



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 1

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

NEWS ANALYSIS

Towns Face Spring Votes on School Regionalization

By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT – How can a rural community cope with providing a sound education for its children while ensuring that all residents have an affordable quality of life, in the face of diminishing state investment money – and, in Leverett's case, a large tax abatement, and very few taxable businesses to share the burden?

It is a difficult balancing act. The majority of revenue from real estate taxes goes to the school. The state offers a solution – regionalize school districts – and it has trumpeted this solution for decades.

For the state, fewer districts means less paperwork and less burden of oversight. School districts saddled with unfunded mandates, declining school enrollment, and numerous other costs like transportation and special education needs see this as a viable option.

For five years, the towns that already send children from grades 7 to 12 to Amherst High School have sent representatives from their school committees, finance committees, and selectboards to hammer out a regional school agreement. This group, known as the Regional Agreement Working Group (RAWG), amended an existing agreement, still undergoing revisions before it gets sent to town meeting votes of each of its member towns (Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury, and Leverett) next spring. The school committees of these towns would also have to approve it.

As of September 22, a draft is available for review at the Amherst Regional Public School district website: www.arps.org.

Julie Shively, the Leverett selectboard's representative on the RAWG, said Leverett Elementary's website should also have a copy up soon.

Two Votes Necessary

Under the proposed agreement, town meeting and school

see **SCHOOLS** page A6

Empty Canal Is Full Of Questions



Once a year, the canal is drained of its power and laid bare before our eyes.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – This was the week of the annual power canal "draw-down," when water is released from the canal so that walls and gates may be inspected and possibly repaired. During this time, the curious are treated to fascinating views of this engineered waterway as they cross over bridges or walk along paths and roads running nearby.

Some may find this of no interest and complain about the smell of the bottom waters which stagnate for a week, generating a sort of fishy, low tide stink. Others may find themselves drawn to the unusual view.

It may all be filled again by the time you read this; there is no set time for when the draw-down ends, since it depends on how long any repairs might take. But the water came down Monday morning, and most likely will come up again on Friday, according to Janel Nockleby, a DCR Park interpreter who led a trailside canal walk Tuesday afternoon.

The interpretive walk was attended by 5 to 9 people, including some who dropped off along the trail and others who joined the walk in progress. Nockleby started the group off with a bit of canal history before leaving the grounds of the Discovery Center to hit the bike path right behind it.

In brief: there was a rich fishing

grounds by the waterfall for millennia that native peoples widely enjoyed. Then, a relatively abrupt displacement of natives and an invasion of new settlements, bringing with them an economy of goods.

By 1800, barges wanted to deliver goods up and around the Great Falls. That meant traveling through a series of locks that were built to raise the water level. Nockleby believes there were ten of these locks to navigate around the immediate area, including one at Millers Falls. (The original transportation canal started near the wastewater plant.)

Ultimately, moving freight and people by railroad proved easier and cheaper, putting the barges and their locks out of business around the middle of the century.

The canal and dam were redone after the Civil War to benefit the many industries that sprang up along the canal and harnessed water power to mechanically turn their works, including several paper makers and the J. Russell Cutlery Co. The industrial revolution was in full swing, and Turners Falls was a model of its development.

In the early 1900s, the canal was lengthened and widened and the dam rebuilt. This time, water power was harnessed to generate electricity. The first power station, today called "Station No. 1," went online in 1906. This is the little generating facility seen slightly south of the

see **CANAL** page A3

GILL SELECTBOARD

Board Hears Plans for 2.8-MW Solar Array on NMH Land; Worries Over Gill Elementary

By MIKE JACKSON

At its meeting Monday evening, Gill's selectboard met with Zak Farkes, a developer with Borrego Solar of Lowell, about his company's proposal to build a 2.8-megawatt community solar array on a parcel of land owned by the Northfield Mount Hermon school in the northern part of town.

During its lease negotiations with the school, which it hopes to complete in November, Borrego would like to hash out a twenty-year payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agree-

ment with Gill. The company plans to start construction in July 2016 on about 14 acres of the 110-acre Main Road lot.

"We'll get way into the weeds with the zoning board of appeals and the conservation commission," Farkes said, on a site plan review and permitting.

Farkes provided the town with a list of towns that have worked out PILOT agreements over community solar projects of a similar scale, and discussed with the selectboard and administrative assistant Ray

see **GILL** page A4



Zak Farkes (right) of Borrego Solar introduced himself to Gill's selectboard.

MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING

Long STM Debates Retiree Healthcare; Gas Pipeline Fight; Size of FinCom

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Town meeting of October 1, attended by sixteen new members elected the previous spring, had little difficulty achieving a quorum. By the time of the first vote, a paper ballot required under state law to establish a "municipal light plant," a total of 76 members were in attendance. A quorum of the 126-member body is 64.

The meeting was long, lasting over three hours, and covered a total of 21 articles. Yet every proposal but one passed, most unanimously.

The exception was an article which sought to lower the minimum number of members on the town's finance committee from five to three. Comments from the floor indicated that meeting members were not comfortable with a Fin Com of three, which could make recommendations with only two members present.

This opinion prevailed despite the fact that Fin Com chair John Hanold, who proposed the article, noted that a number of other crucial boards including the town selectboard, board of health, and board of assessors, have three members.

The largest appropriation, or "money item," passed by the meeting was \$250,000 from free cash to start a retiree healthcare trust fund.

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Northfield-Based Manufacturer Eyes International Paper Mill Property

By KATIE NOLAN

Cody Sisson, president and chief executive officer of Sisson Engineering of Northfield, met with selectboard chair William Bembury, selectboard member Arthur Johnson, and county and regional economic development officials on October 6 to discuss expansion at the former International Paper property on Papermill Road. Sisson Engineering, which employs approximately 25 people, describes itself on its website as a "leading global supplier of complex machined parts."

Bembury said that Sisson would prefer to expand in Franklin County, and the company is considering other sites as well as the former IP mill. He said that, although Sisson would be interested in only a portion of the property, it would help the town in marketing the rest of the site to have Sisson operating there.

Peggy Sloan, Franklin Regional Council of Governments director of planning and development, Ann Burke, vice president of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council, and Jessica Atwood, FRCOG economic development and program manager also attended the October 6 meeting.

At the selectboard meeting Monday night, selectboard member Jacob Smith called Sisson's interest in the former IP mill "a very exciting

see **ERVING** page A3

THEY SAID IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN . . .



Having installed a drainage system, workers from Seattle-based Grindline Skateparks grade the site of Turners Falls' Unity Skate Park, the culmination of 18 years of tireless advocacy by area youth and adults, on Tuesday morning. The park's construction is backed by a combination of state, town and privately raised funds, and it should be ready to ride later this fall.

The Montague Reporter

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is offering a four-part series on “Family Matters” starting this Saturday, October 10, and continuing on October 17, 24 and 31. The sessions will be open discussions with Dr. Larry Fader, a semi-retired therapist. For a listing of topics, please call Jessica Howard at (413) 775-8267.

Columbus Day, Monday October 12, is the final day of the **Great Falls Discovery Center seasonal hours** (open 7 days per week). Effective Friday, October 16, the GFDC will begin its off-season hours (open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

This schedule is a yearly change, and has nothing to do with the recent downsizing of U.S. Fish & Wildlife and National Refuge System support for visitor’s center operations.

The GFDC will still be available during this off-season for field trips and use of the Great Hall to support schools, local organizations and civic groups. Please call (413) 863-3221 for questions and reservations.

Rambling no more: The last “River Ramble” canal-side walk is Sunday, October 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. Meet outside the main entrance of the GFDC at 10 a.m. and

join a DCR Park Interpreter as you leisurely explore level, paved bike trails, and village sidewalks, hearing stories of industrialization, cultural and natural history, and resilience.

The Baystate Health Blood Donor Mobile will host a **blood drive** on Tuesday, October 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Baystate Franklin Medical Center’s Emergency Department parking lot, off Sanderson Street in Greenfield.

All blood types are needed. Eligible blood donors will receive a “Pick your Plastic” gift card. Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, have a photo ID, be in good health (with no colds, sore throats or antibiotics within 48 hours), and not have donated blood within the past eight weeks.

Appointments and pre-registration are recommended; however, walk-ins are also welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Baystate Blood Donor Center at (413) 794-4600.

Representatives of Baystate Franklin Medical Center will also be presenting their **“Blood and Guts” program** on Friday, October 16, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Erving

Elementary School, 28 Northfield Road, as part of the hospital’s continuing educational outreach to children and families through Franklin County schools and libraries.

Erving Elementary School’s 6th grade class will sponsor the event. All students, their families and friends are invited to attend this free program.

Just in case no one has noticed, the **Franklin County Tech School football team** has won 3 games so far this season, with just 1 loss. Go Eagles!

Maybe in the near future we can look forward to attending another battle for the Powertown football title, with FCTS up against Turners Falls High School.

Sometimes Christmas news comes early for a good reason. The seniors at the Friends of the Gill/Montague Senior Center are asking for your support of their annual Christmas Bazaar. Donations of gifts, money or certificates are needed, appreciated, and will be noted publicly!

Proceeds from the event will provide funding for kitchen supplies, social events, repairs, maintenance of equipment and other senior center expenses.

Donations can be dropped off at the Gill/Montague Senior Center Monday thru Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. In the case of monetary gifts or business gift certificates, please send to the Montague Senior Center, P.O. Box 166, Turners Falls, MA 01376. You can also arrange pickup at your home or place of business by calling 863-9357.

*Send your local briefs to
editor@montaguereporter.org.*

CORRECTION

Our reporting on the September 29 Gill-Montague School Committee (“Dispute Over Collective Bargaining Reps Deepens,” October 1) contained errors.

Though we reported, as background, that chair Sandy Brown had “pressed” Montague selectboard member Mike Nelson on September 15 to serve as the towns’ municipal representative in the collective bargaining process, Brown and other sources present at that night’s meeting hold that it was members Joyce Phillips and Jane Oakes who asked Nelson and Gill selectboard member Greg Snedeker to serve in that role.

Also, on September 29, it was Phillips, rather than Oakes, who attempted a motion to consider other members for the Unit A subcommittee. (According to Section BDE 2 of the school committee’s governing policy, “the subcommittee chairperson and its members will be appointed by the Committee chairperson subject to the approval of the Committee,” but according to our reporter, this was not cited by the chair at the time.)

We sorely regret the errors, and thank the parties who have helped correct us. We will always try to set the record straight where we err.

Note: Neither the *Reporter* nor an MCTV camera crew was present at the September 15 meeting, but the district has released an audio file of that session, and if anyone is very interested in reviewing it they should get in touch with our editors.

Letter to the Editors

Put-In Point Too Steep

A recent article in the MR (“A Portage At the Falls,” October 1) prompts further comment.

What the Vermont canoeist said about entering the lower part of the Connecticut River at the Poplar Street site in Montague City is true: it is “not as bad as it looks” to enter the river here, because gravity can assist.

The problem is trying to leave the river here, and go UP that steep, root-ridden bank, particularly for many older kayakers and canoeists who find dragging or carrying a 40- to 60-pound watercraft up that slope so daunting that they no longer go for a paddle in the river.

The closest place to exit without trying that hill is the Sunderland put-in, which is often farther than one might want to go on a paddle, and requires organizing going with someone else and putting a car at both places in order to portage the kayak/canoe back up to Montague.

There is also an unofficial put-in on Falls Road just over the Montague line into Sunderland, but erosion has left that shorter but steeper climb out of the river pretty daunting as well, and dangerously slippery when the river height has recently been higher because of water releases upstream.

I have often fantasized some kind

of “assist” at the put-in, something along the line of a Rube Goldberg mechanized pulley system, or better, a relocation of the put-in to a place with a more gentle slope, where one might even be able to drive a car down closer to the water.

This stretch of water is perfect for paddlers as it is designated by state law, 323 CMR 2.12 (4), that motorized boats are restricted to 15 miles per hour – although there is poor signage to indicate this, and there have been a few more boats speeding through this area this summer.

Fortunately for paddlers, the shallowness of this piece of the river discourages powerboats in general. Is this something we could ask for the power company to supply as part of the re-licensing process?

We have this incredible resource, the river, and a growing population that can’t use it easily. Something could be done. The upper river above the dam has a great place to enter at Barton’s Cove, but the powerboat traffic there can be pretty intense and discouraging for paddlers to try and compete with.

The lower river is the answer for great exercise and recreation, but needs to be made more accessible.

**Jeri Moran
Montague**

Trans-Pacific Partnership Goes Before Congress

The United States Congress has three months to decide whether to sign onto a treaty with 11 other nation-states, vowing to synchronize our laws on a range of issues that affect corporations.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is often incorrectly called a “trade deal”. International trade deals were something like 1965’s Auto Pact, an agreement between the United States and Canada to remove tariffs on cars and auto parts. That resulted in growth on both sides of the border, with Canada shifting to parts production and assembly consolidating in the US.

These days, much more money than goods and services flows across borders, and accordingly, economic alliances between nations are primarily focused on guaranteeing the rights of investors regardless of venue.

We can’t debate the TPP’s specifics here, because the treaty we would enter – which we are told will change the world – is still, bizarrely, classified. But it is said to establish an “investor-state dispute settlement” mechanism: a tribunal where corporations may bring lawsuits against member states that pass laws cutting into their profits.

We are also told that some environmental, labor and public health protections are written in. But the problem is a conceptual one: how can the Pacific Rim nations be expected to maintain a level playing field for investors, when we have no way after this to raise standards or rights across the board?

Doctors Without Borders and the *New England Journal of Medicine* predict the TPP will reduce poor people’s access to medicine by delaying the release of generic drugs in favor of standardizing prolonged pharmaceutical monopolies.

The Sierra Club complains it will increase fracking by knocking down the Department of Energy’s authority to regulate the export of natural gas to member nations.

And the Electronic Frontier Foundation points out that it would criminalize the sharing of any information an investor might declare a “trade secret,” including everything “from the composition of hydraulic fracturing fluids” – that again! – “to the code inside of voting machines,” adding that “[t]here are no safeguards to protect investigative journalists, security researchers or whistleblowers.”

Or maybe those safeguards are

actually provided. The EFF, after all, is just going by an earlier draft of the agreement, leaked last year by a whistleblower.

All this is special-interest sour grapes, though, to the Obama administration, which insists that its negotiating team, under the leadership of trade representative Michael Froman, brought home a safe deal.

Froman, a classmate of Obama’s at Harvard Law, served in the Clinton administration, then went to work at Citigroup, where he was the head of emerging markets strategy before being called back to the public sector. In 2013 it came out that he had parked \$490,000 of his own wealth in a Cayman Islands-based fund. (Maybe he was just trying to support an emerging market, and it only *looked* like he was trying to keep it out of the IRS’ reach.)

Obama has insisted the treaty won’t undermine the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, and rebuked Elizabeth Warren for suggesting it would. The national political scene is increasingly bizarre, as the blades of the election-year thresher draw nearer to the field of political meaning.

The administration, seeking to rack up late-term wins on the global stage given the opposition party’s control of both houses of Congress, is betting a lot of chips on the TPP. The battle may have been won in May when it was granted trade-promotion authority by the legislature, which now can only vote “yea” or “nay” on the package.

Most GOP presidential candidates are in favor of the TPP, and many Democrats are expected to fall in line. But it is opposed by Sanders and O’Malley, mostly for reasons we agree with, and by Donald Trump, for reasons we do not.

Clinton is waffling, unwilling so far to commit to support or opposition – though to be fair, she and her staff may simply still be reading the document.

Trump, who obviously decided to oppose it in order to bolster his populist brand, fills in the blanks with xenophobia instead, saying that partner countries are using the TPP to “dupe” us and adding that White House officials are “babies.”

That this kind of muttering demagoguery touches a nerve in the electorate is terrifying. Deals like these stand to hurt working people, and entrench corporate interests, across borders.

And the answer to them is more international cooperation, not less.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.
No paper last week of December.
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CANAL from page A1

Railroad Salvage ruin. As we passed the area on our walk, it looked like machines were busy dredging this side waterway leading in to No. 1. Cabot Station, at the end of the two and a half mile long canal, was finished in 1916. Next year, this bigger hydroelectric facility will be turning 100 years old, with local fanfare and exhibits. Hopefully, someone may bring a balloon or two over to little No. 1, whose 100th birthday went by already without regards in 2006.

During the late 1960s and early 70s, the canal and dam were rebuilt, followed sometime in the 1980s by a fish ladder to help migratory fish species return upstream over the Falls.

The walking group on Tuesday also discussed all the bridges that cross the canal and the river, both past and present, and the nicknames that they go by: Red Bridge, Black Bridge, Wagon Bridge, White Bridge, etc. Colors were popular identifiers.

Everyone was surprised at the relative cleanliness of the bottom. No iridescent ooze or orange bubbles, like the waterways of yore. At one spot, a dozen or so tires were dumped, and around that area the bones of five or six shop-



The intake below the Stratmore complex was visible.

ping carts were visible under the silt and mud. It must have taken some determination to accomplish this dumping task.

There is an arrangement for students from Franklin County Technical School to pull this trash out: we wondered how. Tossing grappling hooks and winching items out of the bottom mud, perhaps? In some spots, the water remained sev-

eral feet deep. Would they wade in?

Several birds sighted a mile or so down were identified as Common Mergansers. A resident flock of Canada geese were rumored to be enjoying the still pools in the canal further down, nearer to Cabot Station.

Someone else reported enormous machines working at the end of the canal, ones with “tires higher than your head.” Were they replacing the gates at Cabot Station, we wondered?

There was much speculation about why there were no fish trapped in little pools of water, slowly drying and dying, a dreaded scenario we half expected to see. Did they swim out of the canal with the release of water? Did they bury themselves in the mud or hide in the recesses underneath the factories? Perhaps someone harvested them from the shallow pools or rescued them already.

Also discussed was the idea that the power canal would be an ideal place to dispose of evidence such as a murder weapon, stolen bicycle, etc. A dramatic combination of wedding rings and syringes may lie beneath the silt as well...

Clearly, if you enjoy mystery and are the curious type, there is no better entertainment than an empty canal.

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MONTAGUE?

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ERVING from page A1

development.” The town acquired the property in June 2014 for back taxes and has incurred costs for securing the vacant property.

Sisson and town officials will conduct a walk-through inspection of the property on Friday.

Tennessee Gas Pipeline

The board decided to take no action on a letter from Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) company requesting permission to conduct surveys at the former IP property, along the proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline route.

TGP, a Kinder Morgan subsid-

iary, said it wanted to conduct a civil survey and surveys of archaeological and cultural resources, wetlands and water bodies and endangered and/or rare species on the town-owned property.

Smith observed, “Unless we ask the town, we can’t do anything.”

The June 29 special town meeting instructed the selectboard to obtain voter approval before making any decisions concerning the proposed gas pipeline or compressor station.

Bembury noted that the TGP letter included a space for signatures approving the survey, but no option for declining. He said he had previously informed TGP about the

town meeting resolution.

Other Business

The selectboard decided to ask town accountant Deb Mero to attend the October 19 selectboard meeting to discuss accounting reports. Board members were dissatisfied that they did not yet have final numbers for fiscal year 2015 accounts, when FY’15 ended June 30.

Karen Axtell of Massachusetts Department of Transportation informed Bembury that the design phase of the \$400,000 project to “streetscape” the sidewalk between the senior/community center and Erving Elementary School will be

starting soon.

Axtell will provide draft articles concerning the project for consideration at future town meetings. The grant-funded construction is expected to start in 2017.

Fire station #2’s recently purchased emergency generator will be modified to work with the building’s non-standard 208-volt 3-phase system, at a cost to the town of \$1,500.

The board approved expenditure of \$16,500 for an updated wastewater operations software system for POTW #1 outlined in a scope of work provided by Tighe and Bond, Inc.

ERVING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Town OKs Early Retirement and Pipeline Legal Fund

By KATIE NOLAN

“Thank you, thank you, thank you,” Dana Moore, Jr. told his fellow citizens after the special town meeting voted unanimously to seek special legislation to credit the long-time highway department employee with two extra “years of age or service” with the Franklin County Retirement System and funded payment of \$35,000 to the retirement system on Moore’s behalf.

Over 100 people packed the town hall conference room on October 6 to consider Moore’s retirement package, secondary education tuition, joining the Franklin Regional Council of Government’s legal and technical advisory group on the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline, and other expenditures.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith told the meeting that Moore had served the town for almost thirty years and was “a great employee doing a great job.” Smith said the early retirement was in appreciation for Moore’s hard work over the years. He said that Moore would likely be replaced with a more junior employee at a lower pay rate, ultimately saving the town money.

Now that the town has approved the package, it must be approved by the state legislature by June 2016 in order to be effective.

The meeting approved \$107,230 for secondary education tuition at Gill-Montague Regional School district. This amount is based on the actual number of Erving students enrolled at GMRSD schools, whereas

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

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock praised the school committee for working cooperatively with the Fin Com to produce an accurate budget.

Morningstar Chenven told the meeting that paying \$13,750 for FRCOG’s pipeline technical and legal fund was not for the purpose of opposing construction of the NED pipeline. She said the FRCOG service was a municipal coalition that would protect the town in case the pipeline is approved and built.

Planning board member Jacqueline Boyden commented that Tennessee Gas Pipeline had contacted the planning board for information on locations of wells and springs and archaeological sites in town, technical information beyond the scope of a volunteer board. “We need expertise to protect the town,” she said.

Smith said that the cost could be less than \$13,750 if additional towns sign on for the service.

The meeting approved the expenditure by majority vote.

It also approved \$15,000 for the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management, Policy and Global Management at UMass-Boston to work with a town committee to recruit qualified applicants for the administrative coordinator position. The town’s administrative coordinator position has been vacant since July, when former coordinator Tom Sharp took an early retirement.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Four Named In Breaking & Entering

Monday, 9/28

10:45 a.m. Branch on power lines on Mountain Road. Electric company advised.

Tuesday, 9/29

1:10 p.m. Welfare check on Northfield Road resident. All was well.

2:50 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with locating runaway male in Millers Falls area.

Wednesday, 9/30

10 a.m. Report of gas alarm at community center on Care Drive. Found to be due to a power outage.

10:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Mountain Road.

11:15 p.m. Breaking & entering in progress on Northfield Road. Ar-

rested

, and

, for breaking and entering into a vehicle or boat in the nighttime for a felony. Issued criminal applications to

for the same charges.

Thursday, 10/1

1:15 p.m. Non-authorized solicitation on Moore Street. Same selling meat products out of truck. Same located and advised of the need for a permit to go door-to-door. Same moved along.

1:35 p.m. Officer at Mountain Road residence regarding issue between homeowner

and electrician.

2:05 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Old State Road.

Friday, 10/2

8 a.m. Parking complaint: vehicle parked on the sidewalk on Moore Street. Same advised of bylaw and moved along.

Saturday, 10/3

10:10 a.m. Report of male subject walking along Route 2 near rest stop. Unable to locate.

12 p.m. Alarm at elementary school. Found to be secure.

Sunday, 10/4

11 a.m. Officer at Weatherheads convenience store: Several bikers were parked in a no-parking area.

Selectboard chair William Bembury, who has been volunteering twenty hours a week as interim administrative coordinator, said, “We really do need an administrative coordinator.” He said that hiring Collins “will take the politics out of that position.”

Boyden said, “It’s a complex job. We need to reach out beyond Franklin County.”

The special town meeting also approved:

- \$10,000 for a lighting system update at Fire Hall #1;
- \$10,000 for a lighting system update at Fire Hall #2; and
- \$5,000 for unexpected repairs to a highway department truck.

In addition to the money articles, the meeting voted to establish a PEG Access Fund to receive revenue from a franchise agreement with a cable operator.

As described in the federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, a franchiser (such as the town of Erving) may require a cable company (such as Comcast) to designate part of the channel capacity to “public, educational and government” (PEG) use.

Bembury told the meeting that the town currently has \$57,000 in Comcast payments to the town that can be used only for cable-related expenses, and that the PEG fund is the way to use the money.

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week ending 10/2/2015:

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Grade 7
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Grade 8
Dabney Rollins

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GILL from page A1

Purington different techniques for assessing their value.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker asked if Borrego could provide names of towns that instead opted to tax projects using a standard assessment, and Farkes said they would, saying he thought Tolland, MA may have chosen that route.

Member Randy Crochier said that he did not feel his fellow member, John Ward, would have any conflict of interest in participating in discussion of the project. Ward is a co-owner of the Solar Store of Greenfield.

"I don't have any problem with Borrego," Ward said. "You guys have crossed all your T's and dotted all your I's in everything I've ever seen, and about the only thing that I could do with this is to try to get the best deal for the town possible."

He added that he felt it was more difficult to develop solar projects in Eversource territory than in towns served by National Grid.

School Anxiety

Sally Shaw of River Road came in to discuss the most recent Gill-Montague school committee meeting, saying she feared Gill Elementary was subject to "a sort of whitening-away process" at the hands of the district.

Shaw said she was particularly troubled by the district's policy, or practice, of bussing Gill fifth-graders to a presentation at Great Falls Middle School, to show them the option of spending sixth grade there, without a reciprocal bussing of Sheffield Elementary fifth-graders to Gill.

Gill Elementary is K-6, while Turners Falls' Sheffield Elementary covers grades 2-5. The towns have intra-district choice.

"If this district doesn't want us, I'm quite sure we could probably formalize with another one," said Shaw, who added that her family bought property in Gill partly on the basis of its elementary school.

Shaw, a onetime school committee member, cited the closing of the Montague Center School as a signal of "how our school district feels about the smaller schools."

She suggested that Gill should consider joining a district that views small schools as a source of students rather than a drain of resources.

"I think many people feel that way about education," she said. "Especially in the younger schools, smaller schools are just better for their kids. And I think that that choice should exist in that district, but if this district doesn't feel that way, it may be time for Gill to look into other options, and consider trying to rejoin the Northfield district, that we used to be a part of, as opposed to the Turners Falls district."

Randy Crochier described the trip to Great Falls Middle School as a "sales pitch," and said "it would be beneficial for this school to weigh in on this issue."

"I can speak as a parent," said Snedeker. "I'm of the mindset that you are - it's one of the things that keeps our community together here, and it's our only school."

"The time is right to weigh in, now," added Ward.

The board later returned to a discussion of the district, and all said they agreed that the towns' municipal representative in upcoming collective-bargaining negotiations, Jeff Singleton, was a good choice, and supported chair Sandy Brown's preference to keep former teachers off the subcommittee to negotiate

teacher contracts, despite protestations from the teachers' union.

"It's not their place to decide," said Snedeker. "It's not for them to criticize our decision."

"I think some of that was posturing," said Crochier. "I fully understand why the head of the teachers' union would say that there should be a teacher on the negotiating committee.... Having a teacher on that sounds like a fox watching a henhouse, to me."

"I'm a teacher, and I can see the conflict of interest in that," added Snedeker.

"It seems to me that that is part and parcel of our current school committee... Teachers on the school committee lining up teachers to be on the bargaining committee, and not accepting people with different viewpoints," said Ward.

Finance committee chair Nancy Griswold joined the conversation. "I have never seen a school committee that has gotten along with each other in a professional, pleasant way... They just seem to all clash, all the time, and it's the same people... They're going to end up back being run by the state."

"The other issue is this pirating of the fifth-grade class," said Ward. "If that process continues, and divides the towns, Gill could refuse to go along with that, and that could drive us into the same state control."

Illuminating History

Ivan Ussach of the Gill historical commission came before the board for two reasons: first, to request more electrical outlets in the commission's office in the Riverside municipal building, and second, to announce a meeting in that room to seek landowners' permission to study their land for evidence related to a 1676 massacre of native people in that neighborhood.

Ussach said the room's office only has one electrical outlet, and the board gave Purington the go-ahead to pursue wiring more outlets into the room, perhaps a half dozen, at a total project cost of up to \$2,000. Purington indicated there was at least some money in the building maintenance account for this purpose.

At 7 p.m. October 27, the historical commission will hold a meeting about an upcoming second phase of a multi-town study on "The Great Falls Battle" ("as some call it, and others have less nice names for it"). Preliminary mapping having been accomplished, the project is looking for local permission in Riverside and near Factory Hollow to walk, use metal detectors, and perhaps dig archaeological test pits.

"Nothing would be done without anyone's permission," Ussach said. The application for the Phase II grant is due in January, but advance permissions will help that application, so the commission is mailing, flyer-ing, hosting the informational event, and hoping to gain some of those permissions by Thanksgiving.

"Some people may have had bad experiences" with similar research projects in the past, Ussach acknowledged, and they too, are invited to that meeting to air their concerns.

Fire Department

Fire chief Gene Beaubien announced that one of the department's lesser-used trucks, Engine 3, failed in a recent test of its pump's virility. "They claim the pump needs to be rebuilt," said Beaubien, at a cost of \$5,000 to \$8,000.

"My thought is to wait on this,"



Gill Town Hall

he said. "It still runs. We are very close to having a proposal for the finance committee's capital improvement committee, and we'll be meeting with somebody next week to get some firm prices."

Beaubien said the 1979 truck's pump, which has been rebuilt at least once, would not be used under the conditions of the test, even during a structure fire in town. Most of its wear has come in training operations. "We can keep using a worn pump in training," reasoned Ward, and the board agreed not to take action.

On a more serious note, the transmission on the town's emergency rescue van is failing, and the van has stopped operating in reverse. "I would recommend probably fixing it," Beaubien said.

The department has received an estimate for \$1,800 to replace the van's transmission, and the board approved this move. Beaubien conjectured it would probably make it to the shop in Northampton for the repair, as long as it doesn't travel there in reverse.

Thanks to risks at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, its owner, Entergy, currently pays for eight phone lines at Gill's public safety complex. Now that it's being decommissioned, this perk is due to end.

"And they're going to stop paying for that because they won't have fuel in the fuel pool anymore?" Ward asked, rhetorically.

Beaubien has been seeking quotes from phone companies to cover the building's communications needs, and plans to apply for an Emergency Management Performance Grant to help cover costs.

Gas Department

The board voted to join the coalition of area towns opposed to the Kinder-Morgan gas pipeline, 2-0, with Crochier abstaining.

"Our town hasn't voted that we're against it," he explained.

"It is still a coalition of selectboards," conceded Ward.

Snedeker said he was under the impression that given low energy prices, shale gas drillers are "caught in a quandary," largely financially underwater yet unable to reduce rig counts, because reducing their capital ratios would undercut their ability to finance their land covenants. "They have to continue for it to survive," he said.

Other Business

LED streetlights have all been installed. One did not work and will be replaced.

Repairs to the safety complex roof are underway.

Renovations to town hall offices are largely finished. "I have to say that the rooms downstairs are absolutely fantastic," said Griswold, from the audience, and Gill cable access volunteer Janet Masucci described it as "a whole lot more space in the same amount of square feet."

The state Department of Environmental Protection has been convinced to award participation in curbside trash and recycling, like that Gill uses, "points" in the formula it uses to award grants, since it reduces the amount of transportation used in disposal.

No editor has yet been ensnared for the town newsletter.



Turners Falls RiverCulture's Third Thursday event has been cancelled for October 15.

Reasons for the cancellation include safety concerns due to the streetlight renovation project; competition with Franklin County Pumpkinfest for visitors; and an uncharacteristically low number of available indoor venues to house activities. A February event will take place instead.

Pumpkinfest is on October 24!

The next Turners Falls RiverCulture event, *It's A Wonderful Night*, is scheduled for Friday, December 11.

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News from the Montague Common Hall

By LEE WICKS

The lovely old building once known as the Montague Grange, and now called the Montague Common Hall, needs a lot of work in order to fulfill its potential as a community center. It needs major renovation to meet ADA requirements, insulation, new windows, mold removal, and other green energy retrofits.

If you visit the website www.montaguecommonhall.org, you will find out how to become a sustaining member, volunteer, make a one-time gift, or rent the space. On the site there is also a calendar, and the month of October brings two exciting new offerings.

Disclaimer: I am a new member of the Montague Common Hall board of directors, so I have a mission to educate people throughout Montague and beyond about upcoming events there, and the critical need for community-wide support. Here are some great events the Hall has in store. If you visit the calendar on the website, you will find more.

Self Theater: On October 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., Alex DeMelo, a local Brazilian actor, begins a Spoken Word/Experimental Theatre Exploration. "This will be a participative experience," he says. "Please, come dressed comfortably and don't hesitate in contact me if you have any questions."

DeMelo envisions a local theater company, and in the future a multi-cultural exchange with Brazil. He has noticed the lively arts community in Montague and hopes that people will come out to this first meeting and talk about what they would like to do. He brings significant experience and enthusiasm to this idea.

In 1983, when he was twenty DeMelo became an avid student of CAL (House of the Arts of Laranjeiras), which is one of Brazil's most influential acting schools, located in Rio de Janeiro. DeMelo worked on stage and participated in research theater companies in Brazil until his departure from Rio to Connecticut in 1997.

In 2011, DeMelo moved to Montague, where he became a certified nursing assistant through a program at Greenfield Community College. He is currently working in a production of *Dracula* at GCC, as none other than the Count.

DeMelo says, "During all of these years living in the United States, I never stopped studying theatre. I have been learning from my experiences in construction, from training with Double Edge Theatre, and especially from elderly people in nursing homes. Theatre and the art of acting have been my top lifelong passion, and where I best find myself. I am a theatre person."

People who want to share a passion for the theater, or perhaps discover one, should come out on the 15th of October. DeMelo can be reached at usabrazilalex@gmail.com, or by calling (203) 947-0695.

Xopo: October 24 at 8 p.m. The Common Hall kicks off its benefit concert series with our local Balkan band, Xopo.

Xopo plays traditional and contemporary music from the Balkans in many styles on clarinet, accordion, trombone, acoustic string bass, various drums, as well as a large array of plucked stringed instruments. Captivating vocals round out the sound of this exhilarating dance music from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, Albania, and beyond. Learn more about the music and the members at www.xopoandfriends.net.

Each of these concerts will also benefit another worthy cause. In this case the proceeds will be shared with shelterinabox.org, a direct relief organization that sends survival materials in a box to refugees and victims of natural disasters around the world.

Make and Take Sale: December 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. An event for children of all ages. Come and make a holiday gift or decoration to bring home.

I think it's fantastic to have a place where a Brazilian actor, Balkan music and yoga classes can build upon the traditional Common Hall offerings such as contra dances, fiddle festivals, and game nights. If you haven't been to



The Montague Common Hall

the Hall in a while, come to one of these events and check it out.

The upstairs coatroom has been completely renovated, and volunteers washed the kitchen walls this summer and covered them with a fresh coat of gleaming white paint. It looked beautiful a couple of weeks ago when a family rented it for a wedding and filled the space with flowers.

A huge tag sale and cider pressing raised more than \$800 last weekend, and an upcoming Soup and Games Night at Hope and Olive on December 7 will hopefully raise more for ongoing operations.

If you've never been to Soup and Games Night, the soup and bread, donated by local chefs, is free, the bar is open, and people make baked goods to sell. All proceeds go to a selected organization, and the Montague Common Hall is fortunate to have been chosen. Not surprisingly, lots of people are needed to help.

The Board elected a slate of officers this fall: Susan Conger as president; Mary Melonis as vice president; Chris Wise as treasurer, and Nicole Nemec as clerk/secretary.

There is leadership, enthusiasm and energy – the year is off to a strong start. Come to an event and enjoy this community space!

"Tolerant Skepticism, Since At Least 1810"

By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT – Dr. Dan Bennett is asking for volunteers to accomplish three things at the Village Meeting House in North Leverett's Moore's Corner:

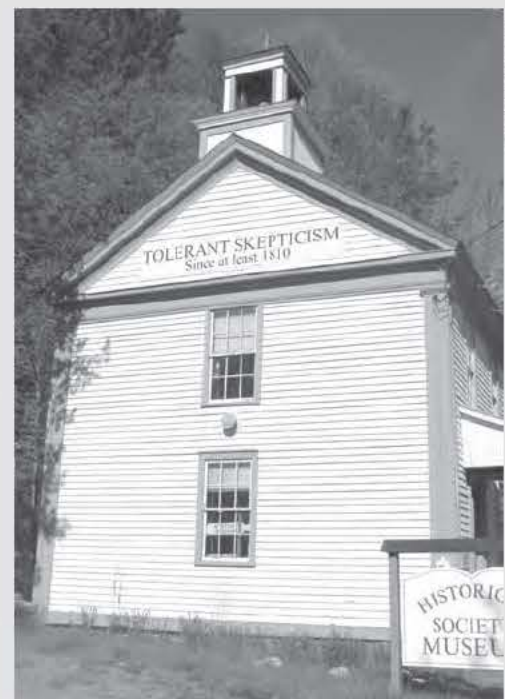
- Touch up the stain on the flaking clapboards;
- Remove the suspended ceiling to reveal the beams beneath; and
- Seek donations to the collections.

Regarding the first two requests, Dan says, "I'm about to turn 85. My capacity to clamber and labor are pretty diminished."

Dan has spent his time doing both at the building since 2000 when he joined the Historical Society. He recruited "core village notables" for supplies, labor, and advice and steered the restoration of the building with donated steel girders, lumber, and a bell tower to house the long-dormant bell.

In 2007, original members of the school that used the space gathered to hear the bell ring again. Bennett worked hard to carry on the work of Forrest Briggs and Cliff Blinn, two locals who saved the building from demolition in the 1960s. It was in bad shape, as Bennett records: "The northeast corner back wall rotted, leaks developed, warping the upstairs floor where meetings and theatricals, even Indian Medicine shows, had once taken place."

Bennett feels this building is an integral link to Leverett's history. Built in 1810 by



The Village Meeting House at Moore's Corner

Asa Moore, the yeoman miller for whom Moore's Corner is named, the building saw use as a community center and school through the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries.

According to Bennett, Moore was a Universalist and secular humanist, and this non-denominational space was built for the use of the villagers, many of whom worked at the small box and pail factories and mills along the Sawmill River.

Part of the collections at the Meeting House include ledgers of 19th-century businesses and a century of letters (from 1830 on) from the Colonel Horatio Watson family. Colonel Watson was a representative to the Boston General Assembly.

Bennett also asks if individuals could add to the pile of 19th century industrial, agricultural, and domestic gadgets.

Dr. Dan Bennett was responsible for spearheading the repurposing of another building, the Dexter Moore house, that had fallen into disrepair. It is now the site of the Village Co op through efforts of the Moore's Corner Community Limited Partnership.

Interested volunteers should contact him at 367-2656.



Dr. Dan in 2005, with a young volunteer.

Sunday, October 11: Cider Tasting and Cover Band Listening

SHELBURNE – West County Cider invites the public to join Willy and the

Poor Boys and taste-master William Chaney at a free, outdoor tasting room at 106 Bardwell's Ferry Road, in beautiful Shelburne on Sunday, October 11.

The tasting starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m., and Willie and the Poor Boys will play live music – Creedence covers and more – from 1 to 3 p.m.

There will be free cider, and free local snacks. West County will have tastings every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through December, but this Sunday's will be a special event.



Tuesday, October 13: Important Information for Veterans of All Ages

LEVERETT – This Tuesday, October 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Timothy Niejadlik will be at the Leverett Library to answer your questions about veterans' benefits.

Niejadlik is director of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District. He will be able to answer questions on a range of topics, including healthcare, home loans and property

tax benefits, compensation for physical and mental injury, nursing home care, and burial, spousal, and education benefits.

Veterans and their spouses are invited. Connect with other local veterans.

For additional information, contact Robert Schmid, Veterans' Representative, Town of Leverett at 548-9360.

Sunday, October 25: "Health Effects of Compressor Stations"

NORTHFIELD – Northfield Pipeline Awareness will present a talk on the health effects of gas pipeline compressor stations on Sunday, October 25th with Dr. Curtis Nordgaard. The event will take place at the Northfield Trinitarian Congregational Church at 147 Main Street at 3 p.m.

Dr. Nordgaard is a resident pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center. He has an interest in environmental health, and in particular, climate change and asthma, two environmental health problems facing many of today's children.

Northfield has been targeted by Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline for a large compressor station. Natural gas compressor stations burn methane and emit a mixture of volatile organic compounds.

There are very few studies that have been done looking at local pollution and health complaints around compressor stations. The few that have been done suggest pollution levels are high enough to increase local health risks.

The talk will address what data are known about how air pollutants are distributed from compressor stations, what kinds of pollutants are released, what the health consequences are for local residents where these facilities are located, and what communities facing natural gas infrastructure development can do to prepare themselves.

There will also be discussion on how residents can get involved at the local level, and information will be available from the Northfield Pipeline Awareness group.

For more information, contact Julia Blyth at jablyth@gmail.com or (413) 225-3196.

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SCHOOLS from page A1

committee would vote to establish two overlapping regional school districts: one for grades 7-12 for all four towns, as it is now, and "a Regional School district for grades PK through 12 comprised of the Town of Amherst and at least one other town of the towns of Leverett, Pelham, and Shutesbury."

This means two votes: one to establish this new district; and one for at least one other town to join it. It would need a unanimous vote from all four towns for the first to pass, and if that fails, nothing changes. Shively said that she hopes the first vote passes, as it gives the option for towns to leave Union 28 and join the new region later.

If the first vote passes, and just one town approves the second, many things will change. The new regional district's school committee would have 13 members: seven from Amherst, and two each from Shutesbury, Leverett, and Pelham.

Each member would have full voting rights on all issues.

They would be elected on staggered terms, with three of Amherst's seats and one of each hill town's seats serving 2-year terms, and the rest serving 4-year terms. District-wide elections would be held for each seat, regardless of where the resident lives, as long as residency is properly established in each of the four towns.

One area still to be worked out is what to do with towns that do not join right away. If both votes pass, but just one hill town joins, the other schools could still get into the new full K-12 region, but would have to wait for a period of time. That time frame has yet to be decided.

Weighing Pros and Cons

Creating a new Pre-K through 12 district would likely have a major impact on Union 28, which could lose the revenue of the departing towns – either immediately or slowly.

It would also mean that Leverett and Shutesbury would give up town control of their schools.

In exchange for this loss of control, regionalization may offer a solution in terms of finance by consolidating administrative duties, and attracting state funds. It streamlines and aligns curriculum so all elementary students are on the same page, and offers a change in governance.

"One or two people in those towns could swing the quorum vote," said former Union 28 interim superintendent Bob Mahler. "Think about that."

Mahler, a former principal at Shutesbury Elementary, is outspokenly against the plan. "What is the educational benefit?" he asks. "None. If you're only doing it for the money – not a good vote. You're really voting on governance."

Julie Shively responded that school committees have very little power now since 1993, when the Massachusetts Education Reform Act gave greater authority to superintendents and principals for management decisions. School committees can still set policy.

Investigating the three areas of potential benefit – educational parity and streamlining curricula; financial savings; and governance – may be critical to residents in understanding the decision. The official vote will happen in the spring of 2016, so we have the dreary winter months to ask lots of questions and conduct our own research.

Some think streamlining the curriculum will be beneficial because they believe students from Shutesbury and Leverett are behind in math, and unprepared for middle school. Sources I interviewed argue this is not the case, and that there is a disparity in results and scores among Amherst's primary schools; each elementary school does things differently, but leaves the children equally prepared.

Bob Mahler noted that typically, one or two math prodigies in the hill town schools skew the results. He thinks the incoming stu-

dents are very prepared for the Amherst Middle School curriculum, and that their experience in their unique rural town schools brings something special to the table. "As a species," he argues, "we're stronger when we're diverse."

Aaron Osborne, the new director of finance and operations for Union 28 and a former member of Leverett's school committee, pointed out that all four Union 28 schools and Amherst schools are Level D. "We're all doing OK," he said. "It would be a different argument if one district was failing and needed the support."

"We're all doing OK. It would be a different argument if one district was failing and needed the support."

Aaron Osborne

As far as financial benefit, there is a concern that expected savings would be squelched by increased administrative costs and by raising elementary teachers' salaries to be on parity with those in Amherst.

Osborne said he felt a report from an outside consulting firm, commissioned by the RAWG five years ago, wasn't fully fleshed out: "One of the things I asked for was more detail," he said. "What impacts were there on salaries? What was the real transportation reimbursement numbers? How would regionalization impact grants, and funding like Title I?"

He also said the financial picture never accounted for the disparity in teachers' salaries and the costs of bumping up Leverett's by 10%, and that it was also unclear to him whether the Amherst district would add administrative staff, or simply raise administrators' salaries to reflect the extra burden.

"Administration costs won't change," said Shively. "We won't have the Union 28 assessment. Amherst will have less unions, thus less budgets, meetings, et cetera to deal with. The systems are in place for the payroll, et cetera, and are pretty automatic."

One member of Shutesbury's school committee mentioned there was an issue with Medicaid payments in the recorded minutes. Towns receive specific reimbursement for Medicaid that go into a general budget, which may be apportioned elsewhere. With a regional agreement, these funds would go directly to the schools, which could impact town budgets.

Shively said she didn't feel this would be a problem: "Leverett already gives the Medicaid money to the school, so for us, there is no change. Amherst is treating this as a cost to the town, but it basically means that it is less money they need to raise and appropriate for the school. So, in the overall scheme of things, I don't see it as a change."

Losing Control?

The governance issue may present the most difficult debate for residents.

Educational approach, hiring and supervision of a principal or superintendent, and budget appropriation would all be out of town control. The decisions formerly made by a town's school committee would legally shift to the superintendent.

Amherst's appointment of Maria Geryk from an administrative role to the position of superintendent has come under criticism in some circles. So has the budgetary weight of the district's central administrative office, in light of recent cuts to language programs and teachers' positions.

The other elephant in the district is the loss of funds following students out to other schools. Shutesbury school committee member Dan Hayes said he feels the expansion of charter schools puts a great strain on public school districts. Hayes explained that while charters have financial advantages – their ability to provide special educational services, and their employment structure – their success in attracting public school students leave the schools they leave with strains in diminishing resources and increased mandates.

"This can only force consolidation or closing of public schools," Hayes said. He pointed to the decision to close the Mark's Meadow elementary school in Amherst to reduce costs, while the Chinese Immersion School put on a big addition.

"Both moves may make sense when looked at independently," Hayes argued, "but if you look at it from a more broad perspective, more cost-effective decisions could have been made."

According to several sources, the recent five-year process was spurred by deteriorating relations between the Leverett and Shutesbury school committees and Union 28. Former superintendent Joan Wickman was seen by some town school committee members as combative, and some came to see escape from Union 28 as the only option.

Incoming superintendent, Jennifer Haggerty, stresses that she is committed to open dialogue with the district's member communities.

Domino Theory

The decision facing Leverett and Shutesbury is also a major issue for Wendell and New Salem, whose shared elementary school, Swift River, would be at greatest risk in a weakened Union 28.

According to Mahler, "Union 28 could survive with the loss of Shutesbury and Leverett for a few years, maybe. But if they need to break apart, Erving will be the belle of the ball," because of state funding, "and everyone will want them to join their region."

Speaking of the uncertainty faced by Swift River, Wendell school committee chair Joanna Bartlett referred to the recent closing of the Worthington's elementary school, despite repeated assurances that it would stay open, following that town's regionalization with Gateway. The Worthington Elementary school recently formed its own district, and property

taxes were raised as a result.

"The state loves regionalization," Bartlett said, "but it's really about the folks in Eastern Mass trying to look good, and they haven't even been out here. I'm against regionalization, because having taught for 37 years, I don't think moving kids into different schools or potentially taking a bus route that is so long is a good idea, especially for younger kids." Bartlett also pointed out that transportation reimbursements and funds are not static year to year.

Hayes expressed that what he likes about Union 28 is the local governance by community members, who are held accountable through elections. "I think we have an excellent governance structure for our schools, with ways of controlling costs," he said.

"We provide opportunities for our students in a variety of ways, each reflecting the values of the community: Leverett has a greenhouse, Shutesbury has an Arts in Residence Program, Swift River has a Science Fair, and Erving is working on a program to bring reading into the homes of toddlers."

But Shively felt that regionalization would offer these same unique schools with different focuses, and possibly even make one an innovation school, free from standard restraints.

Shively felt that regionalization would offer these same unique schools with different focuses....

"The best part is," she said, "children could choose the schools based on their preference of focus, and they wouldn't have to stay in the same school for six or seven years if it wasn't working. I think it will keep a lot of kids in the district."

As another factor to consider, the Amherst Pelham Regional School District is considering eliminating the middle school and consolidating grades 7 and 8 with the high school. The middle school building might then be used for college level classes or vocational classes.

Aaron Osborne pointed out that right now kids from Leverett and Shutesbury choice out to Franklin Tech, and that a vocational school in the middle school building might help keep them in the district.

This deft reworking to adapt may be a tonic for rejuvenation, and offer a compelling, progressive regional district, but this too will require debate and a vote.

Residents will have an opportunity to consider all angles and ask questions before the towns vote in the Spring.

The RAWG is hosting a forum on the Regionalization Agreement draft, as it stands, on Wednesday, October 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Leverett Elementary School.



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MONTAGUE from pg A1

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen noted that a similar fund had been previously created to deal with regular retirement benefits. Projections show a significant shortfall in retiree health care looms in the coming decade, making the current “pay as you go” system underfunded.

There was a good deal of discussion concerning how the proposed appropriation fit into a “game plan” for dealing with the problem. Town meeting seemed satisfied with what Olsen called “my game plan,” which includes allocating \$50,000 annually in future years to the new trust. Members unanimously approved the appropriation.

Two articles took a total of \$200,000 from sewer retained earnings, previous year’s balances, half to reduce sewer rates and half to increase the sewer stabilization fund for future capital projects.

Both measures passed unanimously, but only after town meeting member David Jensen argued, as he has in the past, that sewer users were bearing too much of the burden of the system’s capital costs. Jensen believes that these costs reflect, in part, inflow and infiltration from the broader town storm drainage system.

WPCF head Robert Trombley pointed out that all property taxpayers, including those with septic systems, already pay into the sewer enterprise fund annually, and thus contribute to retained earnings.

A relatively small appropriation (\$1,500) to fund new town-based email accounts for board and committee members generated a great deal of discussion. The measure had been proposed by selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz so that committee members would not have their emails on town business mingled with their personal emails.

However a number of town meeting members expressed concern that an appropriation was being passed before an actual policy on the issue had been created. Hanold, for example, noted that “there are a lot of things yet to be determined,” and that there is a “fairly gray area between what is town business and what isn’t, in my mind.” The vote to approve the measure seemed close.

Perhaps the most controversial items on the agenda involved two appropriations to fund legal work involving the proposed natural gas pipeline, slated to pass through the town.

Article 13 proposed to spend \$20,000 on “technical assistance and legal representation” before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It passed on a strong vote, with even some pipeline supporters voting “yes,” after the amount was reduced by amendment to \$13,750. The funds were portrayed as being used to “protect the town” in case the project was approved.

Article 14, on the other hand, proposed to spend \$10,000 on legal challenges to the project. Resident Ariel Elan explained that challeng-

ing a contract between the pipeline company and Berkshire Gas at the state level could be a strategy to stop the project. This was sharply criticized by pipeline supporters, and even questioned by some opponents, who doubted the value of a legal challenge.

The voice vote seemed very close, but the moderator’s declaration that the motion passed was not challenged by a sufficient number of members to trigger a standing count.

At May’s annual town meeting, a standing count taken on a similarly close-sounding pipeline-related voice vote revealed an actual margin in opposition to the project of over four to one.

A proposal (\$22,000) to fund repairs on the backup boiler at Sheffield Elementary School passed unanimously. A much larger appropriation to finance a new boiler had been resoundingly defeated at the last town meeting due to concerns about the lack of a plan for the overall heating system at the school. A temporary backup is deemed necessary for the next few winters while such a plan is developed.

The article creating a “municipal light plant,” an entity required to receive state funds for a proposed broadband project, was moved from the end of the agenda to the beginning. This was done at the suggestion of moderator Ray Godin, so that town meeting members would not have to wait at the end for the ballots to be counted.

There was a good deal of discussion of who would oversee the state funds obtained for the project, as well as develop broadband policy in general.

Town counsel Gregg Corbo stated that was the job of the “municipal light board” created by the vote. The board might either be the selectboard itself, or a specially elected or designated committee.



By **JEFF SINGLETON**

The Montague selectboard meeting of October 5 lasted barely an hour. Perhaps the most important topic was not on the regular agenda but was raised during the meeting’s initial public comment time. This involved a complaint by several residents who live along Montague City Road that the thoroughfare periodically becomes impassible during rainstorms. This is caused by the overflow from a small brook that runs less than fifteen feet from – and at virtually the same elevation as – the road.

“There’s water all over the place,” complained Carl Sadoski. “It hasn’t been taken care of,” he said, since the road was transferred from the state to the town.

Montague City Road used to be part of state Route 2A. Richard Green said the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had cleared the stream for dredging nearly a decade ago, but that the work had never been done. Now the heavily-used road that connects Turners Falls and Greenfield is frequently closed during storms.

Selectboard chair Michael Nelson indicated that fixing the problem was a “question of money,” and that the town would be looking into an emergency management grant. However for the time being “nothing can be done.” He suggested that concerned residents call selectboard executive assistant Wendy Bogusz, who would check the DEP file.

After the meeting, town planner Walter Ramsey said the town may be able to apply for an emergency management funds once the Millers Falls

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Historic Overflow Continues To Plague Montague City Road

Road drainage project is completed.

Another potential problem emerged during a discussion of disbursing funds (\$201,256.22) for the Avenue A streetscape enhancement project.

Nelson asked if the project would be completed by the target date of October 22, just prior to the popular Franklin County Pumpkinfest celebration he has organized for a number of years. Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which oversees the streetscape project, indicated that it would be substantially complete except for the installation of a planter and a bench.

However, it soon emerged that there have been problems replacing streetlight poles on what Hunter referred to as the “west” side of Avenue A.

Apparently the construction company has had difficulty anchoring the new poles to ground. A special plate has been ordered, and needs to be modified to stabilize the lights. Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz noted that the problem could not be fixed quickly.

Nelson stated that the lack of a bench or planter would not undermine Pumpkinfest but “if there’s no lighting, that would be a bigger problem.” Hunter indicated that there should be sufficient light from poles on the other side of the street for the event to take place.

In other news, Hunter requested a change order totaling \$8,594.21 for a handicapped access ramp, an additional light pole, and the disposal of portions of a reinforced mud mat.

Pam Tierney of the Black Cow Burger Restaurant requested a one-

day license to serve alcohol at sidewalk tables during Pumpkinfest, October 24. Tierney was surprised when Wendy Bogusz informed her that the license only allowed beer and wine to be sold.

“Nobody told me last year,” Tierney said.

“Who knew?” asked Nelson. The selectboard approved the request, pending an opinion from town counsel about the possibility of serving liquor.

Following Hunter and Tierney, the board held two telephone pole location hearings, one to place two poles on Swamp Road and another to install three poles on Lake Pleasant Road.

It executed an agreement with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the agency to administer the FY’15 Community Development Block Grant, pending approval of the document by the state.

The board appointed Nelson to the Franklin Regional Planning Board, and Nathan Pervere as a full-time police officer. Police chief Chip Dodge said Pervere, who is a local resident and currently a reserve officer, is the “highest candidate” on the civil service list. The board provisionally decided to set March 16 as the date for “trainings,” presumably related to racial sensitivity, although the subject matter was not mentioned.

The board then went into executive session, “to conduct negotiations for Police Chief Charles Dodge.” This was the fifth such session scheduled, following the appearance of this item on the August 24, and September 8, 21 and 28 selectboard agendas.

From October 2, 2003: “Too Much Water on Montague City Road”

By **DAVID DETMOLD**

When the former DPW superintendent left his post abruptly in late January of this year, he took more than thousands of dollars worth of stolen trash sticker receipts with him. He also left with the details of road projects in various stages of design and permitting all over town....

Fred Billiel, who lives at the end of Turnpike Road, had put his name on the agenda for the 29th to ask the board to take action on the ongoing drainage issues affecting his property.

That was before three inches of rain fell on Sunday, causing the Montague police department to shut down the intersection of Turnpike Road and Montague City Road for several hours in the afternoon, until the flood waters subsided.

“The water has been flooding in my backyard long before it comes

to Montague City Road,” Billiel told the board. “What kind of solution do you propose?”

For an answer to that question, the board turned to [town planner Robin] Sherman.

“We have a variety of problems with drainage on Montague City Road,” she replied. “They are long term. They defy easy solution.”

Part of the problem lies in the silting up of the drainage brook that runs along Montague City Road to the southeast. “The brook has silted in over the years,” said Sherman. “When it was a state road, it was dredged on a fairly regular basis.”

Reached after the meeting, Joe Naida, who worked for Northeast Utilities for many years as a maintenance foreman, expressed doubt that the state itself had ever done much dredging of the Montague City brook.

“When did the state take over

that brook?” he asked. “Northeast Utilities used to dredge that out,” because they considered the drainage problems along Montague City Road to be partially a result of leakage from the power canal, which runs by at a slightly higher elevation to the northwest.

Naida said he used to hire a contractor from Greenfield to dredge the brook and routinely cleaned the tracks on the culverts NU maintained “all the way from Shanahan’s down to the hospital.”

Now, said Naida, when he drives along Montague City Road, “I just laugh, because nobody maintains it any more. Where’s all that water going to go?” [...]

Board chair Ed Voudren came down hard of the subject of waiting for the state’s permission to dredge out the brook and the drainage ditch that runs along the golf course.

“I’m pretty damn sick of waiting for the state. This has been going on for three years. We have a man saying his backyard is flooding. It’s going to continue to do this. It has to be fixed.” [...]

Reached later, [conservation commission chair Mark] Fairbrother said, “It was the highway department’s job to get this approved. It was [former DPW head] Mr. Parks-Mleczo and his office agent Mr. Voudren’s responsibility.” [...]

Culverts beneath Turnpike Road and Solar Avenue and other locations may simply be inadequate to handle overflow during large storms, Fairbrother said.

The effect of the power canal on the area’s hydrology, compounded by blocked drains, beaver dams, and runoff from the Hill add up to a long term drainage nightmare that, as the town planner said, is likely to “defy easy solution.”

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LION HUNTERS: TURNERS FALLS 41 - LUDLOW 6

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – It didn't take long for the Turners Falls Football Indians to rebound from their overtime loss to Frontier. In fact, it took only twenty seconds.

They won the coin toss against the Ludlow Lions last Friday and elected to receive. Jalen Sanders fielded the kick inside the Blue 20, charged forward, following blockers into an open lane, broke to the outside and sprinted all the way into the Maroon end zone. 20 seconds into the game, the Tribe led 7-0.

The Blue D played with equal intensity in their first two series. The first Ludlow drive began on the 30 and immediately Powertown pushed them backwards. Jalen tackled the ball carrier 5 yards behind scrimmage, Jack Darling broke up one pass and Nick Croteau picked off the next, giving Blue the ball back.

When the Turners offense couldn't convert on 4th and 1, the Lions got the ball back on the Maroon 41. Two plays later, a fumble gave the ball back to Blue.

Turners' second offensive series began on their own 48. They drove down the field to the 34 and on 3rd down, QB Tionne Brown found an open Sanders and Jalen scored his second TD of the quarter. The kick failed and Turners led 13-zip with 3:43 left in the quarter.

The Lions almost broke away on the kick return and began their next drive on the mid-field stripe but the Blue D kept them in check. On first down, Tahner Castine hit the ball carrier so hard, his helmet bounced off the turf. On second, Croteau stole another pick.

The Turners offense was unable to capitalize and punted the ball back to the Lions. Will Roberge made the tackle on Ludlow's first down and the quarter ended.

Ludlow came out on fire in the second quarter. On first and 10 from the Blue 44, they ran a draw for over nine yards. On 2nd and inches, they banged to the 34, then to the 15. Cullen Wozniak made the stop at the line of scrimmage bringing up a second and 10. Ludlow then completed a pass to make it 3rd and 6 from the 11. Then the Lions tried a pitch but the Blue D held them again, forcing a 4th and 6 from the 11. Unwilling to try a 28-yard field

goal, Ludlow went for broke.

So far this season, Ludlow has been successful throwing the ball. They have passed for hundreds of yards, to multiple receivers. And on this particular fourth down, the quarterback faded back, found an open receiver and added one more touchdown to the Maroon resume. The PAT went wide and with 6 minutes, 29 seconds left in the half, the score was 13-6.

Down by one score, Ludlow attempted an onside kick but Wozniak downed it on the Blue 48. Turners immediately took advantage of the field position. Quinn Doyle and Jalen Sanders banged down to the 10-yard line, and Tionne found Jalen again. He made a diving catch for the TD, giving Turners a 19-6 lead. Tionne ran a keeper into the end zone and put the Tribe up 21-6.

The Lions started their next drive on their own 30 and attempted to pass. Jack Darling tackled the receiver for a 4 yard loss. The next pass went incomplete and Tionne helped his own cause by picking off the next pass. And Turners took over with 2 minutes 19 left in the half.

Inside the Maroon 10, Turners had a first and goal. But Ludlow banged and cracked and held the Indians three plays in a row, forcing a 4th and inches with 30.4 seconds left on the clock. It was gut-check time. But coach Chris Lapointe and his Blue Crew have been here before. Jack Darling powered his way into the end zone behind a blue surge, and the Tribe took a 21-point lead.

Ludlow ran three plays, and with 4.4 seconds on the clock on the Blue 29, the Lions' vaunted offense had one more chance to score. The QB faded back but all the receivers were covered and Powertown's line came through and sacked him to end the half leading 27-6.

Second Half

Ludlow got the ball first in the second half and again began with wonderful field position on their own 37. They had a huge 9-yard gain on first down. On second and 1, they tried a play action pass but Castine broke it up and on third down, he and Doyle pushed



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Its a bird! Its a plane! Its...Jalen! Turners Falls #21, Jalen Sanders, dives over defenders and completes a pass from Tionne Brown during the team's trouncing of the Ludlow Lions.

the Lions back a yard, forcing a fourth and 2. Ludlow went for the first down but the Blue D stopped them in their tracks and the Tribe took over on downs.

Doyle, Driscoll, Sanders and Darling moved the ball inside the Maroon 10, but on 2nd and goal from the 5, a penalty moved the ball to the 15 and another flag moved it to the 23. But Powertown wasn't discouraged. Tionne completed another pass to Jalen and Jalen scored another TD, putting Turners up 34-6.

The Lions got the ball on their own 25 and proceeded to lose 14 yards but on second and 24 from their own 11, they had a huge gain to the 38 and earned a fresh set of downs. They got another first down to the Blue 39 and the quarter ended with Ludlow threatening with third down on Powertown's 35. A motion penalty gave the Lions a third and 10 and Croteau made the stop on the next play, forcing a 4th and 7. Again, Ludlow went for it on fourth down and again Powertown held. Will Roberge sacked the QB and Turners took over on downs.

Turners took over on their own 43. Three plays later, they got the first down to the Maroon 42. Then Doyle broke loose. He had a 28 yard gain all the way to the 14. And on third

and a foot from the 4, he danced his way into the end zone and Turners led 41 to 6 with 5:06 left in the game.

The Turners defense held, and Coach Lapointe sent in his subs, including Kyle Dodge at quarterback.

Tionne Brown was perfect in the air. He went 3 for 3 for 68 yards and 3 touchdowns with no interceptions. He also had a two-point conversion. Sanders ran for 55 yards on 11 carries, 82 yards on his kick return, caught 3 passes for 68 yards and scored 3 touchdowns.

Quinn Doyle carried the ball 22 times, breaking the century mark with 103 yards, and also had a touchdown. John Driscoll gained 19 yards, and Darling added 18 and a touchdown. Tyler Lavin kicked 3 extra points.

On the defensive side of the ball, Tahner Castine led the Tribe with 9 solo tackles. Brown, Darling, Doyle, Wozniak, Trevor Mankowsky, John Driscoll, Ricky Smith, Owen Ortiz and Akeeva Forcier also helped out with tackles. Roberge recovered a fumble, Croteau, had 2 interceptions and Brown had 1.

Turners will travel to Athol on Friday night, October 9.

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Earthy, Tactile, and Immediate: *A Potter's Meditation*

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – Joy Friedman has been renting a studio at the Leverett Crafts & Arts for thirty years, all the while quietly and creatively working on the pottery she fell in love with years ago in college.

“I really loved it; I thought it was magical,” said Friedman about her first experience working with clay. While her parents may have been a little worried about her career path, it was her love of the art that drove her to persevere and learn to make a living.

“I was not a quick learner. It took me awhile to learn how to throw on the wheel,” Friedman admitted.

Initially, Friedman began mak-

ing cylinder mugs, and eventually branched out and became more skillful. Today, she is known for her lace bowls, which are more time consuming and advanced. She also makes her own glazes, and spends quite a bit of time working to make each one perfect.

“I spend a lot of time looking for the right color and the right glossiness,” said Friedman.

Her work has evolved from simple, painted pieces to layered work that looks more like a landscape. Her chip platters, however, are a popular item and have stayed substantially the same.

Most of her work sells as wedding gifts, and can be found in

see **FRIEDMAN** page B3



Joy Friedman at her studio at the Leverett Crafts and Arts. To the right of Friedman are her famous lace bowls which can be found in stores around western Massachusetts. Friedman has been working as a potter for thirty years, and teaches classes in a separate space at the LCA.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – I recently read Roland Merullo’s *Dinner with Buddha*, the travel saga of the Mongolian monk, Volya Rinpoche, and his son-in-“waw,” Otto Ringling. During the road trip from the monk’s meditation center in North Dakota to Las Vegas, Rinpoche illuminates Ringling’s emotional pain and spiritual suffering with the thoughts of the Buddha.

Although Merullo insists that his books are not meant as a guide to the tenets of Buddhism, it is these conversational exchanges that most engaged this reader.

With all of Rinpoche’s hype about Las Vegas and the promise that all is to be revealed there, the reader is left feeling teased along when a new leg of travel, this time to Italy, is to become the promised land of the revelation.

While a fine lead-in for a new book, it was a disappointment to this reader, unless one is to come to the realization that all will never

be revealed and that life is just one ongoing spiritual journey. I suppose so, but I wanted more, if only a peek.

Several days later we park on the main road and walk up, past filled parking spaces and many vehicles crowding the verge. About halfway up the dirt road we can hear chanting and the deep pulsation of drums.

We emerge from the woods to the meadow. The shining white of the pagoda steps out from a bright blue sky.

It is decorated with flowers: yellow and orange mums in front of the first Buddha and arcing branches of crepe paper flowers in yellow and orange around the seating area for the monks and nuns. We are here to be a part of the celebration of the Peace Pagoda’s thirtieth anniversary.

Even surrounded by over a hundred people, we are wrapped in the peace and serenity of this spot which is enhanced by the chanting, the drum and the

see **GARDEN** page B6

Inside the Farren Care Center

By ANNE HARDING

MONTAGUE CITY – Residents at Farren Care Center benefit from care plans that combine skilled nursing and long-term rehabilitative services with expert psychiatric care. This enables them to thrive in the least restrictive environment possible, according to Judi Fonsh, director of social services and admissions. Fonsh has been with FCC for 17 years, starting as a social worker, and is very familiar with their umbrella approach to treatment.

Sister Madeleine Joy, SP, BSN has been the chaplain at Farren Care Center since 1993. She specializes in cancer care, grief support, long-term care with the mentally ill, and addiction services. Hers is the department of spiritual care. As a faith-based organization, she is particularly proud of the practice that “no one dies alone.” The sisters have a “reverence for the individual” and believe there is a “spark of divine in each of their patients.”

Sister Madeleine says they have buried 34 patients in the past 25 years; 30 are buried at St Anne’s cemetery and four at Temple Israel. There is a separate memorial service for every patient who dies, and there is a memorial garden on the premises for the residents’ families and loved ones to visit.

Debbie Bazzani, LPN charge nurse on the 3-to-11 shift, echoes this sentiment and says her staff will come in on their days off, or give up their breaks, to sit with a patient they



Farren Care Center administrator Jim Clifford clowning around with Maggie the Clown at last month’s annual Farren Fair.

know to be failing. Because many of the patients do not have close ties with their families, the FCC staff becomes their family by proxy.

Each year there is a memorial service that honors all the patients who have died. Employees take turns reading names of patients who have died in a particular time period, and as the dates approach the present, the readings become more involved and include photos and/or anecdotes. Bazzani believes that this philosophy makes FCC unique.

On the other hand, Bazzani acknowledges this type of work can be challenging and demanding. Either you love it or hate it, and she notes staff turnover is not uncommon, but she feels there is plenty of longevity as well. Bazzani finds that new employees who get through the first few months often stay for many years.

There was a steep learning curve

in the beginning months at FCC, especially in the early days when many patients had been released from the state mental hospitals, but were not able to live on their own. It took a long time to gain the trust of patients who were often fearful of such basic activities as taking a shower. Bazzani says it is incredibly rewarding each time a patient makes a small forward step.

Over and over, I heard from staff members that FCC offers a comprehensive program with an eye toward assessing the complex mix of medical and mental illness in order to provide individualized treatment. Patients are often ostracized from their families, so appointed guardians often provide clues to better understanding the patient’s medical history and emotional life. FCC works closely with other agencies as

see **FARREN** page B4

Warm Hands, and Warm Hearts

By JOE KWIECINSKI

WENDELL – Area residents will have two opportunities to assist in making wool mittens for homeless people. Volunteers may gather from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, October 10, and then at Mary Lane Hospital in Ware on Saturday October 17 as well.

The activities are part of an outreach ministry to homeless shelters known as Moe’s Mittens.

Homeless for many years in Amherst, Maurice (Moe) St. Onge died on October 6, 2013 at the age of 44 as the result of complications related to alcohol and drug abuse.

Founded by his sisters Camille and Suzanne, Moe’s Mittens is a special project to bring a message of hope and compassion to those who wear the mittens.

“If you’d like to help out with this worthwhile effort,” said Camille St. Onge Magin, who is also a social worker at Mary Lane Hospital,

“please join us. We’ll be cutting out, pinning, and sewing mittens with recycled wool sweaters and fleece. We will provide written instructions and a pattern for those who would like to continue to make mittens. If you sew, feel free to bring your machine and fabric scissors.

“If you do not sew, you can help us cut out patterns, match colors, and pin mittens for those who are doing the sewing. Donations of wool sweaters (at least 70%) washed in hot water and dried on high heat are appreciated. However, we will have sweaters on hand to work with. Sweaters with holes are also acceptable.”

St. Onge Magin notes that Moe, despite being a likable, kind person, had a very difficult life. “As Moe’s family,” she said, “we saw firsthand what a life of substance abuse can do to a person. We saw the many people along the way that tried to help him: his friends, his service providers, local officials, towns-

people, and a host of many others he met along his path.

“We were always grateful to all the people that tried to help Moe. He was described as someone who, if he had a dollar, would share it with you. In Moe’s spirit, we founded Moe’s Mittens to carry on Moe’s legacy of sharing with others less fortunate than him.”

During the ministry’s first year, Camille bought 25 pairs of mittens and delivered them to the Amherst Homeless Shelter. In 2014, the project’s second year, mittens were made at Mary Lane Hospital and by friends in Greenfield. They were given to shelters in Northampton and Easthampton, while 10 pairs were sent to sister Suzanne to distribute where she lives in Colorado, and eight pairs went to Wendell Community Center to be given to people in need.

A laminated card is attached to the pair of mittens, containing a verse from the Bible. The detachable card also explains the story of how Moe’s Mittens came to be. The brief verse emphasizes that there is help and hope out there for all who struggle.

“One of the things my sister and I decided,” said St. Onge Magin, “was that, whether my brother stopped abusing drugs or not, we would keep on loving him, no matter what.”

For more information about the Moe’s Mittens event at the Wendell Free Library this Saturday, please call Rosie Heidkamp at (978) 544-3559 or contact moesmittens@gmail.com.



Maurice (Moe) St. Onge

Pet of the Week



“MERLE”

Hello, I’m Merle. Sadly, my human passed away. I miss him, but I must move on and would love to live in an adult household, where I can sit on a warm lap. I’m easy to

please. Toss me a few paper balls and I’m yours. Give me a shoe box and I’m in heaven. I would prefer to be an only cat. I’ve spent a lot of time outdoors (in a small, fenced-in area of grass), but my last human kept a watchful eye over me. You know how we cats have a way of disappearing into thin air. When inside, though, you’ll find me in your bed. If it’s good enough for you, it’s good enough for me. While I am a friendly fellow, I do like my “me time.” Well, come down and take me home. It’s time for me to love somebody new!

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

Senior Center Activities October 12 to 16

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 10/12
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 10/13
9 a.m. Mat Yoga (Subscription)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday 10/14
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
11:15 Friends’ Meeting
Noon Birthday Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 10/15
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans’ Outreach
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Card Games
Friday 10/16
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.
Closed Monday
Tuesday 10/13
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting, Nana Prepares
Wednesday 10/14
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 10/15
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
Friday 10/16
9 a.m. Quilting,
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 Pot Luck Lunch

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.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Art, School, Pipelines & More

By PAM KINSMITH

Moving into the colors of fall, MCTV continues to keep moving at rapid pace to complete editing and uploading of current town events and programming by residents. The following are now available in the TV schedule and for download online:

9/19/15 *Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter Fundraiser* at LOOT: found and made in Turners Falls entitled “Rescued Art for Rescued Dogs”. This includes a wonderful presentation of what funds are used for at the shelter, as well as how artists altered collected landscape paintings integrating creatures into the works for auction and sale at LOOT.

9/24/15 *Erving Board of Health Gas Pipeline* meeting. This event was led by Cyd Scott, Chairman of the Board of Health in Erving. Video footage showcased the various stages of pipeline construction for public discussion.

This program also includes comments from physician Curtis Nordgaard concerning attendee questions about the health implications of compressor emissions.

9/28/15 *Montague selectboard meeting*. Agenda items included 2016 sewer rates, drain inspections, personnel appointments and hiring, and purchasing of available town land.

9/29/15 *Gill-Montague Regional School District meeting*. Agenda items included upcoming educational events, volunteering and subcommittee news and policy discussions.

10/1/15 *Special Montague Town Meeting* held at Turners Falls High School, with the key focus being on discussion of a municipal telecommunications system and appropriations in a variety of town departments.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguetelevision@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!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Controlling Cholesterol

brain and heart. When this build-up occurs, you have a condition called “atherosclerosis,” which is commonly referred to as “hardening of the arteries.”

If a clot forms in blood vessels narrowed by plaque, it can block blood flow, which can cause a heart attack or a stroke.

The recommended levels of cholesterol are as follows:

Total cholesterol level should be less than 200 mg/dL. (“Mg/dL” stands for milligram per deciliter.) “Borderline high” is defined as between 200 and 239 mg/dL. You’re risking heart disease if your reading is 240 mg/dL or more.

LDL cholesterol level should be less than 130 mg/dL. “Borderline high” is between 130 and 159 mg/dL. There’s heart-disease risk if your reading is 160 mg/dL or more.

HDL cholesterol levels should be at 60 mg/dL or higher to cut the risk of heart disease. You’re at high risk for heart disease if you have a reading less than 40 mg/dL.

If your total cholesterol level is high because of high LDLs, you may be at higher risk of heart disease or stroke. If your total level is high only because of a high HDLs, you’re probably not at higher risk.

Some physicians use the ratio of total cholesterol to HDLs. The ratio is obtained by dividing the HDLs into the total cholesterol. The goal is to keep the ratio below 5 to 1.

Interesting fact: Male sex hormones lower HDL levels. Female sex hormones raise HDL levels.

Draw your own conclusions.

What can you do to control cholesterol?

Diet: Cholesterol is in all foods from animals, so reduce your intake of meat, eggs and dairy products. Cut back on fatty foods such as snacks, desserts and anything fried. Eat vegetables and fruit.

Exercise: Regular physical activity increases HDL cholesterol in some people. Weight loss can help lower your bad cholesterol.

Smoking: Smoking lowers HDL cholesterol levels and increases the tendency for blood to clot.

Alcohol: People who consume moderate amounts of alcohol (one to two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women) have a lower risk of heart disease than nondrinkers.

However, alcohol can be unhealthy. For example, a small amount of alcohol can make a big increase in triglyceride levels. Triglycerides are a fat in your blood that should be kept in check. Whether you should drink a moderate amount of alcohol is definitely a question you should ask your personal physician.

Medicine: Get your physician’s advice, too, about drugs to lower your cholesterol. If lifestyle changes don’t help you, you may need to take medicine to lower your cholesterol level.

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

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FRIEDMAN from page B1 stores around western Massachusetts, as well as Cape Cod and Maine. Friedman said she works hard all summer to create work for Wellfleet Crafts in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and now that the owner has opened a second location in Maine her work has increased.

“I would fill up a van every two weeks to bring to Wellfleet,” Friedman explained.

Locally, she sells her work at the Artisan Galley in Northampton, the Blue Marble in Amherst, Saw Mill River Arts in Montague, and Salmon Falls in Shelburne Falls. Friedman also visits craft fairs, and was recently at the Garlic & Arts Festival in Orange.

Initially, Friedman was an apprentice for another potter in Maine. While under her apprenticeship, Friedman said she had the unique experience of digging her own clay to work with.

“Taking a lump of clay and making it something you could use was nice,” said Friedman.

Now, Friedman teaches her own classes at the LCA. While she has only had the teaching space for three years, she likes having two areas where she can separate her own work from her teaching.

“It’s made life much nicer. I can leave my own work in my studio and come to my classroom space to teach,” said Friedman.

One comment she often gets from her students is how therapeutic pottery is. While she

hasn’t yet, one day Friedman would like to have a show for her students in a gallery or at the LCA.

While Friedman admittedly may only have six years or so left in her for the pottery business, she isn’t done yet.

“I love teaching, and I’m probably going to continue,” said Friedman.

Friedman explained that clay goes through many stages before it is a completed piece. First, the piece is made on the wheel. Before the glaze can be painted on, the piece must be fired. Once the glaze is painted, the piece is fired a second time. Despite the many stages to completion, Friedman does find a sense of satisfaction in her work.

“Clay is earthy, tactile, and immediate. I can see what I am doing as I work,” said Friedman.

Friedman didn’t come from an artistic family. While her brother shares her creative spirit, Friedman said neither one of her parents was really that creative. What drove her to pottery especially was the feel of the clay on the wheel.

“I think I really fell in love with clay. The wheel was so amazing, meditative, and rhythmic. It really gets your attention; you have to be very focused,” said Friedman.

Interested in taking a class? You can find information on Friedman’s website: www.joyfriedmanpottery.com.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Pipeline Sign Vandalized; Fugitive Apprehended; Painkillers Stolen; Raccoon Floats On Air

Monday, 9/28

11:50 a.m. Caller advises of people working near the Water Pollution Control Facility, including a man inside a man-hole. Caller concerned that he will get hurt as there is no officer there and he was difficult to see. Workers advised of detail requirement when working in the road.

12:34 p.m. Caller reports pigeon with a possible broken wing in the Fourth Street alley. It keeps trying to fly but is unable. Animal control officer responded and has bird.

2:12 p.m. Caller whose vehicle was broken into last week and initially reported nothing missing advises that his daughter’s work cell phone is missing. Referred to an officer.

2:25 p.m. Caller wants on record that the pipeline sign he has in his yard is now being run over. Vehicles are driving on his lawn to hit the sign. Sign had previously been spray-painted.

9:08 p.m. Request from Leverett PD to assist with removing an unwanted female from a residence. Services rendered.

11:06 p.m. Female caller reports that she was in the bathtub when someone knocked on her bathroom window. Officers en route. Female advised of options. Caller thought her boyfriend was responsible.

Tuesday, 9/29

7:11 a.m. Caller reports that a male party in a small white vehicle is placing religious materials in mailboxes in the area of Randall Road. No permits found for soliciting of this nature. Area checked; unable to locate.

9:38 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road complaining of loud music from neighboring apartment; when he approached the occupant and told her to turn it down, she stated to him “Fuck you.” Music is still loud. Officer spoke to caller then attempted to speak to the involved tenant, who had some unkind words for him. Advised of options.

10:37 a.m. Landlord of a Central Street property requesting that his tenant be notified that a maintenance person will be coming later this morning and that they will have a key. Message left for tenant. Tenant called back and advised that he will not be allowing any repair type person into his apartment. He is awaiting a federal/state agency inspection of his apartment tomorrow and refuses to allow any repairs to be made until after

this inspection. Message left for landlord.

11:43 a.m. Tenant from previous call called back advising that he left a note on the door that he does not want the maintenance person to come in. He is advising that he is sick and does not want to be bothered. He continued on about the apartment issues and issues with the landlord. Officer spoke to party and advised him of all his options.

2:35 p.m. Party reported as a missing person yesterday in Chicopee located on Crescent Street. Party took off toward Erving. Party taken into custody and removed to hospital.

5:02 p.m. Caller contacted officer to request that he respond to Fairview Street to assist with locating a despondent female. Female party found by K9 Artie.

5:20 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street advises that their gas grill was on fire; believed to be out now, but requesting that fire department be contacted just in case. TFFD advised and en route.

Wednesday, 9/30

6:41 a.m. Fire department reports that Montague City Road is flooded in the usual spot, area of the golf course; suggests that it may need to be closed at this time. DPW advised; road closed.

8:57 a.m. Fire department took a call reporting that the area of West Main Street and Federal Street is completely flooded. DPW notified.

1:27 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that a black Nissan Altima has been parked on the street for more than a week; it appears to have a bunch of trash bags inside, and the inspection sticker expired in 2014. Officer checked on vehicle and found everything active except inspection. He will keep an eye on it.

1:53 p.m. Investigator into lobby to let MPD know that he would be going to an address in town to check on a 20 year old female.

2:48 p.m. Request for K9 unit to search for male party who is reportedly making suicidal statements and left his house into the woods with a rope.

3:44 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue reports that an unknown dog is curled up/lying down on his neighbor’s lawn. Officer advised.

8:22 p.m. Two calls reporting a male assaulting a female by the corner of Avenue A and Fifth Street. Unable to locate; will be on lookout.

11:15 p.m. State police requesting MPD unit to

Northfield, where an officer is out with a vehicle possibly involved in two fresh breaking and enterings. Officers on scene. One male transported to Erving for booking.

Thursday, 10/1

8:21 a.m. Report of a male and female arguing and pushing/shoving each other in the Food City parking lot. Officer spoke with male party, who advised that the dispute was verbal only. Unable to locate witness or female party.

8:45 a.m. Party into station to report that he was almost assaulted by someone last night next to 15 Fifth Street. Advised of options.

11:18 a.m. 911 misdial from Franklin County Technical School; caller advises that he meant to dial ext. 119. School officer advises all set; no problems.

Friday, 10/2

9:20 a.m. Caller advising of Aquafina water bottle full of needles/syringes at Green Pond Road and Lake Pleasant Road. Item picked up by officer.

12:31 p.m. Chief spoke with a female who states that a male party at the Millers Pub last night told her that he had just purchased silver certificates from the clerk at Carroll’s, who has many more. Party advised caller that the certificates are worth double. Chief is concerned that these may be stolen. Officers should be aware.

2:18 p.m. [redacted] was

arrested on three default warrants and two straight warrants and also charged with being a fugitive from justice on a court warrant.

4:10 p.m. Caller reporting two young males walking on the Avenue. Males are not doing anything illegal, just being loud and appearing intoxicated. Referred to an officer.

4:55 p.m. Caller reports that a female party in the Food City parking lot appears to be “all strung out” and is walking up to vehicles, going through the trash, and practically nodding off while walking. Caller stated that she originally walked up to caller’s vehicle and was attempting to solicit her body for drugs.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a class A drug; two counts of possession of a class C drug; two counts of possession of a Class E drug; and disorderly conduct, subsequent offense.

9 p.m. Bottle of Percocet reported stolen from a vehicle in the Family Dollar parking lot. Report taken.

Saturday, 10/3

3:45 p.m. A male party was taken into protective custody following a disturbance on Hillside Road.

8:19 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on three default warrants.

Sunday, 10/4

2:32 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, subsequent offense, and a motor vehicle lights violation.

9:55 a.m. Caller reports that three males, approximately 10 years old, are lighting something on fire in the wooded area near Griswold Street and Avenue C. Caller can see something smoldering in the woods and can smell burning plastic. Caller advises that she scared the kids off. TFFD located one item smoldering and will be wetting down the area. Area search negative.

3:19 p.m. Caller reports disturbance outside a Fairway Avenue residence; can see a male with his hands up in the air, what appears to be several packages on the ground as well as what caller describes as a “gun case” on the sidewalk. Caller heard male make a statement to the effect “I don’t want to get shot...” Officers speaking to involved male; his license to carry expired in May 2015. Two unregistered handguns seized. Party transported to hospital.

4:03 p.m. Report of a male party who appears to have been assaulted on the ground outside Between The Uprights. Party conscious and alert, but intoxicated and has facial injuries. Party transported to hospital. Officer spoke to a friend of the victim, who advised that the party who assaulted the victim was a male wearing a Tom Brady Patriots shirt.

5:18 p.m. Caller reports that there is a deceased raccoon in front of her home; she states that a couple of youths came by and tied a balloon to it and it is “floating” in the area. Officer advised of call; copy of call left for animal control officer.

8:54 p.m. Report of male hanging around the bar and attempting to start fights with staff at the Rendezvous. Party located and transported to Gill. One party was assaulted at the bar; charges pending for male party.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Public Safety Open House!

MONTAGUE – Come out and celebrate with us at our Public Safety Open House on Sunday, October 18th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Montague Police and Turners Falls Fire Departments have joined forces to provide the community with a day of fun and information. This is just one of the ways we have chosen to say “thank you” for your support. We are looking forward to meeting many of you in person so you can become more familiar with those who serve to protect you.

The Montague Elks, the Kiwanis Club and the Masonic

Lodge have chosen to join us because they, too, are very grateful for your support. As a token of their appreciation they will be providing free bicycle helmets, child ID kits, and more.

Jon Steiner, manager of Food City, has once again offered to donate platters of freshly made cookies and water for those who attend this event.

Come see Officer Jim Rud-dock and K9 Artie in action, then let Sgt. Lee Laster show you our Segway. Officer Dan Miner can help you install your child’s car seat correctly between 1 and 3 p.m.

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FARREN from page B1

well as family and guardians to integrate patient care. The staff tries to appreciate the person, and not just the often-complicated diagnosis.

Cafeteria Care

Jean Rewa is the lead cafeteria worker and has been with the Farren for 31 years. She was a part-time diet aid at the hospital in high school in the evenings and on weekends, and moved into a full-time position once she graduated high school. She's worked in several capacities and for a time was the assistant program coordinator for the Franklin County Meals on Wheels Program.

Back in the '80s, when it appeared she would lose her job due to the hospital closure, Rewa was offered a job with Phoenix but turned it down when a supervisor suggested sticking around. At that time, she moved back to the cafeteria and has been there ever since.

There were a lot of ups and downs during the transition period, but the cafeteria fed whoever was left working, including the contractors during the renovation. Things have changed over the years from "food trucks" wheeled up to the floors, to a more "fine dining" style cafeteria.

Food is still brought to the patient wards, but now they bring up a steam table and cold table which allows residents to have more choices within their particular dietary restrictions. The change has been very popular with residents.

Another change is the Monday "Lunch Club" where some residents are able to leave their units and dine a la carte in the cafeteria with some staff assistance. Rewa notes they also support special events as requested by the Milieu (the FCC term for the recreation department). They provide support for the annual fair, picnic lunches and special events such as the legacy award dinners.

The cafeteria is open daily to the public and seats anywhere from 30 to 50 people a day including staff, sisters, dental clinic personnel and folks from Franklin County Home Care Corporation. All are welcome.

Special Events

Jim Clifford has been an administrator with FCC for 15 years and is responsible for staffing, finances and advocacy. Prior to that, he served with the Veterans Administration and first learned of FCC when some of his clients were transferred there from other hospitals.

After joining the staff at Farren Care Center, he returned to school for a Masters in Hospital Administration. He is particularly proud of the interactions between residents and all types of staff, as well as the level of staff commitment to patients.

One highlight for Clifford is the annual "Farren Fair" which is a special event held each September to bring the elements of the Franklin County Fair to the patients. They



COURTESY IMAGE MUSEUM COLLECTION

Farren Memorial Hospital, Montague City, Mass.

The Farren, on a 1939 postcard.

bring in a small midway, petting zoos, fair food, special exhibits and music. For the past three years, local band Ruby's Complaint has donated their time providing entertainment.

Most of the special exhibits of recent years have been coordinated by family members of the staff such as antique vehicles, motorcycle show, etc.

The event wouldn't be possible without the committed help of staff and volunteers who pair up with residents to help them enjoy the day's events.

Chief operating officer Chris McLaughlin has fond memories of the Farren Fair a few years ago, when all the maintenance workers paired with a resident for the duration of the Fair so all could attend. He likes to see the full spectrum of workers engaged in this type of memory-making activity.

The event is popular with everyone, and is a great opportunity for people in the community to see the Farren engaging with patients in a different way. Clifford believes the fair is just one example of how FCC attempts to enrich the quality of life for patients who previously had little enrichment.

Other special events include the riverside picnic at Unity Park, with a classic picnic lunch and Dixieland band, and the Farren Festival. The festival is a craft fair organized by staff to raise funds for a new vehicle that can transport multiple wheel chairs. For three years the proceeds from the festival have been put aside for the specialty van, and it is hoped the dream will be realized in the not-too-distant future as this will help expand programming opportunities.

A Viable Future?

FCC has a special contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which governs the type of patients admitted and the reimbursement process. Typically, patients are covered by Medicaid, but some are subsidized by private insurance or Medicare.

In Massachusetts, 95 percent are covered by Mass Health. There is a six month to one year waiting period to get into the facility and calls come from all over Massachusetts as well as other states.

FCC is the largest employer in Montague and one of the largest in

Franklin County with about 200 employees. Back in 2011 FCC was feeling the pain of a six year freeze on Medicaid reimbursement rates and struggling to stay afloat due to rising operating costs. Administrator Jim Clifford says that senator Stan Rosenberg and representative Stephen Kulik assisted with negotiations and contract increases were received in 2012 and 2014.

This has helped stabilize the situation, but the building is still in need of replacement or major renovation in part due to deferred maintenance related to the prior budgetary issues. Contracts between the State and FCC are negotiated annually, creating a problem for COO Chris McLaughlin. The lack of a long-term contract could affect their viability because no developer wants to invest in a major construction project without a 10-20 year operating contract in place.

McLaughlin notes there have been several changes over the years and the Sisters of Providence are part of a larger organization now. Catholic Health East brought together several medical entities and eventually they merged with Trinity Health of Michigan.

FCC is housed in the newest wing of the hospital complex, while Franklin County Home Care Corporation (FCHCC) is the largest tenant of the original hospital and the Community Health Center still has a small dental clinic in the building. A separate small building in the front corner houses the Montague Psychiatric Associates. Though Farren collaborates with the tenants in various ways, there is no formal affiliation.

Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, October 6 saw more than 50 people attending the 25th anniversary celebration of the Farren Care Center. Guests ranged from staff and retirees to family members and community supporters. One of the highlights was a visit from Penelope Milton of West Boylston, MA – the youngest grandchild of Bernard Farren.

There was an exhibit set up in the community room on the ground floor with photos, newspaper articles, awards and other memorabilia. Employee Charlie Trombley shared video footage he took during the renovation project between

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 6, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Planters Worth Celebrating

The Adopt-a-Planter Celebration on Sunday, October 2 was a great success. At least fifteen people participated in the walking tour of the planters, other gardens along the Avenue, and the Veterans' Memorial. The participants included some of the gardeners, streetscape committee members, and selectboard members Pat Allen and Patricia Pruitt. The walk lasted approximately 90 minutes, beginning and ending at the Discovery Center.

The streetscape committee is a group of volunteers who began meeting this spring to help beautify downtown Turners. The committee identified corners such as overgrown untended planters, dog droppings, orphaned shopping carts and litter.

As you walk down the sidewalk along Avenue A, take a moment to admire the flowers and other plants in most of the planters. If you see someone working on one of the planters, or you see a planter sponsor, perhaps you can stop and thank them.

Theater Review: "This is Not the Place"

The latest offering of Wendell theater worker Court Dorsey's Conflict Resolution Theater debuted at Greenfield High before showing to an all-school assembly at Turners Falls High School. *This is Not the Place* will return for one more performance at the All Souls Unitarian Church in Greenfield.

The performance featured a running *West Side Story*-style variant of the time honored theme of star-crossed lovers, spiced with hip-hop dance numbers and free-style rapping.

Science teacher Robert Perlman stood up to say "I think this was the best presentation we've had on the

subject [of race] in all the years I've been here."

"It's really hard in our culture to talk about issues of race," Dorsey said. "People don't get together and talk about it really openly, to allow us to feel more comfortable about it. These sketches were written by the people who are in them, about what it means to be a person of color in Franklin County."

Guantanamo Bay Detainees in Limbo

Hundreds of people are being held by the United States government at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba in a nightmarish legal limbo. Not only have most been detained for years without trial and in some cases without charges, they have been granted neither Prisoner of War status nor the rights familiar to every American under the Constitution. The near total absence of basic legal rights for Guantanamo detainees in the administration's open-ended "War on Terror" has motivated a number of large law firms as well as individual attorneys to challenge the authority of the president of the United States to keep them indefinitely incarcerated.

One such attorney is "Buz" Eisenberg from Ashfield, an associate professor in the Behavioral Science and Criminal Justice department at Greenfield Community College. Eisenberg has been working pro bono for a number of detainees at Guantanamo. He spoke to a group of seniors last Thursday, September 29, as part of the Senior Symposia, a series of mini-courses offered by GCC at their downtown campus.

Eisenberg's lecture, entitled "The Guantanamo Detainees: Is Due Process Overdue?" gave participants an overview of the legal history behind the detention of more than 500 individuals from over 40 nations at Guantanamo, and of efforts to introduce a modicum of adherence to the law – as we know it – for the detainees.



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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.

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 to 7 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2 to 6 p.m. Through 10/30.

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

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

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.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and arts & crafts. October theme is: exploring the fall season, harvests, trees, animal behaviors, acorn and leaf crafts that explore color

and texture. 10 a.m. to noon.

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

EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Ray Gengenbach*. Amherst artist's show of oil paintings and woodcuts, primarily of animals. Show runs through 10/16.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Nature of Life*. Group art exhibit by the Artists of Franklin County. Photography and multimedia with reflections on nature. Curated by Ellen Blanchette. 10/11 through 11/30. Reception on 10/17, 12 to 2 p.m. Great Hall is opened 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day through 10/12; then open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays after 10/12.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *Trees and Travels*. Exhibit by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Artist reception on 10/18, 4 to 6 p.m. Runs through 10/31.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines 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: *Ordinary Storms*. Artist Barbara Milot's superimposed drawings on photographs exploring weather images. Runs to 11/12. Reception 10/24, see photo.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists Group Exhibit*. 9/4 through 11/1.

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: [\[riverarts.com\]\(http://riverarts.com\) Show to 10/31.](http://www.sawmill-</p>
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Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Cornucopia: A Retrospective Duo*. Sally Chaffee and Marie Sakellarion. Beadwork, jewelry, traditional folk art, and decorative painting. Show runs through 10/26.

Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield: *Fall Exhibition at Geissler Gallery*, featuring *Transcendent*, paintings and prints by Leyden-based artist Alicia Hunsicker. Show runs through 10/28.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Fabric Art. Memorial Art Exhibit for Sara Clearwater Liberty*. 23 privately owned pieces, including floor coverings, tapestries and a quilt. Memorial reception at the library 10/17, 4-6 p.m.



"Ordinary Storms" is Barbara Milot's latest show at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls. Milot "combines abstract photos of the sky with scratchings inspired by the growth pattern of shells to create tactile diagrams of turbulent weather patterns." Artist reception is during Pumpkeinfest, October 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. Show runs through 11/12.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*. Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin will rock your world. 9 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Northern Routes presents *Jon Mueller: A Magnetic Center*, *Bill Nace*, and *Matt Weston*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Great Hall at the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Taking Back Eden*. Contemporary and

acoustic rock. Hosted by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Donations support free nature programming for the public. 7 p.m. \$

Frontier High School, S. Deerfield: Ja'Duke presents *Into the Woods*. A play where Fairytales meet Broadway. Performances 10/9 to 10/11. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Screaming J's*. Ragtime Boogie Woogie Piano Band. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Larry Allen Brown with special guest Scott Daner Bravo*. Fingerstyle guitar. 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Happier Valley Comedy Show: Scripted/Unscripted*. Spontaneous comic theater; one person has the script, the other doesn't. 8 p.m. \$

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

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. Rock 'n Roll. Contact the Tavern for times and cost.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *One Part Luck*. Country Blues. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Diane Cluck with Anders Griffen*. Folk. 8 p.m. \$

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Elizabeth and Ben Anderson*. Scottish fiddle music. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic*. Cabaret. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern String Band. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Nagual, Floodbeast, Wish for Skin, Azfarat, Old Pam, and Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin & Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16


Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. Americana(ana). 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls:

Ready for the Radio with special guest Monica Rizzio. Americana. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hyno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Based on cult classic Evil Dead movie trilogy. Includes such musical ditties as "All the Men in My Life Keep Getting Killed by Candarian Demons". The play's press release states that "this show is in no way appropriate for young audiences". There is an additional charge if you want to sit in the "splatter zone". Every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 31. \$



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GARDEN from page B1

how, despite an otherworldly spirituality, these monks and nuns remain infinitely grounded in the world.

We hear many speak on this theme; among them Dennis Banks, who talks about how the Buddhists joined with many others in the Longest Walk in 1978.

Dennis plays the drum and sings a song about the Native American love for Mother Earth:

"Mother Earth and I are one. She loves me and I love her."

At his urging, the song becomes a circle dance, beginning with the smiling monks and joined by many of us.

There is much talk of peace, and prayers – Jewish, Christian and Muslim. The language is all the same: the pain of war, the hunger

and sickness of others, the destruction of the planet, the intense yearning for change. Still, with the sharing of hope and prayers, we leave in peace.

At home, we return to tasks in the yard and garden. The garlic cloves have been tucked in and mulched with grass clippings. We work to raise the crown of trees around the yard by trimming long, outreaching branches. The last of the cordwood has been stacked and covered or brought in down cellar. The storm glass is being washed and set back into the front porch windows.

We toast a day filled with prayer, peace and labor, looking forward to keeping the evening fire going and to reading by its light before settling into bed.

As the days shorten, it's time to get on to these yard

and garden chores which prepare us for cold and winter. Still, there will be warm days with sun for mowing, mulching, putting the asparagus plot to bed, for cleaning and putting away tools.


We've also begun putting by the harvest. Last week we made pepper relish, still to come some frozen corn and corn relish.

There is pleasure, as well as sadness, in the nip in the air and the bright coloring of the leaves. The half moon shines brightly in the early morning, the eagle calls over the river, and the small birds wheel and turn in gathering flocks.

Enjoy the harvest festivals, the cider and apple picking, and the brisk walks in this lovely valley, and as always, happy gardening!



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