bring something in next week,” Masla responded.

Land Grant Plan

Probably the most significant new issue facing the board was a request by Jamie Pottern of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to support a Landscape Partnership Grant.

That grant, which is in an initial planning stage, encourages towns and Mount Grace to partner with local landholders to acquire parcels of agricultural land for conservation. The application must involve over 500 acres of contiguous land. The grant funds would, in part, be used to purchase development rights from farmers.

Pottern showed the board a map of the farms involved in the grant, most of which are in Wendell. The Montague parcels are off Wendell Road on Mormon Hollow Road. Pottern stated that the grant would also be used for technical assistance to make zoning changes that would encourage “cluster development.” The town’s conservation commission would take the lead in planning conservation restrictions, while the planning board would focus on potential zoning changes.

The selectboard endorsed the grant request, and the chair signed a letter to the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Pole Shortage, Bank Washout

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested, and the board approved, an additional light pole for the Avenue A Streetscape project. Ramsey said the project had initially required 33 new poles but now needs 34. The funds (\$5,436) will come from the community development discretionary fund.

“Do we need money to upgrade the ones we are keeping?” asked Nelson, referring to several original poles the highway department has been directed to retain in storage. Ramsey said he did not have an estimate at the moment.

Ramsey also responded to a question about the impact of recent storms on the streetscape project. He said the Avenue A project had weathered the storms well, but

there had been a “washout” at the Millers Falls Road bank stabilization project.

Noting the project is designed to withstand a “hundred-year rain event,” Ramsey said he would be meeting with engineers to discuss the issue the next day.

The board noted that the town had taken possession of 15 Power Street, the free-standing brick “annex” behind the former Railroad Salvage building.

Cultural Front

Members of the Montague Cultural Council came before the board to introduce themselves and describe the council’s activities. Karen Sturtevant, the chair of the organization, gave the board a brief presentation of its goals and activities.

The group is one of 329 local councils funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. It provides small grants to individuals and groups, primarily for the arts but also for other projects in the humanities and even the sciences. Projects funded last fiscal year included Hats Off To America, drummers at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, a classic symphonic educational program, and a mosaic workshop.

Sturtevant also said that a key goal of the organization is to recruit new members. Five members are needed to receive state funds. The group’s brochure currently lists seven.

Det. Doyle Goes Part Time

Police chief Chip Dodge came before the board to request that the town begin the process of hiring a replacement for Detective Bill Doyle, who will be retiring on October 14. This involves the board requesting a “full-time hire list” from the state Civil Service Board. Dodge said the policy is generally to pick the candidate with the highest score on the Civil Service test.

Dodge then requested that the board appoint Doyle as a part-time reserve officer beginning October 15, noting that his experience would be valuable in training new officers.

The board approved both requests.

Other Business

Mickey Longo, manager of the Turners Fall Airport, requested that the board approve state-mandated “grant assurances” for projects at the airport.

“You’re committing us to everything in the world,” said Kuklewicz.

“It’s boilerplate,” responded Longo. The board approved the assurances.

The board approved several memoranda of understanding for services with the Franklin County Solid Waste District, including one for a household hazardous waste collection at Greenfield Community College on October 3; funds for two landfill inspections; and a request from parks and recreation director John Dobosz to waive the building permit for the new skate park at Unity Park.

At the end of the meeting, during the period designated for issues that have developed within the required 48-hour posting period, the board noted that the town had taken possession of a building at 15 Power Street.

This building is the free-standing brick “annex” behind the former Railroad Salvage property. Both Nelson and Kuklewicz noted that they did not generally support the town acquiring such old buildings. According to Ramsey, the town does not have a plan for use of this building, and Nelson has asked to put it on the board’s agenda for Monday the 21st.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Terms of Solar Deal Cloudy

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Chair Christine Heard brought an eggplant and an onion into the Wendell selectboard’s September 9 meeting. The eggplant was the size of a newborn infant, it was wrapped in a towel like a newborn, and its stem fit like the cap that hospitals place on a newborn’s head. It did not make a noise during the entire evening, and neither did the onion. When the meeting ended Heard cradled the eggplant under her arm to bring it home.

When the meeting opened, Dave Thomas of Seaboard Solar was scheduled to meet the board to explain Wendell’s present connection to his company, but he did not appear at all during the meeting. SREC (Solar and Renewable Energy Credits) rules have changed since Wendell signed a contract with Seaboard to make Wendell was a municipal host for 8 megawatts of solar installations Seaboard would construct.

For hosting the installations, Wendell would have received a reduced price for the electricity that the town uses, and a rent payment of one-half cent per kilowatt-hour that the solar panels produce, estimated at \$60,000 a year.

Wendell has not received a rent payment yet. Seaboard built a project in Tewksbury but sold those contracts, and Wendell’s connection to them is uncertain, although the town has a credit of about \$35,000.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser called to see if National Grid would send Wendell a check for that amount, and learned (to his surprise and amazement) that no check was coming, although the credit exists and could be applied to an account with an account number. Pooser suggested establishing an account that includes all Wendell households that pay electric bills, and applying the credit to that account.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested that applying that credit to an account that already exists, like the town’s, would be simpler, and that a call to town counsel might help clarify the town’s situation with Seaboard, and with municipal hosting of solar projects, a program which is no more. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich was given the job of contacting town counsel and Mr. Thomas.

Conservation and Recreation

The first visitor who actually came to the meeting was Jay Rasku of Mount Grace Land Trust, joined by Wendell residents Bill and Laurel Facey. Mount Grace hopes to include the Faceys’ farm with other properties, mostly private but some town-owned, in Wendell and across the town line in Montague to put a conservation restriction (CR) on a total of 600 mostly connected acres.

No town money is required for the CR but Rasku asked for, and received, a vote of support for Mount Grace’s application. He gave board members a draft of a support letter for them to approve, possibly improve, and sign.

Along with a minimum of 500 acres being put under a CR, with some of each single parcel allowing permanent public access, a state landscape partnership can give Wendell up to \$70,000 that the town can use for public recreation on town land. Wendell would have to pay for the project first, but then would receive full reimbursement.

The application information came to Mount Grace Monday, two days before this meeting, and the application is due September 30, so board members spent some time brainstorming on what would be the best use for that money.

Heard has been working to get a safe walking and bicycle path from the common to the Wendell Country Store, and highway commission chair Harry Williston reviewed with the selectboard the engineering study and survey that was done for such a walk. Pooser suggested that exercise stations placed along the walk might be part of the project.

Former selectboard member Ted Lewis

often mentioned a playing field, and Heard brought that idea up.

Board members did not have a ready list of town-owned properties, and were still thinking of possibilities, so they scheduled an extra meeting, Wednesday, September 16, to which they would invite the recreation committee, the conservation committee, the highway commission so that they could make a decision and process the application.

Floors

Keller said he had talked with Tom Chaisson who apologized for how the new coat of varnish on the town hall floor came out. Chaisson said that the prior finish had been especially hard to sand down, because it might have contained aluminum oxide and because the boards were cupped. He had to sand across the grain, and with Good Neighbors’ every-Sunday schedule, he had only a week to get the job done and the varnish completely dried.

Chaisson offered to do two more jobs that the town has given him for free: touching up paint where rain splatter has damaged the finish near the front door of the office building, and washing mold off the building’s north side.

Keller said that Chaisson has always done dependable and fine work for the town before, and suggested taking him up on that offer but for only one of those two jobs: the less expensive one, the washing. The town has paint for the touch-up. He also suggested that the next time the floor needs refinishing, Good Neighbors should move somewhere else for one Sunday.

Town custodian Larry Ramsdell pulled up a damaged strip of the flooring between the back hall and the main hall of the office building. He said that replacing that strip with matching tiles would cost \$400, and the match would not be perfect, so he suggested a less expensive contrasting blue strip, pointing out that a line of blue between one hall and another would seem deliberate. Board members agreed.

Equipment

Wendell, as part of a five-town region, was awarded a grant of \$65,000 to buy ten new self-contained breathing apparatuses for the fire department. Fire chief Joe Cuneo said their expected useful life could be as much as 20 years.

Pooser said Williston considered the fire department’s former brush truck, a 1970s International, a “bottomless pit” of repairs, and does not want it stored on the highway garage property. The former cemetery commission chair, Dan Bacigalupo, was also the road boss, and so there would have been no conflict.

Heard said that the property belongs to the town and not the highway department, and Pooser, also wary of the expense of maintaining such an old vehicle, suggested that maybe a formal policy was called for.

Other Business

Pooser said that Jim Slavas graciously accepted the job and responsibility for backing up and maintaining the security of the town’s computers. Pooser also requested a meeting with Left Click computers, with the idea that they might be available for more project-based work.

The Franklin County Technical school committee needs a representative for negotiation with the teachers’ association. Of the representatives from the 19 member towns, one will be responsible for negotiations.

Heard said she had found four people, possibly even six, who were willing to be on a committee for elder housing.

Urgency for a special town meeting was eliminated when the fire department paid two bills of a prior year from fire association money.

The other issue that needs a town meeting vote is sick leave pay. The selectboard put off setting a date.

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ANNIVERSARY from pg A1

There will be a continuous slide show of LPVA archive photographs until the screening of *Bridge of Names*, a feature film by Liz Foley and Peter Hobbs of Northampton and New York City, with footage shot in the village and including area actors, between 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Improving the Village

In the spring of 1974 the LPVA took loose form as a civic, cultural, economic, philosophical, and political organization after 32 residents attended an exploratory meeting and committed themselves to “improving the village.” An incorporation application was submitted in August, 1975, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Approval notification stated: “petitioners... are hereby made an existing corporation as of September 11, 1975 under the name of Lake Pleasant Village Association, Inc.”

The preamble of the LPVA constitution laid out in prose-poetic loftiness mighty dreams and ambitions which guided then and guide still efforts of an ever-changing membership. It states: *“We, the residents... being aware of the erosion of morals inherent in the anonymity of urban life, and esteeming greatly the traditions and values of village life, join together in order to perpetuate those traditions and values and to keep the Village of Lake Pleasant an island of simple neighborly duties and pleasures... We are, at the same time, re-*

solved that this village shall not become a mere anachronism, but shall be a living, vital community....”

The LPVA mission was set forth in 11 sections of its constitution. Highlights included: Every adult resident is automatically a member; no membership dues are required, and the result of the people’s **power** via vote anoints the LPVA as “the voice of the village.”

The village’s origin dates to 1870, when George Potter of Greenfield bought 50 acres surrounding the southern tip of the lake. Potter cleared a shoreside area of scrub oaks and pitch pines, built picnic tables and benches and invited all comers to visit his creation and enjoy its pristine natural wonders. That invitation was gratefully accepted.

By 1872 Connecticut River Valley adherents of Spiritualism had struck a deal with the Vermont & Massachusetts and Fitchburg railroads to develop Lake Pleasant as a religious resort. Spiritualism had emerged in the United States in the late 1840s, defining itself as a “philosophy, religion, and science.” Its belief system rests on three pillars: “**Infinite Intelligence**,” an energetic eternal force, created and sustains all that exists; the soul is eternal – for while the human body dies, the mind and the spirit live on; and souls in the world of flesh communicate with afterlife souls in the world of spirit.

By 1874, Spiritualists predominated. For the next half-century, believers from throughout the country

flocked to the village by the thousands in warm weather months, making it the largest Spiritualist gathering place in the nation. And, as a result of more than a century of the presence of the National Spiritual Alliance, the village remains the oldest continuously existing Spiritualist center in America.

Beginning in the 1930s with the Great Depression, the community’s composition changed. More residents lived year-round in the village, and as Spiritualism waned, property ownership passed from sacred to secular. From the 1940s through the 1960s, Lake Pleasant experienced hard times. Poverty abounded and housing deteriorated. But, as the 1970s dawned, so did emergence of community will for revival.

Desire to dream new dreams, to create new creations, were prompted by the 1972 return to village life of a “leader of men,” charismatic by genetic nature and by military nurture: the late retired U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Burns Begg, Jr. Begg led with vigor from the front, and villagers followed with vigor of their own.

Other significant LPVA goals reached in its first decade include: paving narrow, winding streets which for a century had been seasonally dirt and dust, mud and ice, and celebrating Lake Pleasant’s 100th anniversary, both in 1974; obtaining a Comprehensive Employment & Training Act grant to assess and address social services and financial needs and obtaining energy audit

and winterization assistance from the Franklin Community Action Program, both in 1979; and inclusion in a Housing and Urban Development grant to Montague, to convert from septic to sanitary sewer system in the mid-1980s.

Waning and Waxing

By the second half of the 1980s, however, three influences began diluting the LPVA’s pool of energetic power.

One was the aging and departure, by death or geographical relocation, of many original members. A second was the changing composition of village population which began in the 1960s with discovery by UMass-Amherst students of cheap rents and low-cost property purchase prices.

The third was that the LPVA, ironically, became a victim of its own success. With its most major and most-widely supported goals accomplished, lesser dreams succeeded larger ones.

Maintenance of the LPVA new reality lacked the allure of having created it. Cohesion of unified focus, will-power, and collective village drive dribbled into diminishment.

After a decade of being the LPVA’s **primary fund-raising vehicle** and psychological hearts-and-minds elevator and celebrator, annual Old Home Days observance was abandoned in 1986.

Shrinking participatory membership in the late 1980s caused the LPVA to revise its constitutional provisions regarding officers and directors. Offices of president and vice president and of secretary and treasurer were each combined into one position.

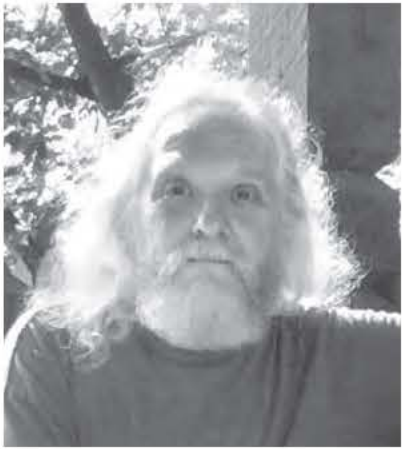
The Lake Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, which had constructed a fire house in 1976, disbanded in 1995 partially because of stiffening state requirements, but primarily from a dip to single-digit membership. In 2008, the Lake Pleasant Water Supply District, under pressure of ever-tightening state regulation and unable to pass the leadership torch from old to new local blood, disbanded, and the works were turned over to the Turners Falls Water Department.

But the proverbial worm was about to turn again, this time toward the light.

In April 2012, relative newcomers Lahri Bond and Deborah Bazer organized a public meeting and publicized it under the rallying cry: “Come and help create a positive present and future for the community of Lake Pleasant.” Spirited discussion focused on the dire circumstances of the roofs of the blockhouses at each end of the footbridge, and the dangerous condition of the free-standing blockhouse containing a cast iron bell from the temple of the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association, which burned in 1955. (That bell had been donated to the LPVA when NESCA disbanded in 1976.)

By meeting’s **end**, established goals included: removing and restoring the damaged bell and repairing its bellhouse; compiling an email membership list, and reviving the LPVA

newsletter in digital format. In mid-May the first edition of the electronic Lake Pleasant Village Association Newsletter was produced.



Lahri Bond

The LPVA learned from town officials it might qualify for community improvement funds to assist with renovation projects and Montague subsequently awarded the LPVA up to \$6,000 for revitalization.

In September 2012, Bond was elected LPVA president. The bell was removed and sent for refurbishment and a weekend work bee resulted in both Bridge of Names blockhouses being re-roofed. **The bellhouse project** will be completed before this autumn’s leaves have finished falling.

In October 2012, the LPVA submitted a proposal to the Turners Falls Water Department regarding reclamation of property extending from the Bridge of Names to the former fire department station house.

The proposal concluded, *“We would like to use and renovate... the building to accommodate a learning center; gallery space and possible cafe... With such aspirations, we would like to secure these pieces of land (and building) by means of purchase or long term lease, at nominal cost...”* That proposal has been accepted in theory, but legal wrinkles leave it lingering in the hands of lawyers.

In May 2013, LPVA efforts to thwart closure of the Lake Pleasant Post Office were successful, although LPPO business hours subsequently were reduced from 35 to 13 1/2 hours a week.

From November 2013 forward, the LPVA and the Montague Parks & Recreation Department have worked to devise plans for upgrades to two village parks. Some new equipment has been installed and other improvements await grant application approval.

The celebration on September 19 is a call to arms to all those with roots in Lake Pleasant, past and present, for reunion and renewal, creation and sharing of new visions, new dreams, as evolution of the essence of the village continues to unfold.

In an age when people have become “pidgets,” and numbers have replaced names, in Lake Pleasant you may not love your neighbor as yourself, but at least you know who your neighbor is. To bend Hillary Clinton a bit out of time and place ... it does take the Village of Lake Pleasant to raise a proper Laker.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Unexpected Education Costs

By KATIE NOLAN

School committee chair Scott Bastarache warned the Erving selectboard that he had “staggering numbers to talk about.” According to Bastarache, residential placement for one Erving special needs student at Cutchins Programs in Northampton will cost the town \$171,000 in FY’16. The 19-year old-student is not yet enrolled in the program, but on the waiting list for a spot.

Bastarache said that the school committee paid for an independent assessment of the student, and the answer came back that the Cutchins placement was appropriate for the student’s educational needs. Special needs students are eligible for school services until they are 23. However, Bastarache said he understood that the student was not expected to stay at Cutchins for the next four years.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson suggested consulting with town counsel to make sure the costs are the town’s responsibility.

Bastarache also informed the selectboard that the town will owe an additional \$107,230 to the Gill-Montague Regional School district for secondary education tuition. This amount is based on the actual number of Erving students enrolled

at GMRSD schools. The secondary school education budget that passed at annual town meeting was based on an estimate of the number of students likely to enroll.

Northeast Energy Direct Pipeline

The board considered a draft scope of work from Franklin Regional Council of Governments for a regional pipeline advisory committee. FRCOG expects towns that join to contribute funding.

Johnson said that he was in favor of building the pipeline and was against “my tax money fighting it.”

Selectboard member Jacob Smith remarked that the board couldn’t take any action without consulting the town, and that the issue could be added as an article to next special town meeting warrant. The June 29 special town meeting approved a resolution instructing the selectboard to obtain voter approval before making future decisions concerning the proposed gas pipeline or compressor station.

Treasurer’s Office

The board approved treasurer Margaret Sullivan’s request to purchase of Zobrio cash management software. Sullivan said the purchase price of \$12,848 would be funded

from the accounting software line item and from the treasurer’s expenses line item.

The board approved Sullivan’s recommendation to hire Jean Fontaine of Athol as treasurer’s assistant.

Maple Avenue Landfill

Engineering consultant Tighe & Bond, Inc. provided a cost estimate of \$11,600 for post-closure monitoring at the former Maple Avenue landfill.

Board members tabled responding to the estimate until the September 21 meeting. Selectboard chair William Bembury suggested that town employees might be able to do some of the sampling at a cheaper rate.

Special Town Meeting

The special town meeting proposed for September 28 was rescheduled to October 6, in order to allow the finance committee to review the draft articles.

Included in the draft articles are: unexpected highway truck repair costs, the special education costs for Cutchins Programs, an early retirement package for highway employee Dana Moore, and the secondary education tuition.

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At the 2015 Franklin County Fair

Matt Robinson was a busy photographer the fair last weekend. Clockwise, from top: Best in show, Linda Roberge, of Montague; Brian Peila and Tanya of Zak Farm in Gill; Jacinda Stone of Montague's first-prize potatoes; Zachary Zilinski and Buttercup of Zilinski Farm in Gill; an old Socquet Hillside Farm sign. Center: Jacinda Stone's first-prize carrots.



MATT ROBINSON PHOTOS

AUCTION from page A1

the artwork, but will serve as auctioneer during the live auction part of the event.

Standing in a newly renovated space next door to their Avenue A shop, the couple were surrounded by 70 very untraditional landscapes. It is obvious that some of the artists "went to the dark side," as participating artist David Larue said.

He was referring to his reiteration of a fishing boat scene, to which he added lobsters pulling up a "catch" of very pale, white...well, what looks rather like human corpses.

The macabre role reversal looks right at home among the many inventive pieces around it: three-dimensional sea monsters emerging from the waves; sea serpents eating political candidates; hordes of rats, alien life forms, dinosaurs, robots, you name it – among the mountains, fields, and waves of former motel-room-schlock-art.

MacLean has made a certificate for each painting that has a photo of the original painting on it, so viewers can make a comparison. Each painting has a number; she has made name tags with the number for attending artists to wear at the Saturday event.

Schedule of activities is as follows: 11 to 4 p.m., bidders can preview the twenty selected paintings inside the LOOT store (62 Avenue A) that are reserved for the live auction. A silent auction of the other 50 pictures will run from 4 to 7 p.m. in the gallery space next door (56 Avenue A). The live auction of 20 pieces will take place in LOOT at 6 p.m., with auctioneer Konvelski.

Refreshments will be served, and music will be provided by local musicians performing as "Trichasm."

For more info, see www.loottheshop.com. Join the event on Facebook through www.facebook.com/loottheshop page.



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Hilltowns History Fair Promises to be An Extravaganza

By ANNE HARDING

SHELBURNE – The Hilltowns History Fair & Conference is back at the Mohawk Trail Regional School on Rt. 112 in Shelburne Falls this Saturday, September 19. This multi-faceted local history extravaganza is sponsored by the Mary Lyon Foundation along with the Pioneer Valley History Network and Catamount Hill Association. An amazing variety of educational activities and entertainments await those who attend.

A free outdoor fair is open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm (or indoors if inclement weather) with Civil War reenactments, demonstrations of historic crafts and trades, history-related vendors, a children's area, and great food and music.

There is an indoor conference from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm presenting a wide range of topics relating to Connecticut River Valley and the history of the hilltowns. There is a nominal admission fee for the conference although teachers and students may attend for free.

According to Mary Lyon Foundation Co-Executive Director, Sue Samoriski, "This major event has far reaching implications for everyone, especially young people who will derive a sense of place and develop an appreciation for local history by attending the conference and fair."

The day promises something for everyone. At the fair, spectators will learn how a blacksmith manipulates hot metal into functional



Civil War reenactors of the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

items; they'll see wood turned into beautiful shapes on a lathe; and try their hand threading a screw with an adjustable die from the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage. The 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Civil War re-enactors will be giving a musket-firing demonstration at their encampment and teaching about the hardships local soldiers endured 150 years ago.

Children and adults alike can make marbled designs, inspired by the beautiful papers used in books at a time when they were hand-crafted and hard to come by; and thaumotropes – whimsical Victorian toys that create optical illusions. They'll learn about Morgan horses with a national bestselling author and have the chance to take an old-fashioned wagon ride led by a team of stately Percheron draft horses.

Visitors will learn about the latest technology at a "History App Station" and representatives from local historical societies, 4-H, and history-related businesses will see **HILLTOWNS** page B5



Percherons, from Clay Hill Farm of Chesterton.

A Place where MIND(s) can SOAR

By EDITE CUNHÁ

TURNERS FALLS – On a sunny Thursday morning a small group of women gather around a table in a cool, brick-walled room on Third Street in Turners Falls for the tenth meeting of the fledgling Turners Falls Women's Club. This story is not about the Women's Club, per se, though that is a newsworthy cause in itself, but about the deep work that has led to the envisioning and creation of the club.

Those present are founding members. The majority are also graduates of the Montague Institute for New Directions (MIND), and Skills Opportunity Action Recognition (SOAR), two dynamic, though little-known, programs of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries Women's Center.

MIND and SOAR are what this story is really about. But a bit more about the Women's Club may help the reader understand the power of the work coming out of these programs.

The Turners Falls Women's Club

meets on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street. It is a safe, convivial and respectful place where women can gather to talk, work, and support each other. All women are welcome.

This morning, one club member has picked up the key across the street at the MCSM Women's Center, opened the Brick House space, and made coffee; another has brought freshly-baked goodies. Together, they quickly dispatch business, taking turns signing up for the responsibilities of opening and closing the club each week through the end of the year.

Then they are ready to talk about how they have come to be here.

The Turners Falls Women's Club, they explain, was born out of cutbacks to the Women's Center drop-in hours, currently open just Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 10 to 1. "First we lost Wednesday nights," member Kathy Truesdell says, "and then it was Thursday mornings. We had to find another place to gather."

The importance of having a safe, non-judgmental place to commune



Ground transportation docked at the MCSM Women's Center, where women are invited to "SOAR."

is evident here. The organizational skills, confidence and drive that has enabled these women to find a space and start their own program has been hard-earned, and in some cases, re-gained via the programs of

see **MIND & SOAR** page B5



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER In The Catbird's Seat

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – Often in the mornings I pitch my tent, my throne, or in this case, my Adirondack chair amidst the greenery that is the towering rhododendron in the back yard. There I watch the sun rise and peek golden from behind the sentinel maple, still true to summer, its leaves still deep green, not gold or reddening just yet.

One of my constant companions down here on the back lawn is the catbird. Perhaps you have overlooked your own catbird somewhere there in your own backyard? This gray bird is often heard, and occasionally seen if you look close. She mimics and mocks as well as any mockingbird. Slipping and sa-shaying about the undergrowth in the yard, she keeps an eye on everything and everyone in her domain.

She noted, along with me, the fleeting white-tail lacing of the late summer solitary sandpiper pausing at the edge of the frog pond, the crooked wing flight of the osprey overhead. She observes and scolds the scads of house sparrows who cheerfully and noisily play and



Ripe pokeberries

bathe like so many street urchins in the birdbath, crowding, splashing, jumping in and out of the water chipping and egging each other on.

I watch from my chair as the catbird downs a throat-full of pokeber-

ries, then flirts along the edge of the birdbath, trying to decide whether or not to jump in. Flicks of the tail, showing her secret scarlet bloomers underneath, she throws a teasing look in my direction.

She sips the water, pondering a plunge. Guess not. With a flounce she flies under my nose and off to where there are more pokeberries that droop in crimson clusters on purple stems. She'll be back, envying me my chair with its high wooden back. A perfect spot from which a busybody catbird can survey her (or his) domain of the back lawn.

I get up for a fresh cup, and when I come back, there she is, she's laid claim to the perch, the perfect catbird seat.

Now, these pokeberries (*Phytolacca decandra*) could be painted on some fine Chinese porcelain, they are so decorative and strikingly colored. Flaming magenta stems, midnight purple berries, they could sicken a horse or kill a child if tempted to eat them. But they are a succulent delicacy for the catbird's breakfast, lunch and supper.

We allow all manner of wild see **WEST ALONG** page B6

At Deerfield's Memorial Hall Museum: "Robert Strong Woodward: Artist for All Seasons"



Robert Strong Woodward, Mrs. Keach's Front Porch, oil on canvas, 1933. Private collection.

DEERFIELD – Memorial Hall Museum is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibit "Robert Strong Woodward: Artist For All Seasons." Organized by the Friends of Robert Strong Woodward, the exhibition runs from September 5 until November 1.

The exhibition features five privately-owned paintings by Robert Strong Woodward (1885-1957) of rural Buckland, Massachusetts, dating from the 1930s.

After briefly studying at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School in 1910, Robert Strong Woodward settled in the western Massachusetts town of Buckland, where he had summered as a youth. Despite being paralyzed from the waist down at the age of 21, Woodward

was painted on site (using a horse and buggy or later chauffeured in a convertible car) when weather permitted. Over the years, he had three different studios in Buckland and another in nearby Heath.

Woodward's paintings represent New England regionalism at its best. Suzanne Flynt, curator of Memorial Hall Museum, describes his work as marked by "strong lines, beguiling compositions, and pragmatic colors." An excellent draughtsman, Woodward animated his canvases with his lively brushstrokes and colors.

Woodward's realist paintings met with great success and he was represented by Vose Galleries in Boston, and Macbeth and Grand Central Galleries in New York. His still lifes and landscapes

were exhibited to critical acclaim in New York, Boston and throughout New England. Over his three-decades-long career, Woodward completed more than 750 oil and pastel paintings. The paintings in this exhibition are all privately owned and rarely on public view.

The Memorial Hall Museum, at 8 Memorial Street in Deerfield, is open Tuesdays to Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, and \$3 for youth and students 6 – 21.

For more information on the exhibit or museum, call (413) 774-3768 x80, or visit the museum's website at www.deerfield-ma.org. For more on Woodward, see www.robertstrong-woodward.com.

Pet of the Week



“CHEWBACCA”

Hello new friends!
My name is Chewbacca and I'm here to tell you that I am ready to

live my life with a new family and I hope that's you!
I'm a young kid, one who enjoys being an indoor/outdoor kitty where I can meet new friends all the time.
I'm good with other cats, with slow and proper introductions of course.
I would love to go to a family with older kids as I have a lingering tendency to play a bit rough sometimes.
If you're interested in a handsome guy like me, stop on in and say hey!!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities September 21 to 25

GILL and MONTAGUE
Gill / Montague Senior Center,
62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.
All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.
Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch
Monday 9/21
8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo
Tuesday 9/22
9 a.m. Mat Yoga (Subscription)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 9/23
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 Monthly Health Screening
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 9/24
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns
Friday 9/25
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL
Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.
Monday 9/21
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
7 p.m. History of Farley
Tuesday 9/22
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting Class
Wednesday 9/23
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 9/24
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
7 p.m. BOH Pipeline Meeting
Friday 9/25
9 a.m. Quilting,
9:30 a.m. Bowling
Noon Lunch at French King Restaurant

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

FACES & PLACES



Last Saturday, Montague Parks and Rec youth soccer faced off against Erving at Highland Park. Heather Katsoulis was on hand, and shared this photo with us.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I'm from an Italian-American family and we seem to have a predisposition for gallstones. Is this something people of my ethnic background get more often?

I could find no evidence that people with an Italian background get more gallstones than others. However, Native Americans have an inclination for this malady; they have the highest rate of gallstones in the United States.

There are a bunch of other risk factors. People over age 60 are more likely to develop gallstones than younger people. Women between 20 and 60 years of age are twice as likely to develop gallstones as men.

Other factors include obesity, excess estrogen, cholesterol-lowering drugs, diabetes, rapid weight loss, and fasting.

The gallbladder is a blue-green organ, about three inches long on the underside of the liver. The liver produces bile in a dilute form, which is then stored and concen-

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Gallstone-Prone?

trated in the gallbladder. The bile is then secreted from the gallbladder into the small intestine where it aids digestion.

You can live without a gallbladder. After it is removed, bile flows out of the liver through ducts into the small intestine. However, because the bile isn't stored in the gallbladder, it flows into the small intestine more frequently.

Bile is made up of fatty substances such as cholesterol. When excessive amounts of fat are present, stones can form. The stones can be as small as a grain of sand or as large as a golf ball. About 90% of gallstones are composed of cholesterol.

Gallstones can block the normal flow of bile. A blockage can cause inflammation. If the blockage persists, it can damage organs and be fatal.

Symptoms of gallstones often present themselves suddenly. If you have a gallstone "attack," you can suffer pain in the upper abdomen, between the shoulder blades, and under the right shoulder. An attack, which often comes after a fatty meal, can last from a half-hour to several hours.

Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, indigestion, abdominal bloating, and recurring intolerance of fatty foods.

You should get to a doctor immediately if you have an attack with chills, fever, yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, and clay-colored stools.

About 80 percent of people with gallstones have no symptoms. They have what are called "silent stones" that don't need treatment.

Gallstones are usually treated by removing the gallbladder! This surgery is called a "cholecystectomy." In traditional surgery, the gallbladder is removed through an abdominal incision up to eight inches long. However, the most common method today employs a laparoscope, a thin tube with a scope on the end of it.

The laparoscope is inserted through a small incision below the navel. The surgeon can see inside with the scope. The other surgical tools are inserted in three other small incisions in your abdomen. The gallbladder is removed through one of these cuts.

Abdominal ultrasound is considered the safest and simplest of the tests for gallstones.

Sonar waves from a probe are passed over the abdomen to detect the presence of stones.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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A ‘Scent-sational’ Autumn Destination



Tug-of-garlic, at a previous year's festival.

ORANGE – The 17th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, is a “scent-sational” place to be on Sept 26 and 27.

Over 100 booths feature juried regional artists, local farm products, garlic cuisine, healing arts and community organizations that fill the fields of historic Forsters Farm. Many offer great demonstrations of their craft right at their booths!

Music, performance, spoken word, and dance fill three stages and the rolling landscape, vibrant with autumn foliage. Demos by celebrated chefs, plus farm fresh savory cuisine from twenty diverse food vendors satisfy the soul and palate and festival-goers can relax in food-court tents overlooking the festivities. Orange is the new green! Engaging renewable energy and local living presentations energize and inspire the crowds. And, the festival produces only three bags of trash for 10,000 people with everything else recycled or transformed into fertile compost, resulting in ‘gardens not garbage.’

There are many reasons why the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival was awarded second-best festival, of hundreds across the region, by the Valley Advocate readers’ poll, as well as a featured event in the Mohawk Trail 250th anniversary celebration.

When a group of North Quabbin neighbors, artists and farmers first conceived of the event years ago to ignite the cultural vitality of the region and spirit of community, they never imagined that years later many thousands would follow their nose (and hearts) to the festival each year.

The Festival that stinks is also the festival that sustains... art, agriculture, and rural living at its finest!

In addition to ample spontaneous and on-going happenings, more than sixty performances and workshops over the weekend ensure non-stop entertainment and education for everyone in the family. The 2015 Music Stage is rich in local talent and offers plenty of room for dancing to the likes of Celtic Heels, Maris Otter, Abe Loomis and Bright Lines, Trailer Park, Inside Out Dance Company, O You Villain, Yiddishkeit Klezmer Ensemble, and De Lomas y Sonos.

The Family Stage features Tom Ricardi with Birds of Prey, Bill Downes, Western Mass Bellydance,

Gaia Roots, and Josh LeVangie and the Pistoleros. Human Error Publishing presents a Spoken Word Stage featuring forty poets and readers, nestled in a beautiful forest amphitheater.

The Renewable Energy Area inspires local living with energizing info all weekend and workshops titled Community Solar Unveiled, Allying with the Fungal Kingdom, Cover Crops for Home Gardens, Heirloom Madness, The Basics of Lacto-fermentation, What’s so Hot about Heat Pumps, and Building an Affordable High Performance Home.

If you’re hungry for more, the Chef Demo Tent features local culinary artists from The Gill Tavern, Stockbridge Farm, Wheelhouse Truck Farm, The Five Eyed Fox, Culinary Consultants, and Osteria Vespa, plus the release and sale of the first-ever North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival cookbook!

Kids of all ages will forget their screens with the abundance of creative, adventure, and cultural activities including an animal area with heritage and working animals and fiber demos; a pottery tent where bowls can be made to benefit local food pantries, Peak Expedition’s climbing wall; Native craft, artifacts and story, plus the ever favorite hula hooping, horsedrawn hayrides, everyone-can-play garlic games and giant fun with Skeleton Crew Theatre, and Ed the Wizard roaming the fields.

There is good reason why it’s been called the 17th Most Popular Festival in the Universe!

Family-friendly, affordable admission is still only \$5 per day for adults, weekend passes are \$8, and kids 12 and under are free.

Travel and Parking: There are free shuttles all day from nearby lot (last shuttle leaves site at 5 p.m.), with onsite parking for carpools of 3 or more and handicap tags only. Experienced hikers can even choose a moderately strenuous, 45-minute trail from the shuttle to the festival gates.

No pets (except service dogs) are allowed on the trail, shuttle, or at the festival, and while garlic lovers are hot, there is no smoking on the festival fields or shuttle bus lines.

Visit garlicandarts.org for the full program of events and list of exhibitors, plus important travel and parking details.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Bears Prepare for Winter; Shirtless Human Cuts Through Yard; Last Week’s Inconvenient Beaver Turns Up Dead

Monday, 9/7

6:55 a.m. Caller reports that the stop sign at the end of South Lyman Street at Federal Street has been knocked down flat to the road. Caller concerned that truck traffic using road may not know to stop. Day shift advised to investigate. DPW closed for the holiday. Message left for DPW.

11:37 a.m. Report of two subjects on a utility pole between Bulkley Street and Davis-Dell Streets. Caller concerned that the people on the pole are not legitimate utility employees. Officer advises that subjects checked out; they are Comcast employees.

2:20 p.m. Anonymous caller reports illegal dumping at I Street and Power Street; advises that his neighbor has been dumping concrete over the embankment. Attached male jackhammering concrete steps is reportedly the party who dumped the concrete. Officer obtained statement from caller and advised involved male of possible charges if concrete is not cleaned up by tomorrow.

2:39 p.m. Report from Goddard Avenue of a suspicious male who just came from the woods, climbed over the caller’s fence, and cut through her yard. Subject described as shirtless white male, dirty appearance, large back tattoo and several arm tattoos. Officer off with subject at top of First Street. Subject advises that he was just coming up from the river, got lost, and jumped the fence to try to find his way back. Caller advised of disposition.

5:50 p.m. Caller who reported a beaver in the river near the Bookmill last week now reports that the beaver is no longer aggressive; it is dead. Caller concerned about the beaver being ill and in the water. Caller advises that she and her children were down in the area swimming. EPO contacted but advise they will not assist with this; provided number for Mass Wildlife, who are not in the office today due to the holiday. Caller given number to contact them directly. Attempted to contact animal control officer for any information to assist caller.

6:08 p.m. Caller from Main Street reports a bear in a nearby field. Caller concerned that two young children live there. Officer made contact with caller and advises that the

bear as moved on from the field up the road.

7:51 p.m. K9 unit requested by South Deerfield PD for track. Services rendered.

8:19 p.m. Greenfield PD requests available officer to Cheapside Street to assist with a despondent female. Services rendered; situation mediated.

Tuesday, 9/8

6:32 a.m. Caller reports that there is an older female with a grocery cart full of trash in the area of Cumberland Farms; female is spreading her items down the sidewalk and throwing trash onto the caller’s property. Officer advises that the female has a friend coming to help her pick up the mess and move along. Officers clear; female was assisted with picking up her property; same is on her way.

8:29 a.m. Caller from G Street reports that his wallet was stolen out of his vehicle overnight. Caller advises that his windows were open and the vehicle may have been unlocked. Report taken.

9:27 a.m. Caller from the Senior Center reports that there is a chow dog that has been barking in a backyard on K Street for the past hour. Animal control officer advised and will be responding.

8:45 p.m. Caller advises of party standing on the General Pierce Bridge, looking over the edge. Caller concerned for party’s safety. Officer advises that party was talking on his cell phone, not in any distress.

9:35 p.m. Caller reports that she just arrived home and her partner is not there: her car is gone, the house was all closed up; no lights were on; and she is not answering her cell phone. Last had contact with partner around noon today; partner did not make any suggestion that she would not be home. Partner called to say she is fine, was at a work meeting with her phone off, is home now.

Wednesday, 9/9

8:23 a.m. Report of shoplifting at F.L. Roberts. Subject took a six-pack of Bud Light. Subject was caught on camera. Report taken.

11:24 a.m. 911 caller advises no emergency, called to advise that two goats wandered into her yard. Caller tied goats to a tree and left them water; advises that if the owner calls, they can come on the property to retrieve the goats. Caller advised that animal control officer

would respond and given non-emergency number for non-emergency calls.

5:02 p.m. Report of a bear in the area of Montague Street. Started out at the golf course; moved to the Oakman Street area then onto Montague Street. Caller advised not to chase, crowd, or approach the bear. Bear located near Bulkley and Dell. Millers Falls Road closed down per officer, who is attempting to guide the bear out of town. Bear headed back toward the river.

7:20 p.m. Report of a female with a skateboard on the Gill side of the Turners-Falls Gill Bridge; female appears to be attempting some kind of “trick” on the railings of the bridge. Two male parties on the Montague side are filming this. Caller concerned for their safety. State police notified as Gill PD is off duty at this time. Determined to be Hallmark students who are going to stay on the sidewalk, taking still photos.

7:23 p.m. Report of five bears in the conservation area “eating apples.” Area checked; nothing located. 10:26 p.m. Single car collision on Main Street; vehicle vs. tree. Caller advises of a head injury. Vehicle towed; party transported to hospital by MedCare.

Thursday, 9/10

6:18 a.m. Fire department reports that they can hear a male party yelling in the area of Montague Street and Turnpike Road. Check of the camera shows a female party chasing a small white dog that is loose in the area.

8:06 a.m. Truck driver called 911 for directions. Caller given non-emergency number. Caller called back on non-emergency line. Services rendered.

8:30 a.m. DPW requesting assistance locating the owner of a bicycle that is chained to one of the light posts they are replacing as part of the downtown streetscape project. Unable to locate owner. The lock was cut and the bike was brought to the old police station for safe keeping. Bike owner came to MPD; officer met her at the old station and returned her bike to her.

2:23 p.m. Two car accident at Montague City Road and Walnut Street. MedCare and TFFD sent as a precaution. Report taken.

5:18 p.m. Caller reports that his girlfriend is intoxicated and acting bel-

ligerent on Avenue A. Caller transporting girlfriend back to their residence; officers following. Female taken into protective custody and transported to hospital.

7:06 p.m. Several items reported stolen within the last hour from a Second Street apartment. Investigated.

8:47 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

Friday, 9/11

12:33 a.m. Caller from Oakman Street reports that her neighbor has a very bright spotlight on the garage that shines into her house. Officer advises that neighbor was contacted and turned light out; however, since this is a motion sensor light, it may come back on.

2:18 a.m. Caller who would not provide name reports that she will be driving her car tomorrow and is aware of a recall involving the vehicle’s airbags. Caller asking whether it would be safe to drive her vehicle, and if there was no passenger in the passenger seat, whether the passenger side airbag would deploy. Caller told that neither the dispatcher nor an officer would be comfortable answering that question as it has to do with the mechanics of the vehicle; suggested that if she had reservations about driving the vehicle, that she not do so until any issue was repaired. Caller proceeded to scream at dispatcher for several minutes before disconnecting the line mid-conversation.

12:34 p.m. Officer advises that the sidewalk on the General Pierce Bridge appears to have new “buckles” in it and may be shifting upwards; requests MassHighway be contacted. They were called and will be sending someone out to check on this.

1:16 p.m. Report of a black dog and a white dog hanging out near Sheffield Elementary School. Unable to locate.

11:58 p.m. Shoplifting at F.L. Roberts; case of beer stolen. Summons issued.

Saturday, 9/12

8:05 a.m. Breaking and entering reported at a Fourth Street apartment overnight; flat-screen TV missing. Report taken.

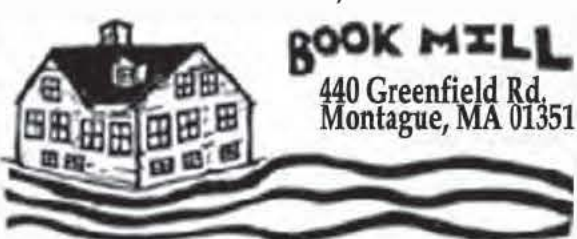
Sunday, 9/13

10:56 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of a friend who resided in Charlemont and does not feel safe. Caller provided with number for state police.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Cat Rescued From Tree;
Gunning It on Gunn

Monday, 8/31

4:55 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Pratt Street.
6:45 p.m. Several reports of train idling at River Road tracks. Railroad contacted.

Tuesday, 9/1

4:02 p.m. Assisted resident with cat stuck in tree.
8:56 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on North Street.

Friday, 9/4

1:40 p.m. Alarm at Pratt Street. Found to be faulty detector; owner notified.
3:55 p.m. Report of loose dog on Mountain Road. Animal control officer advised.
5:56 p.m. Crash on Route 2, east of Old

State Road.

9:10 p.m. Medical emergency at Erving State Forest

Saturday, 9/5

8:15 a.m. Assisted driver with vehicle lockout. Railroad contacted.

Sunday, 9/6

10:40 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for a court warrant.

6 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on Northfield Road.

Monday, 9/7

10 a.m. Motor vehicle crash reported at Veteran's Field. Vehicle drove off Route 2, through a guardrail, and down an embankment, landing on Route 63. Report taken.

Tuesday, 9/8

12:50 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] arrested on a court warrant.

Thursday, 9/10

1:50 p.m. Report of neighbor dispute on French King Highway. Area clear.

8:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with possible breaking and entering in progress at Four Mile Brook Road.

Saturday, 9/12

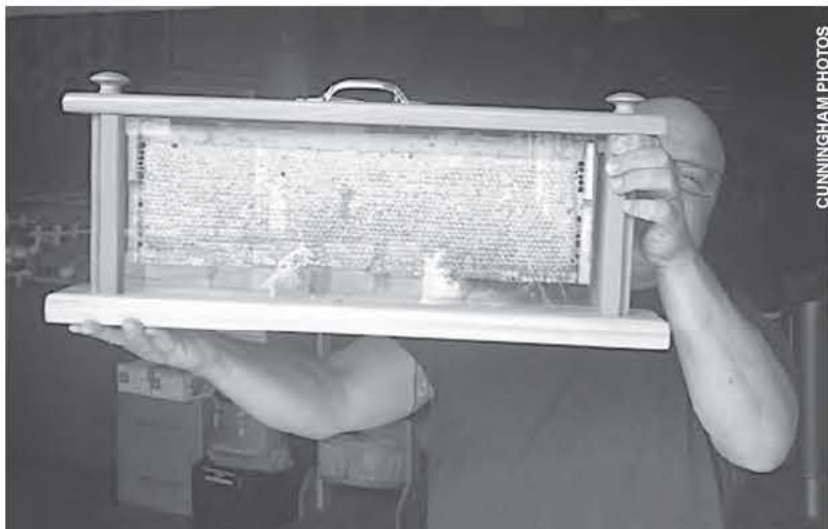
4:40 a.m. Alarm on East Main Street. Area secure.

6:40 p.m.

[redacted], arrested on a court warrant.

Sunday, 9/13

1:15 p.m. Noise complaint regarding engines revving on Gunn Street. Owner advised.

The Buzz on Bees
in Franklin County

David Moscaritolo holding up a honey comb for the crowd to see. The honey in the comb has not been harvested, allowing people to see what a comb looks like before the honey has been extracted.

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

GREENFIELD – Early Saturday morning the Franklin County Fair was abuzz with some very important, tiny guests. Just beyond the entrance, bees were on display as part of the Franklin County Beekeepers Association annual booth at the fair. Also part of the booth was organic honey made by the association members, locally made lip balm and body butter, a live hive, and a real honey comb with the honey still inside.

Booth manager David Moscaritolo said while sales are definitely part of the fair, education is also important. Staffed with volunteers rotating in four shifts a day, during the fair the booth always has someone on hand to answer questions about bees.

“That’s why we have the live hive. A lot of young folks have questions. Nothing like having live bees to look at,” said Moscaritolo.

The live hive drew interest from families passing by the booth, and young children were able to see the hive in action. The challenge was to find the queen, marked with a dot, amongst her worker bees.

There is only one queen bee in a hive. The rest are made up of worker bees or drones. Worker bees are infertile females that do most of the laboring in the hive, while the drones’ only purpose in the hive is to mate with the queen. Only one in a thousand, however, actually get the opportunity to do so.

According to the American Beekeeping Federation, a worker bee only lives six to eight weeks, but during that period flies one and a half times the circumference of the Earth.

Moscaritolo has been keeping bees for four years with his son Nick, whose prize-winning lip balm was on display and for sale at the booth. This year, Nick won first prize in the honey product category.

“We all love being beekeepers.

It’s important to know about what bees do for us,” said Moscaritolo.

According to the American Beekeeping Federation, one third of the food Americans eat is either directly or indirectly produced from honey-bee pollination.

Moscaritolo went on to add that he can use every part of what the bee produces to make products useful to humans. This year the association had locally produced honey for sale as well as Nick’s prize winning lip balm, but beeswax can be used in cosmetics, body lotions, moisturizers, hand creams, hand lotions, wood finishes, dental molds,

leather polishes, and waterproofing products.

Keeping bees isn’t without challenges, and Moscaritolo said a winter like last year’s is extremely hard on the bees.

“We all had bees die last winter,” said Moscaritolo.

Mites and diseases are another challenge. While mites do affect the Franklin County Bee population, Moscaritolo hasn’t seen any major diseases this year for the bees and said all in all it has been a good year for the beekeepers.

“Like anything else, you have good years and bad years,” said Moscaritolo.

Moscaritolo encourages anyone with an interest in beekeeping to join the association to learn about the ins and outs of caring for bees.

“You have to learn how to handle bees the right way,” he explained.

The benefit of joining the association, Moscaritolo said, is the opportunity to learn from seasoned veterans who have been in the beekeeping business for many years. The Franklin County Beekeepers Association was established in 1928, and includes both amateur and professional beekeepers.

“You get to learn a lot from people who have been beekeeping for years and years and years. The great thing about the association is you can pick up the phone and someone is there to help out,” said Moscaritolo.

For more information regarding joining the Franklin Beekeepers Association, visit the website at www.franklinmabeekeepers.org.

Fifth Annual “Will Bike 4 Food” Event Approaches

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

HATFIELD – The 5th Annual Will Bike 4 Food, a cycling event for charity, will kick off on Sunday, September 27 at the Lions Club Pavilion (behind Hatfield Elementary). The funds raised will help the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts feed those in need in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Chris Wojcik, marketing and communications manager at the Food Bank, described how the event started: “There was someone who worked at the Food Bank; she was a cyclist herself and she identified this as an opportunity to help support the Food Bank, and saw how the community could come together. She used to be in a lot of different rides herself, and saw it as a great opportunity to bring that environment to the Food Bank.”

The event consists of five routes, which cyclists may ride as part of a team or as individuals. Four are the event’s usual routes, ranging from 10 to 100 miles, and this year a fifth has been added – “a 3.5 mile multi-surface route, perfect for those wishing to ride their mountain or BMX style bikes,” according to the Food Bank. Further descriptions of the routes, and map, can be found at www.willbike4food.org.

Wojcik, who’s been at his job for two years, explained why it is being held at the Hatfield Lions Club Pavilion this year. “It has always been held at the Food Bank in their parking lot,” he said, “but because every year it has gotten bigger, we don’t really have any room now in the parking lot; not anymore.”

The event has raised approximately \$200,000 over the last four years, which amounts to “more than 600,000 meals” for area families, according to the organization.

An After Party will follow the event from 2:30 to 5 p.m., at the Pavilion. The Sun Parade, a local rock band, will perform at 4 p.m., and Team East will be there with their freestyle BMX stunt show. There will also be several lawn games and face painting for kids. The food, supplied by Stop & Shop will consist of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as salads, and the Berkshire Brewing Company will be on hand with beer.

Non-riders will be allowed at the party for the first time this year. Wojcik said that “It’s one of those things – when riders are done, people have their families with them and want them to come cheer them on. Also, if there is anybody who just can’t ride, this is a way for them to come support the event.” While the party is free to the cyclists, it will cost non-riders \$25, and tickets may be purchased online.

Wojcik believes that Will Bike 4 Food is so popular because, “there are four different bike routes: you can ride 10, 25, 50, or 100 miles. I think 10 miles is popular for families. 100 miles, those tend to be for more experienced cyclists. The people who are really good at it, they tend to do it.”

Go to www.willbike4food.org for details, including prices for participation and number of remaining places. The cut-off date to register is September 25.



Locally grown honey produced by the members of the Franklin County Beekeepers Association was for sale and on display at the booth. Many members entered their honey to be judged at the fair, with positive results.

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MIND & SOAR from page B1

the Women’s Center, particularly MIND and SOAR. Most of the Women’s Club founding members are graduates of either or both of these.

New Directions

So what are these programs that fire women up to change things, to start things?

MIND is a twelve-week training program for women who are ready to take the next step in their lives, whatever that step may be. For some, it could be continuing their education, entering or re-entering the workforce, or starting a business. Some women may be ready to take the next step but unsure of what that step is. MIND can help them define their course, and set attainable goals.

Hilda Mercado was one such woman. Now a Case Manager at Behavioral Health Network (BHN) in Northampton, she is one course away from completing her Bachelor’s Degree at UMass, and thinking about graduate studies. Mercado has come a long way from the day when she first walked into the Women’s Center as a single parent of two small children, frightened and reeling from the hopelessness and fear brought on by a recent divorce and serious illness.

“I felt like I had cement feet that day,” Mercado says. “But the Women’s Center was, and is a life saver. I was naïve, lost, insecure. I did not trust. But that was a place where I was accepted without judgment... as a person who had lost hope.”

Mercado became involved as a participant and volunteer, and when the MIND program was offered, she was encouraged to participate.

“In MIND, we work toward discovering, acknowledging and embracing each woman’s own strengths, wisdom and life experience,” says Christine Diani, Women’s Center Coordinator and facilitator of the MIND training. “We take the time to build confidence and self-esteem and then to identify, set, and work toward long and short-term goals. We work on communication, basic computer and leadership skills.”

MIND also helps women access local resources by inviting representatives from the community – Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Greenfield Community College, the Career Center and others – to address the participants. When possible they take field trips, going out to visit other organizations that can help women attain their goals and start to build personal and professional support networks.

Mercado eventually enrolled at GCC, where she discovered that she loved being a student. When graduation time came around, she wasn’t ready to stop learning.

“I cried,” she said. “And I went to UMass to look for other programs. I didn’t tell anyone until I

“I send people there all the time. The support there is so transforming.”

– Hilda Mercado Graduate, MIND

was accepted there.”

Later, again with Diani’s encouragement, Mercado applied for a job at the Recovery Learning Community in Holyoke. Much to her surprise, she was offered a position working with Spanish-speaking people suffering from trauma and mental illness diagnosis.

“I couldn’t believe it. I loved it,” she says. “It was a human service job, working with people with depression, anxiety. It was not clinical, but peer support. And I was working from my own experience.”

From there, Mercado grew into a position with Clinical Support Options in Greenfield, and in April of this year, moved to her current position at BHN. Throughout, she has continued her involvement with the Women’s Center, both as participant and as professional. The Center is a place where she can refer clients for the same resources and support she found there.

“Part of my work is to integrate individuals into the community.

I send people there all the time,” she says. “The support there is so transforming.”

Skills and Opportunity

SOAR, also run by Diani, is an 8-week training which leads women through the process of developing an idea into a multi-week workshop that they then run with staff support.

Each participant takes her own personal skill, passion or hobby and learns how to create a program or class to teach it. Examples of offerings that have come out of the SOAR include an eight-week genealogy group; art programs such as collage, watercolor, acrylic painting, Bits & Pieces Collage; writing workshops; various healing groups such as Vibrational Toning, Movement Group, and Walking Group.

“The SOAR program, like MIND, gives women the opportunity to discover (or remember) the skills, wisdom and experience they have within them, to build confidence and to develop leadership and other new skills,” says Diani. “It gives women an opportunity to practice these skills in a safe, supportive environment.”

One SOAR graduate and Women’s Club member, Carla Robbins, is currently finishing the run of her first program, a Writing for Healing workshop.

Janet Diani of Wendell, (Christine Diani’s sister) came to the center for a long while before she felt called to participate in SOAR. As a teacher who had been in the workforce for over twenty years, she had professional skills and experience, but had to leave her career due to illness. Suddenly she found herself isolated at home as she worked to heal.

“My sister said, ‘Come. You won’t be alone here,’” Janet Diani says. “There is so much going on there. Things get posted. Classes, workshops. People are excited about them. Eventually, I signed up for SOAR.”

It took Janet Diani two tries to complete the course. And this, too, is a truth that is recognized and honored in this work of self-development. Sometimes it takes several tries, sometimes many, before a woman is ready. Stumbling along the path

is not failure. Janet Diani eventually offered Julia Cameron’s course, *The Artist’s Way*. Her second Cameron offering, *Walking In This World*, begins this week and is full.

Open to All Women

But how does one small program garner such impressive results?

Those who come to the Women’s Center experience a nurturing and empowering environment from the moment they walk in. They may be looking for basic resources and information, such as housing or childcare, but what they find there can take them far beyond meeting these initial needs.

“We assume that anyone who comes through our doors has experienced trauma,” Christine Diani explains. “We create a safe space that is welcoming and hospitable, where confidentiality is honored. We honor the need for a ‘women only’ space.”

“My sister said, ‘Come. You won’t be alone here,’” Janet Diani says. “There is so much going on there.”

Kathryn Drake, Women’s Club founding member and SOAR and MIND graduate, learned about trauma and trust at the Center. “Even about my own,” she says. “It was spoken about and safety is built into the environment. I didn’t have to do it. It was just there.”

The center and its programs, however, are open to women in all circumstances. One does not have to have experienced any sort of trauma in order to participate.

Robin Brooks of Colrain had already published a book of poems (*The Blooming of the Lotus: a Spiritual Journey from Trauma Into Light*) and begun developing a three-part Self-Nurturance and Self-Empowerment training before going through SOAR. But she needed the skills and confidence to present in public. SOAR got her there.

“It was intense, hard, incredible,

powerful,” Brooks enthused. “The step-by-step info, the actual creating. I needed to know...and the timing was perfect! It was really cool to experience that [growth]. From walking into the first SOAR, to presenting my own workshop to the public.”

Brooks’ program will eventually expand to eight parts, at which time she will take it to other venues, such as the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York. Brooks says that she has learned so much about healing from trauma that she needs to share it widely. So she is also learning how to develop the cyber skills needed to adapt her program to an online setting.

“I really needed this! I really needed to change my life!” Brooks says.

Christine Diani estimates that well over 300 women have benefited from these programs. That includes approximately 90 MIND and SOAR graduates, as well as participants in their offerings. Participants learn how to apply for grant monies, such as Local Cultural Council grants, so that they can then offer their programs on their own.

“Those who go through both MIND and SOAR in the same 6 month period have experience huge and powerful changes in their lives,” she says.

Women come out of these programs feeling empowered to move forward in their lives and communities. Like Hilda Mercado who now thinks she might do graduate work in behavioral therapies. Or, like the women at the new Thursday morning Women’s Club. They needed a place to gather, and they went out and created it.

For more information on MIND, SOAR, or The Women’s Club, contact Christine Diani at the MCSM Women’s Center, 41 Third Street, Turners Falls, 863-4804 x 1003, or visit www.mcsmcommunity.org.

Center open hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Women of all circumstances are welcome to participate in any and all of these programs.

One does not have to have experienced any sort of trauma in order to benefit.



HILLTOWNS from page B1

share books, maps, antiques, and memorabilia for perusal and purchase.

There will be plenty of great food and drink and fabulous entertainment by local favorites: Whistle Stop from 10 a.m. to noon, and rocking sounds of Bright Lines from noon to 1 p.m.

The indoor conference begins with a keynote address by historian Dr. Barbara Mathews.

Mathews will introduce the themes of continuity and change through local agrarian and industrial histories, emphasizing the ways in which we can “read” current landscapes and built environments to interact more directly with the experiences and choices individuals and their communities have made and continue to make, while linking these local histories to broader national and international historical narratives and themes.

Presentations will take place in three breakouts during the course of the day, each with six concurrent sessions (18 unique presentations total.) The conference allows plenty of time to enjoy the fair and the variety of presentations will appeal to history enthusiast or novice alike by shedding light on today’s challenges and providing glimpses into the past.

There is a diverse group of presenters and topics range from gravestones to aqueducts, from Shakerism to spiritualism, from Arts & Crafts to industrialism and much more.

One highlight of the conference is Leo Hwang’s introduction to methods of recording individual histories, in acknowledgement that we are on the cusp of a generational shift as farmers, shop owners, civic employees and volunteers, teachers, and librarians – the very anchors of our communities’ collective knowledge – are preparing to retire or enter new phases of their lives. This is an opportunity to redefine a sense of place where individuals can have a great impact on the legacies of the past, the experience of the present, and directions for the future.

Charlemont librarians Bambi Miller and Mary Boehmer will trace the role of quilts handcrafted to generate funds for the support of the Underground Railroad Movement.

Following in the footsteps of the 19th century Ladies Abolitionists, discussion will revolve around the efforts of one hundred contemporary women and their quilting participation, bringing to light our community’s past.

Cliff McCarthy, Stone House Museum archivist will present “The Narrow Escape of Angeline Palmer.” Palmer was a 10-year-old African-American girl whose Belchertown employers in 1840 plotted to sell her into slavery.

Why would Mason Shaw, a lawyer and upstanding Belchertown citizen, turn to the girl cleaning chamberpots and washing floors in his house and suddenly scheme to make her a slave? The answer is found in long-forgotten newspaper articles, court documents and

the census.

Facing the same future that Solomon Northup endured when kidnapped in 1841 (which he wrote about in *12 Years A Slave*), Angeline was rescued by the bold and coura-



Henry Jackson, one of the rescuers of Angeline Palmer. Courtesy of the Wood Museum of Springfield History.

geous actions of some members of Amherst’s African-American community.

Elizabeth Antaya and Linda Callahan will introduce attendees to the life of Fidelity Fiske (1816-1864), the first single female missionary to go to Persia (present day Iran) where she founded the Nestorian Female Seminary.

After mastering the Syriac language, she worked for 15 years to improve the educational opportunities for the women and children of Urmia, returning to Massachusetts in order to regain her health. She led by example and paved the way for many Mount Holyoke graduates to serve as missionaries.

The 2015 Hilltowns History Fair and Conference is sponsored by the Mary Lyon Foundation, Pioneer Valley History Network and Catamount Hill Association.

It is funded in part by MassHumanities and the Buckland, Colrain, Heath and Shelburne Cultural Councils of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; and through the additional generosity of local individuals and businesses. The first Hilltowns History Fair and Conference was held in Colrain in 2012.

A full list of presenters and session descriptions, along with registration information can be found at www.marylyonfoundation.org.



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was September 8 and 15, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bike Path Clears Another Hurdle

John Carlisle, the Boston spokesperson for Mass Highway, had good news this week on progress for the canalside bike path: "We heard from the Franklin County Council of Governments they have approved a plan to remove coal ash and dispose of it in the proper environmental manner. They will replace it with gravel fill. We anticipate the contractor will be back out there on the unfinished portion of the bike path sometime next week."

Last week, project manger Paul Gibavic, speaking for Warner Brothers, the contractor handling bike path construction, said construction had halted on a section of the path from the Eleventh Street Bridge up to the Gill-Montague Bridge abutments, due to the presence of coal and coal ash, used as fill a century ago in the bed of the old railway that ran along the canal to the mills.

Once removed, the coal residue and ash are considered "contaminated soil" and must be disposed of in a landfill, under DEP regulations.

Bank Presents Funds to GMRSD

Linda Ackerman wanted to bring an oversized check to present to the Gill-Montague school committee Tuesday night, September 13, but she settled for a regular sized check in the large amount of \$772.06. This represented the first quarterly proceeds from the Civic Action Account, a Greenfield Savings Bank initiative that benefits the

Gill-Montague Education Fund.

"You set the limit. This amount could double or triple." Ackerman reminded folks. She encouraged people to get their friends to sign up, explaining the process is free and simply requires a quick stop to see her at the Turners Falls branch of the bank.

Ackerman asked for a show of hands of those who had joined the debit card program. Four raised their hands, including Ackerman and Joseph Poirier, president of the bank.

Ristorante DiPaolo Coming to Town

Ristorante DiPaolo is coming to town. Hopeful proprietor Denise DiPaolo, of Turners Falls, signed her loan papers on Wednesday to realize a long-held dream. After completing the liquor license application process, DiPaolo's last step is to buy the Powertown Creme property on Avenue A from the town for \$1, under terms of the town's urban homestead program to reuse abandoned tax title properties.

DiPaolo is planning for a "nice little restaurant which will be fun for the community." She is looking to have an "elegant but not pretentious setting" where everyone will feel comfortable. The menu will be Italian-based with a Mediterranean influence and prices running a range from modest and up. "I want it to definitely be family friendly," said DiPaolo, who comes from an Italian-Irish background.

"Personally I am all about the food, but also all about people and community and having a gathering place." She sees lots of potential for working with the arts community and mused about offering catering to businesses.

We can hardly wait.

WEST ALONG from page B1

plants to grow on the edge of the yard: wild blackberries, aster, poison ivy, pokeberries. Each one appreciated by the catbird, in her heaven as she plucks and gobbles the deadly droplets that don't bother her at all. The catbird seems to wink at me, sly and sassy with a deliberately superior look, as she swallows another.

Suddenly, an inopportune visit from a young Cooper's hawk, clearly hungry and not very adept at catching breakfast. With wide-eyed yellow orbs blazing, he puzzled and questioned his surroundings, not quite sure what to do next. No one: not the jays, catbirds, chickadees, titmice, not even the hummingbirds were offering themselves up as a meal for this youngster. And he was HUNGRY!

The hawk flew from cherry tree to birdfeeder where he sat on the platform in the middle of the sunflower seeds and looked around, waiting, but no one would come near.

He then moved over to the top of the tomato stakes trying to teeter on the tip for a moment, but that didn't work either, way too uncomfortable.

Landing on a branch in the gooseberry bush, he tried walking into the tangle to flush out the sparrows, but they were too canny to panic, and hunkered down without moving. The bush was too tangled in with the rosa rugosa to be penetrable. Annoyed and frustrated, the young hawk finally circled the yard as I watched, and moved off into the woods.

Ten minutes later, the chickadees sounded the all clear, and activity resumed. The catbird returned to the chair back high above the lawn, mewed a few times in that catbird way, and pounced on a slow-moving insect making its way through the grass. Just beyond, a younger catbird of this summer's generation actually bathed in the heavy dew of the longish grass that grows at the foot of the pokeberry patch.

But that was last week, in the heavy sensual heat that has blanketed New England for so long. This week, summer has suddenly announced that it is drawing to a close.

The rains came for days, just a mist at first, then drenching and quenching the thirst of the parched vegetation and filling the frog pond once again. Nature finally took a drink, and the showers spattered harder and harder against the cedar

shingles of the house, sending the soaking rain down the throats of the gutters.

After the rains came and went, the air was suddenly cooler, and for some of us, now it's easier to think! That old New England character kicks in with cool autumn looking over our shoulder. Thoughts soon turn to firewood gathering, early autumn paint projects, and all the things we did, or didn't do, this summer.

As for our catbird, she'll linger here another few weeks. Then something will tell her it's time to go, and with nary a goodbye glance over her shoulder, she'll be gone to where the summer spends the winter.

That high catbird seat on the Adirondack chair will wear a forlorn look for a while at least, until the summer comes back again.

MD



Dumetella carolinensis — gray catbird.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Lots To Look Forward To

By PAM KINSMITH

The MCTV team was hard at work this past Saturday the 12th at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls, filming an event presenting the history of the Spiritualist Community of Lake Pleasant.

Memories and images were shared from the book *Spirit and Spa: A Portrait of the Body, Mind and Soul of a 133-Year-Old Spiritualist Community*, written by Louise Shattuck and David James, as well as discussion surrounding one of the oldest continually-existing spiritual centers in the United States. Stay tuned for this program to join our online streaming and schedule line ups.

This Saturday, September 19, MCTV will be documenting a plethora of events happening in our area:

- Montague Soapbox Derby and

Mutton and Mead founder Mik Muller is championing the **Traveling Rhubarb Circus** this Saturday as their documentary videographer.

Started in 2012, the TRC is comprised of area youth from ages 6 to 17 with an enthusiasm for performance, storytelling and magic.

This year's performance, *Timeless* (September 18, 19 & 20) is a tale about the secret lives of dolls who come to life at night. They grow tired of having to go to sleep when the clock chimes six, and decide to take matters into their own hands... by stopping time.

For more information about tickets go to www.travelingrhubarb.com.

• MCTV will be shooting **"What Really Happened at the Falls"** at Turners Falls High School between 1 and 4 p.m., a discussion of the project to map the 1676 Battle of

Great Falls/Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut. This event is sponsored by the Town of Montague and the National Park Service.

• MCTV videographer Bret Leighton will be capturing a live and silent **auction of artwork** featuring all kinds of creatures on over 70 discarded paintings at LOOT Found and Made between 4 and 7 p.m., with a preview of the work starting at 11 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

So much to see and do – we live in a great place, don't we? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguestv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Low-Cost Compost Pails and Bins Available

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Composting is easy, and it can be even easier with effective composting equipment. Attractive, durable "Earth Machine" compost bins are available for purchase at several locations within the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and "Sure-Close" kitchen compost collection pails are available at the District Office at 50 Miles Street, Greenfield.

As much as 25% of Massachusetts' waste stream consists of compostable waste, according to MassDEP. Residents of towns that require "Pay As You Throw" trash bags or stickers can save money by composting food and paper waste, rather than filling up their town bags with compostable waste.

Composting saves money, slows climate change, reduces waste, and greatly improves soil structure and water retention. Residents can save money by using homemade compost on their gardens and lawns instead of purchasing bagged fertilizers and topsoil.

To make composting as easy as possible, the Solid Waste District Office sells green "Sure-Close" kitchen compost pails for \$5. This

1.9-gallon pail is meant to sit on the countertop or under the sink to collect compostables before taking them out to the backyard compost bin or municipal compost collection. The Sure-Close lid can be made to stay open for hands-free use when cooking or cleaning up. The pinholes in the tightly locking lid allow moisture to evaporate, which reduces odor.

In addition to the pails available at the District office, 16 district towns recently received varying amounts of kitchen compost pails free as part of MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) small-scale initiatives grant: Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, and Whately.

The Earth Machine home compost bin, which the Solid Waste District sells "at cost" for \$45, is made of strong recycled polyethylene plastic and has a twist-on locking lid. The bin stakes to the ground and is easy to assemble, rodent resistant, and designed for good aeration. The Earth Machine features a

door in the bottom that can be lifted up to shovel out finished compost.

District residents may purchase the Earth Machine compost bin at these four locations (cash and checks only): Colrain Transfer Station, open Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wendell Transfer Station, Tuesdays noon to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Orange Transfer Station, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.; and the District office in Greenfield.

District residents may purchase Sure-Close kitchen pails at the District office only, 50 Miles Street,

Greenfield; call (413) 772-2438 for hours. Cash and checks accepted.

Greenfield residents can also purchase Earth Machines and Sure-Close compost pails from the Greenfield DPW; call (413) 772-1528, x 6106.

Municipal compost programs are available free to permit holders at the transfer stations in Leverett, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, and Whately, and free for anyone to use at the Greenfield Transfer Station. These food and paper waste collections are different than backyard composting in that a wider range of materials is acceptable, including

meat, bones, cheese, peanut butter, oily foods, and paper such as paper towels, napkins, paper plates and compostable cups. Animal products and oily foods should never be put in home compost systems.

For more information on composting or waste management programs, call the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit the District website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*, musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m. Through October 30.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Ruth, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

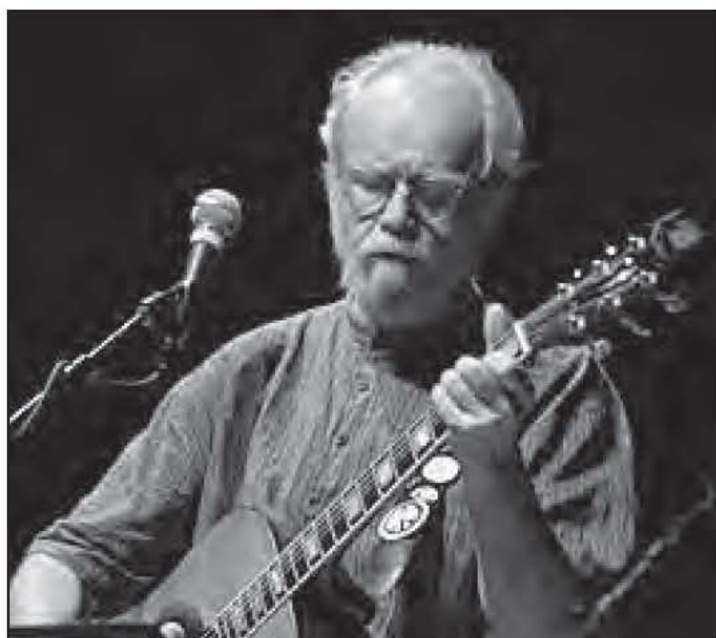
The People's Pint, Greenfield:

Derek Bridges, live acoustic guitar, 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story*



Charlie King will be performing at the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse in Leverett on Saturday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. His concert is sponsored by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee of the Meetinghouse. He is a musical storyteller and political satirist who Pete Seeger called "One of the finest singers and songwriters of our time."

Hour. Stories and arts and crafts 10 a.m. - noon.

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: September is Turners Falls History Month. Collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Turners Falls RiverCulture. Great Hall Art Display: *Great Gods and Little Fishes*, new paintings by Charles Shaw. September 1 - 26. Open 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Painting Buddies*. LCA resident Susan Valentine and core group of painters from Greenfield Community College: Mari Rovang, Frankie Dack, Penne Krol, Sandy Walsh and Karen Chapman exhibit September 2-27.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines*. New pencil and ink drawings as well as Da'Muse wire figures and layered sculptures of Glenn Ridler. Through 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Elizabeth Denny*. Found objects transformed with humor and an acetylene torch. Through 9/21.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists Group Exhibit*. September 4-November 1.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Pottery, fiber art and clothing, jewelry, ceramic tiles, paper art constructions. Oil, acrylic and water color paintings. Photography. Original arts for children. Check website for seasonal hours: www.sawmillriverarts.com Show through October.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: "Crisp!", A group show by artists at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative; August 26 through September 28

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Out-law country. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Making Eyes, Community Smokes*. Electropop/reggae/funk. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Old Deerfield, Deerfield: *40th Fall Old Deerfield Arts & Crafts Fair*. The crafts fair is back. Juried artists and unique museum exhibits. 10-5 p.m. \$

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *Battlefield Grant Update. What Really Happened at the Falls?* Mapping the 1676 Battle of Great Falls/Wissatin-newag-Peskeompskut. 1-4 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meeting House, Leverett: *Charlie King*. Musical storyteller and political satirist. Sponsored by the Meetinghouse Peace & Social Concerns Committee. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Pat & Tom LaMountain*. Singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown Blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Beekeepers*. Progressive indie from Detroit. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Old Deerfield, Deerfield: *40th Fall Old Deerfield Arts & Crafts Fair*. The crafts fair is back. Juried artists and unique museum exhibits. 10-4 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Hartley C. White; CE Schneider Topical; Death Savings Flag; Curse Purse*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*. '60s & '70's Classic Rock. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week, it's Moose! See *Every Tuesday* for details. 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

Wagon Wheel Restaurant, Gill: *Open Mic Poetry Reading*. Featuring Karen Skolfield, followed by 5-minute open mic slots. This event is designed to gauge interest in a regular monthly series. 6 p.m.

West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Watermelon Wednesdays*. Mike Barnett and Jake Jolliff. Bluegrass. 7:30 p.m. \$

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Great Hall, Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Latino Migrants and Agriculture in Franklin County*. Presented by Manuel Matos. 7p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*. Country & City blues w/Shubala. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Talbot Andross*. CD Release Party. Alt rock country. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ali Sperry*. Indie folk/rock/pop. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Eric & Erica, Golden Messenger Service; Wanda & Wonder; New Parents; Gregory McKillop*. All ages / substance free; 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*. 9 p.m.



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SAT 9/19 9:30 FREE
no show - tour cancelled

SUN 9/20 9pm FREE
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POWERTOWN DROPS OPENER



By MATTHEW ROBINSON

NORTHAMPTON – After a solid first half and some squandered opportunities, the Turners Falls Football Indians lost against the Easthampton Eagles, 20-2. The game was played on Saturday, September 12 at Smith Vocational High School.

The Blue D came out cracking and held Easthampton to negative yardage until late in the first half, when a long run finally put the Eagles into the black. The Tribe kept up the hard hitting in the second half, but a missed assignment on a QB option changed the momentum of the entire game.

With the game scoreless, Turners forced a third down on the Eagles’ 47. If they stopped the Eagles, the Tribe would get the ball back, but the Eagles’ quarterback faked the pitch, running the ball inside and past all the Indian defenders.

Just like that, the Tribe was behind 6-0. The D stopped the 2-point attempt, and took over with 8 minutes and 25 seconds

left in the third quarter.

Less than two minutes later, on their first play from scrimmage, Easthampton ran another long play for another score. Two runs, 100+ yards, 14 points. The defense still didn’t give up and kept Easthampton off the scoreboard for the rest of the quarter. But with 3:39 left in the game, Blue was forced to institute their red-zone D.

After an interception, Easthampton got the ball on the Blue 14. Turners stopped them three times and forced a fourth and 7. On the next play, Easthampton got to the 1-yard line and earned a fresh set of downs. Two plays later, they scored their third touchdown of the afternoon and took a 20-to-0 lead with 1:56 left.

Turners’ only score of the game came on the attempted PAT, when Tionne Brown alertly stole the ball and sprinted over 90 yards for a two-pointer.

On the offensive side of the ball, Turners had opportunities to take the lead but dropped passes, penalties and intercep-

tions kept them off the scoreboard. Early in the second quarter, the Offensive Eleven banged the ball to the 12, but a 15-yard penalty and two incomplete passes ended the threat.

Later in the quarter, Tionne hit Owen Ortiz for a 47-yard completion, and Turners had first and 10 from the 13. But again they were unable to take the lead when Easthampton intercepted a pass in the endzone.

Coach Chris Lapointe was pensive after the game. “We made some good plays but we made too many bad plays,” he said after the game. And to his players he said, “You can lie down and give up or you can pick yourselves up and play the best you can.”

Judging from the reaction of the boys, it seems Turners plans to pick themselves up and play the best they can. They play Mahar next, at home on Friday, September 18.

New Infant / Toddler Programs

The Parent-Child Development Center is proud to now offer additional programs for Infants and Toddlers and pregnant women.

New Early Head Start Infant/Toddler Full-Day Full-Year classrooms in Turners Falls.

We continue to offer FREE Head Start half-daypreschool programs and FREE Early Head Start and Head Start home-visiting programs, as well as state-subsidized, sliding scale options for your full-day childcare needs. *Limited transportation available.*

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Timothy Niejadlik, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District

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