



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 14 – NO. 2

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 15, 2015

Rau's Sunoco Turns 50

By KATHY BUREK
and ELLEN BLANCHETTE

MONTAGUE CENTER – Rau's Sunoco is celebrating 50 years of their continuously run family business. On Thursday, October 1, they marked the occasion with a Bar-B-Q party with cake and lots of

food at the garage for customers, family and friends. The garage filled up with people congratulating Ralph and Debbie Rau, while local DJ Bobby C kept the sounds of sweet country and rock playing.

Ralph Rau, Sr. started the business in 1965. The garage was originally owned by Citi Service, and then purchased by A.R.

Sandri. Back then, Rau worked at Billings Box Co. in the mornings, and managed the garage from 5 to 10 p.m.

Sandri still owns the property, but Rau made the business his own, and it has been successful over the years – except for some difficulty during the gas embargo in the 1970s, and when the bridge to Montague Center was closed in the '80s.

see RAU'S page A5



Debbie and Ralph Rau, at Rau's 50-years celebration. Behind them, guests gather and eat wonderful food set out on the tables.

Deja Brew Pub Turns 10

By JOSH HEINEMANN
with KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – The Deja Brew Café & Pub is celebrating its tenth anniversary this Saturday, October 17. When our editor asked us to write a story, the first step in our effort was to do some research by going there for dinner: a glass of beer for me, a glass of wine for Katie, and then refills.

When we arrived, the front room – performance space, booths and bar – was quiet. We sat at the bar. As often happens, we ran into a couple we are friendly with, but do not often meet in our daily routines.

We talked over dinner, and when they finished eating and left, another couple took their place – strangers when they sat down, but not by the end of our meal. Conversation started again, and we learned that they were part of the band that was playing

see DEJA BREW page A6



Dave Ewell pours a glass at the pub's bar.

New Craft Brewery Puts its Stamp on Turners Falls

By SHANNON KETCH

Some months back there was a buzz about Turners Falls having its own brewery, either in or around the Patch. For us romantic beer drinkers, this was good news: a beer maker in each village, a Falstaffian ideal.

My wife, Bev, and I walked down the hill from K Street over to 11th Street, behind Simon's Stamps, for the opening of Brick & Feather Brewery last Friday evening.

The business is itself broken up into two parts: a spare front room – a few tables laid out in a rustic manner gave it a somewhat austere gallery vibe, not uninviting though

– and the back room, where the beer is brewed in shiny new metal tanks.

The brewmaster and owner, Lawrence George, and his staff were busy pouring tastings into tulip glasses. I saw many of my neighbors and people from around town, along with a few new faces.

Everyone got to try a sample of their first two, provisionally titled, offerings. "Step One" was an effervescent Belgian that didn't, in my case, give me a Belgian headache, and "Step Two" was a fairly grapefruity, hopped pale ale with a dry finish. These low-gravity beers weigh in at 5% alcohol.

see BREWERY page A7



The curious crowd at Brick & Feather's opening event Friday night.

Board of Health Condemns Fifth Street Lodging House

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – 15 Fifth Street, one of the last boarding houses in town, was found "unfit for human habitation" last week by the Montague health department, and cleared of all occupants early this week.

State law requires that a board of health give notice to a landlord and occupants, and conduct a public hearing, prior to declaring a building "unfit for human habitation."

However, if a board finds that "the danger to the life and health of the occupant(s) is so immediate that no delay may be permitted, then the board of health may immediately issue a finding that an occupied building or portion thereof is unfit for human habitation..."

The structure, which Montague's director of public health Gina McNeely said was once a nunnery, has apparently fallen on harder times. The emergency order her department issued last Thursday, which required all occupants to vacate by 5 p.m. on Monday, noted "filthy common bathrooms, removed ceiling panels suspected of being hiding places for illegal drugs;" "feces on entry door to dwelling unit;" and "cigarette butts and burn holes in walls, floors and woodwork."

One recent inspection encountered a "large dead rat in a 'have a heart' trap on the front steps of the building."

Contacted by the Reporter, McNeely



Director of public health Gina McNeely posted an "emergency finding of unfitness and determination of immediate danger" at the 16-unit residence last week.

stated that last week she had conducted a "re-inspection" and found that there was "no security in the building." McNeely said she was able to enter freely by the front door, which the health department had previously ordered

see EVICTION page A5

Amid Warnings, Rancor Continues Among G-M School Committee

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – The school committee meeting on Tuesday, October 13 brought an expectation that certain issues left unfinished in the previous meeting of September 29, would be discussed. As chair Sandra

Brown brought the meeting to order, there was an atmosphere of cordiality in the room.

With the opening of the floor to public participation, Karl Dziura, president of the Gill Montague Education Association (GMEA), sat at the microphone before the

school committee to make a statement. Responding to some of the public discussion that followed the last meeting, Dziura said he wanted to clarify the GMEA's interest in the process of selecting school committee members for negotiating teams.

He said, "We believe no one on the school committee should be restricted from participating on the negotiating team solely because of their past employment, especially having served formerly as a teacher."

Scott Bastarache then asked if he could make a statement during the public participation period, saying he wanted to speak not in his role as Erving's representative, but for himself

see GMRSD page A7



Left to right: Erving representative Scott Bastarache and members Joyce Phillips, Jane Oakes, Marje Levenson and Michael Langknecht at the September 29 school committee meeting.

Strong First Half Carries Turners over Athol

By MATT ROBINSON

ATHOL – The Turners Falls Football Indians defeated the Athol Red Raiders 27-6 on Friday, October 9. Turners scored all their points in the first half, and coasted to a 21-point victory. The win improves the Tribe's record to 3-2.

And on a rainy October night, it happened again. Again, Turners received the opening kickoff, and again Jalen Sanders fielded the kick. And again, Jalen scored. Drawing first blood puts your opponents on their heels and in away games, scoring in the first seconds, quiets the crowd.

Neither team scored again in the first period, and the quarter ended after an 18-yard gain by Jack Darling to the 47-yard line.

Then at the beginning of the second quarter, on 2nd and 5, Jalen crashed and dashed into Athol's red zone. A personal foul gave the Tribe a first and goal from the 3. Two plays later, Quinn Doyle bolted his way to pay dirt, and at 8:51 of the second quarter, Powertown led 14-0.

Athol began their next drive on the Red 43 and banged their way to the Tribe's 40 but on second and 2, Colby Dobias recovered a fumble and the Blue offense came back on the field.

Turners worked their way down the field, and on third and goal from the 5, QB Tionne Brown threw the ball right down the middle of the end zone to an open Nick Croteau. With 2:54 left in the half, Turners was up 21-0.

see FOOTBALL page A8

The Montague Reporter

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A Mysterious Feeling in Turners Falls

"There is a mysterious feeling in the air that Turners Falls is going to get a fresh start, this year."

Turners Falls Reporter,
May 6, 1885

The recession that started in 1882, compounded by the effects of a Wall Street panic of 1884, brought hard times for this infant city. The grinders at the cutlery held a short-lived and unsuccessful strike, tramps roamed the countryside looking for work, and downtown merchants were closing their shops and moving on to greener pastures.

The editor of the town newspaper, an eccentric in his mid-thirties named Cecil T. Bagnall, recorded the comings and goings, and particularly the goings, with great anxiety.

Browsing through "Turners Falls and Vicinity," a column Bagnall ran on Page 4 of the *Turners Falls Reporter* as a grab-bag for announcements, one-sentence news items, wisecracks and editorial rants – sort of a nineteenth-century version of our own Local Briefs – over the course of 1885 shows us a man well aware he was harnessed to the town's fluctuating fortunes.

First of all, according to one continuing item, he was trying to sell off the newspaper itself: "for cash. Prospects of the town exceedingly bright, for a young man who has ambition to grow up. Only reason for selling – a desire for a larger field."

But in 1885, it was already starting to seem like the little industrial city wasn't ever going to keep on the growth path its founders and planners had intended. "It is the misfortune of this place," Bagnall wrote that April after esteemed village dry goods merchant Charles Connolly headed for Holyoke, "that its slow growth drives away its enterprising business men, who cannot afford to throw away the best of their lives living on faith."

In June, when "Rev. Father Madden, the popular young priest" left "to make his home in Northampton," Bagnall's frustration was bubbling over. "Just like Turners Falls," he wrote, "– cannot keep anybody who amounts to anything."

Bagnall was especially concerned that the richest men in

town – the shareholders and officers of the manufacturing companies – weren't sticking around. When he heard R.N. Oakman Jr., the treasurer at the John Russell Cutlery, was moving to Greenfield, he suggested the Turners Falls Company should be selling land to all corporate officers at "nominal prices."

"[I]t would be good policy," he argued, "to keep the managers, the brains, of these corporations within sight of their factories, to remain citizens of the town that assesses the taxes on their plant – and maintain a personal interest in the growth and beauty of the village, its educational and religious institutions."

This was no abstract concern. In 1885, the sewers were being dug, somewhat haphazardly, and no one had managed to build a system for clean drinking water. Families were pulling water from the river in buckets for home use. Disease was rampant. "There is not another town of over 4,000 inhabitants in the whole United States that is so poorly supplied with water as Turners Falls," Bagnall wailed.

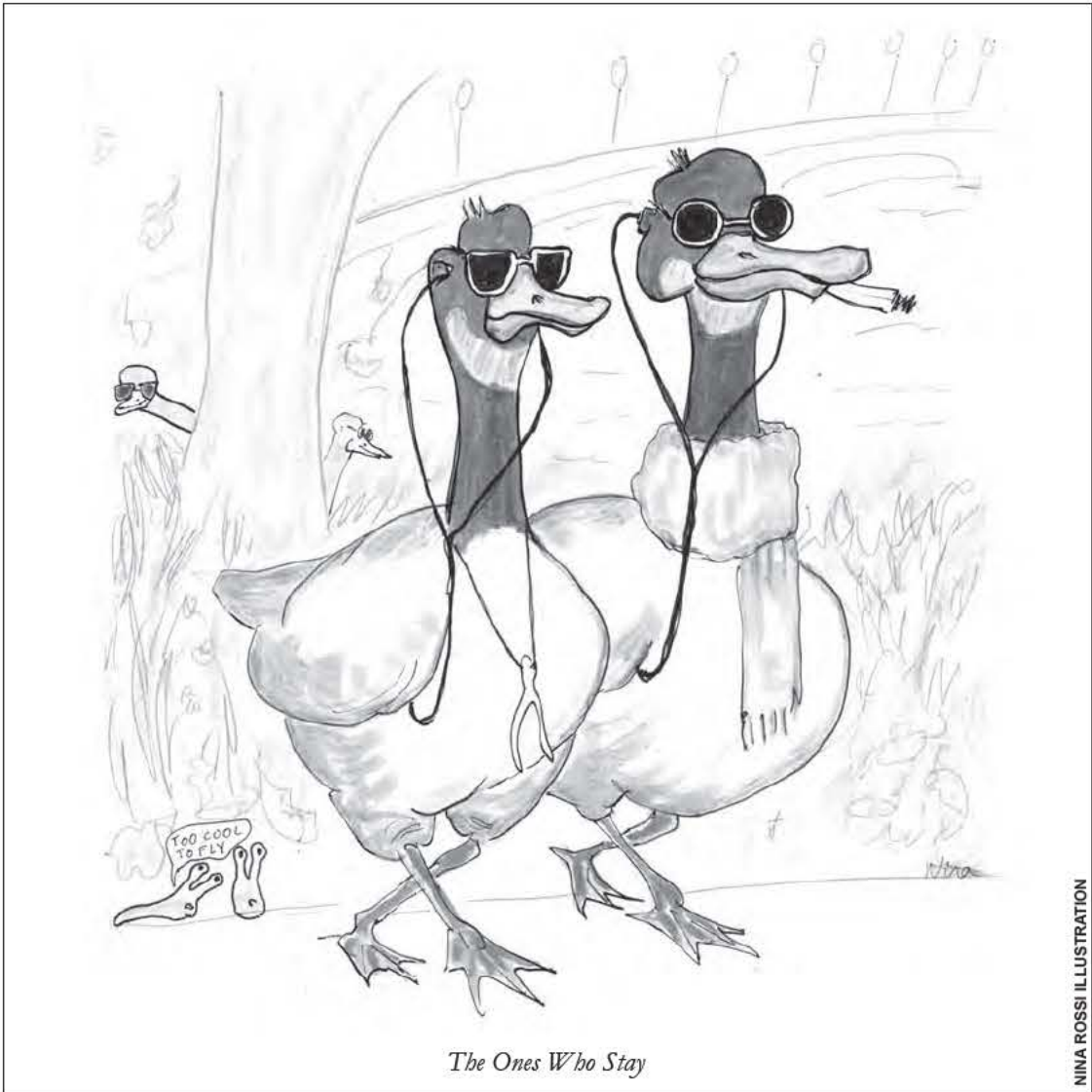
The board of health was trying to convince the town's working population to clean with soap, particularly after the snow melt, when "the exposed carcasses of diseased hogs, cats, dogs, etc., make the village look like a battlefield after a severe struggle."

Villagers waited with great anticipation for the results of the 1885 census: Had the population even grown since 1880? When the results were tallied, it turned out that the adult population had decreased, but this was more than offset by a rise in the number of children.

And this was also a problem. "In three of the primary schools," Bagnall recorded, "there are over 100 pupils in each room under one teacher." When a proposal to build a large schoolhouse was slowed by opposition from potential abutters, who "claim the noise of so many children depreciates the value of property," he recommended just building several smaller ones.

After all, he reasoned bitterly, "[t]he fame of our schools will never bring many people of wealth here for the benefit their children may receive from our superior school facilities."

No one was planting trees anymore ("A few years ago there was



Letter to the Editors

Best Wishes for Rau's

We would like to congratulate Rau's Service Station on its 50th anniversary. The station is a Montague Center fixture.

Full service, including windshield washing, weather updates, and a dog greeting from Romeo. Towing at any time of day or night, house calls, expert repair service. Friendly, knowledgeable staff.

The current owners, Ralph Jr. and

his wife Deb, celebrated the occasion in a characteristically generous way: throwing a party and cookout at the station for their customers. Food, music, fun, and conversation. We were delighted to attend, and to feel a Norman Rockwell-like community spirit. (This is something very rare in real life!)

So, thank you Ralph Sr. and wife Shirley (who bought the service sta-

tion 50 years ago), Ralph Jr. and Deb, the staff we know (Jay and Liz) and those we haven't met, and current official greeter Romeo.

The station is a cherished fixture in our town. We wish it at least another 50 years!

Sincerely,

Anne and Bruce Anne Montague

a spasm of enthusiasm in this direction, but that has died out"), or keeping up on their store tabs ("book-accounts grow faster than the young city does"), or even following the rules, really ("the by-laws have never been enforced since their passage").

To make matters worse, "[t]he young vagabonds of the village have a new dodge, rolling their hoops under horses' feet, causing the animals to run away."

When the Germans blocked a Catholic priest from the school committee, the Irish population retaliated by voting against the town issuing any liquor licenses, depriving the cutlers of beer, their saloon-keepers of profit, and the town of much-needed tax revenue – a prohibition Bagnall decried as creating "a free rum town, with a jug of vile rum in every filthy back kitchen." (Another special town meeting was soon called and the Germans got their legal beer back.)

Bagnall's take on the town's – and the paper's – first thirteen years was bleak. "Death has made sad havoc in the number that used to help keep up the enthusiasm to hope for greatness to the new city,"

he observed, "and others have withdrawn from the once charmed circle of enthusiasts."

But there was another current in Bagnall's 1885 writings besides sour grapes. He was defensive of Turners Falls, frequently objecting to how the village was described, or ignored, by other publications of the time. And he sought to advertise its charms abroad in order to attract new capitalists.

"Two hundred young women can be had in Turners Falls for light factory work," he pointed out on May 13, and by May 20 this figure had swelled to "over 500 girls, that would like employment." The following week, "[w]hoever cares to encourage the starting of light manufacturing enterprises in Turners Falls" was "earnestly requested to confer with the editor of the *Reporter*." He felt the skating rink, for example, would make a good shoe factory.

On June 3, he announced he had "received a letter from a party in Boston, who wants to know what inducements the village will offer to establish a factory here."

Apparently this didn't go anywhere, and by September 2, Bagnall had sunk back into his de-

spondency: "Never was there such a feeling of hopelessness as to the future of Turners Falls as many possess at the present time."

Four weeks later, after bemoaning the number of outstanding subscription accounts at the *Reporter*, he also declared that "Turners Falls has more dead beats to the number of inhabitants than any other place under the sun," a situation "more demoralizing than the cholera."

The next week: "The capitalists treat this village like a penal colony, good enough for barbarians to live in, but not a safe place to stay more than a few hours themselves."

And the next: "It is one of the mysteries of the nineteenth century that no stockholder in the Turners Falls Company seems to care one pin whether there is universal discontent and anxiety among the people settled here or not, and one by one the best citizens move out of town..."

"The village is overrun by rats," Bagnall reported on November 11, "and the rodents have become extremely aggressive and destructive."

Cecil T. Bagnall didn't manage to sell the *Reporter* in that very bad

see EDITORIAL next page

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The Artists of Franklin County presents “**The Nature of Life**,” a group art exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center’s Great Hall, in Turners Falls.

A mix of fine art and photography with creative reflections on nature and inspiring images of wild-life, flowers, grasslands and waterways. The exhibit is an opportunity to see work by several new artists as well as seasoned ones with a free open reception on Saturday, October 17, from noon to 2 p.m.

Artists taking part in this exhibit are photographers Ellen Blanchette, Dianne Interlande, Bruce Kahn, Gloria Kegeles, Ginny Newton, Lynn Pelland, Beth Pelton, Debbie Rittall and painter and multimedia artist Alice Thomas. The show is being curated by Ellen Blanchette.

The artists are all pleased to support the work and outreach of the Great Falls Discovery Center by offering this art work for the public to enjoy. The exhibit will be on display through November 28.

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, the Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series at the Wendell Free Library will feature 1988’s schlock classic *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark*.

When her Great Aunt dies, famed horror hostess Elvira heads for the uptight New England town of Falwell to claim her inheritance of a haunted house, a witch’s cookbook and a punk rock poodle.

A half-hour screening of an episode of *Dark Shadows* will precede the feature, which is free and open to the family (the film is PG-13).

Coming up on Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Mount Toby Meeting House is a rare Valley appearance of **John McCutcheon**, singer, songwriter and most

accomplished multi-instrumentalist of folk music for social change.

The Meeting House is at 194 Long Plain Road (Route 63) in Leverett. Reservations are recommended and can be made at www.mttobyconcerts.wordpress.com. For more info, call Diane at (413) 548-9394.

The Supernatural Paranormal Investigation Research Intuitive Truth Society, or S.P.I.R.I.T.S., a **paranormal investigating team** from Winthrop, MA, will be at the Greenfield Public Library on Friday, October. 23, starting at 6 p.m. to share the results of some of its work.

The group has investigated claims of paranormal activity at numerous private and historical locations throughout New England.

S.P.I.R.I.T.S. invites you to join them for this evening presentation, which includes their review of evidence from some of their investigations with audio and video footage, as well as evidence from a special two-night investigation they conducted on the USS Constitution.

And remember: the **Franklin County Pumpkinfest** will be held on Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls on Saturday, October 24. Stop by our booth!

That same night there will also be a **Wendell Full Moon Coffee-house**, a fundraiser for the Friends of the Wendell Fire Department, held at Wendell’s Old Town Hall.

The event is a costume ball honoring Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. Everyone is encouraged to dress up as spirits for a honky-tonk concert and dance featuring Girl Howdy (a.k.a. “Ghoul Howdy”). Tickets are \$7 to \$15, and the night starts with an open mic at 7:30 p.m.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

p.s.:

Cecil T. Bagnall was a proud and bitter man, reportedly not well-loved around town in his time. He ran a commercial printing operation at a profit, to subsidize steady losses incurred by the newspaper.

We’re a nonprofit, intending to break even, run by a volunteer board of directors. We have a tiny and mostly part-time core staff and a small army of friendly volunteers.

It is a labor of love – great love – for all involved. The Reporter aims to be both a critical venue for civic participation, and a weekly love letter to these places we live. But it’s an expensive endeavor. We welcome donations, but we also rely on traditional sources of revenue:

1. *We need more readers to subscribe, and more of those who habitually read the paper for free to at least donate, if they are able. Inquire at subscriptions@montaguereporter.org, or just PayPal us some human money via montaguereporter@gmail.com.*

2. *We need the businesses you patronize, or run, and the events you plan, to advertise. We do run listings and announcements as a public service. But please see if you can add a little line in your budget to support community journalism! We’ll work out something that suits your needs. Write to ads@montaguereporter.org.*



Compiled by DON CLEGG

Last week’s edition of the *Montague Reporter* was the first issue of our 14th year of publication.

On Saturday in Leverett, there will be a **firefighters’ pancake breakfast**, followed by an **open house** at the fire station.

The breakfast, held in conjunction with the Leverett Harvest Festival, will take place at Leverett Elementary from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

Afterwards, there will be an open house at the fire station, from 11 a.m. to closing. Check out the vehicles and equipment, and stay for hands-on fire extinguisher training as well as eye screenings courtesy of the Lions Club.

Enjoy an **Archaeological Tour of Deerfield Village**, and a guided tour of the Old Burying Ground on Albany Road, with Claire Carlson, Education Program Coordinator at Historic Deerfield on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Both programs are free, open to the public and part of Massachusetts Archaeology Month. Historic Deerfield is located on Old Main Street in Deerfield.

Back by popular demand, the brother/sister musical duo of **Ken & Corki** will be performing in the lobby of the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday, October 17.

The variety of music and the rich tones of the duo have earned them the respect of local establishments and featured events. Ken &

October 21: Erving Library Feasibility Meeting

The town of Erving has hired a project manager and an architectural firm to oversee the planning and design phase for an expansion or new construction project. Three sites are being considered.

The library feasibility committee meets monthly, and its meetings are open to the public.

Dan Pallotta of P-3, Inc., based in Norwell, has been working with the local twelve-member committee since April of this year, being selected as project manager from a group of seven possible candidates. The firm of Johnson-Roberts

Associates, Inc., which has provided design services to over fifty public libraries, was selected in May as study architects.

The feasibility study is being financed through an MBLC grant of \$50,000 for this planning and design phase, and \$25,000 which was appropriated at an annual town meeting in May 2014.

The meeting is Wednesday, October 21 at 4 p.m. at the Erving Public Library, at 17 Moore Street. (The library closes at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays.)

EDITORIAL from prev. page
year. He went on owning and editing the weekly rag for another 37 years, until the day a villainous Greenfield daily bought him out just to fold it. He died a few months after that.

Nor did Turners Falls ever really “grow up,” or at least not in the way Bagnall and his contemporaries so fervently wished it would. Its population clocked in at 5,000 in 1900, 4,917 in 1960, and 4,470 in 2010.

Straggling through booms and busts, Turners found a new lease on life with the advent of hydroelectric power, and by the mid-twentieth century, the children and grandchildren of 1885’s horse-startling immigrant urchins were able to spread out across the Hill, a society of homeowners and churchgoers, Cub Scouts and Elks, while the downtown stayed wild and woolly.

Through all its ups and downs, there has never been a shortage of new arrivals, with new, fantastic ideas for its prospects. Something about its small size, neat grid, lack of responsibility to serve as the county seat, and views of the river and ridge have made it a New Urbanist dreamscape – nevermind that many capitalists still seem to treat it as a penal colony.

As we look back on the first thirteen years of the *Montague Reporter*,

er, a country paper again headquartered in this pint-sized metropolis, we also recognize our own fate feels tied to the village’s fortunes.

The next boom has long lurked just around the corner, and everyone has their theory as to what is slowing its arrival: if only more artists would move here, or if only they would finish work on the bridge, or if only the artists hadn’t strewn their folksy knick-knacks in the alleyways, it would bloom just like a Shelburne Falls or a Brattleboro.

The good news is that Turners is feeling, and looking, pretty awesome these days. This fall has seen a real flurry of construction, with multi-million-dollar upgrades throughout Power Town Apartments, a streetscape improvement project, a new bus stop, and numerous private initiatives underway.

The Shea Theater is getting a facelift, to go with its imminent brain transplant, with artistically contrasting mulberry and teal paint completed with a metallic glaze.

Unity Skate Park, long a fantasy, is finally taking concrete form, next to an award-winning playground that draws families from around the county.

On our way in to the office this morning, we even noticed a new coat of paint going up on a Fourth Street building we figured would stay half-turquoise forever.

The town could still use jobs. Public transportation is limited, the school district is again a site of conflict, and market-rate rents have been climbing. The sewers built in the 1880s and 1910s are in dire need of maintenance and repair.

The gory carcasses of shopping carts have replaced those of pigs and dogs when the snow melts, and we now have some of the best drinking water in the state. According to police logs, today’s young vagabonds “flip people off” and tie balloons to the odd dead raccoon.


But the town is becoming more livable, a more desirable place for transplants of all ages, and above all, *interesting*. It’s hard to keep up with all the developments here in Turners and keep track of everything going on throughout our five towns at the same time.

So we need you to share with us the news, as you hear it. We may not print any given item immediately, but our paper can only improve and grow with the feedback, and input, of its readership.

As Bagnall put it in the depths of 1885:

“If you like to see a decent local paper full of news and gossip, take pains to tell the news to the editor. He will appreciate it, and you will have your reward somewhere, if not here.”





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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Department Heads Disagree Over Home For Old Truck

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard began their October 7 meeting taking care of some details before they met with the highway commission, finance committee, and cemetery commission to discuss the 1972 International pickup truck that the fire department has passed to the cemetery commission.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo had made it clear that he wanted the truck out of the way of the fire department, and cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey obliged by bringing the truck to his house, where it is stored for the present.

Although the truck is old, it has fewer than 10,000 miles on it, and because it has spent most of its time on a cement floor in a garage, it is in good condition. But being old and idle for long periods it became too undependable for emergency use.

Cuneo thought it could bring as much as \$12,000 if it were auctioned to the right audience over the internet, but at a prior meeting, the selectboard allowed Mackey to take it over for cemetery maintenance. If cemetery use proved to be difficult in practice, it can be auctioned in the future.

But now, being stored over bare ground without a roof, both the frame and body are likely to start rusting fast. (In 1972, vehicles were made of steel.)

The feeling among selectboard members is that a town truck should be stored on town property, and one logical place for it would be at the town barn by the cemetery commission storage trailer. But highway commission chair Harry Williston has also made it clear that he does not want the truck on highway property.

Both Mackey and the selectboard want it moved before it sits there all winter, and selectboard chair Christine Heard called this meeting to work towards a solution.

Mackey reiterated what he said at a prior meeting: the truck is old, and relatively simple to work on; he can do routine maintenance, and knows where he can get parts; and the cemetery's perpetual care account can pay for that maintenance. The fact that it gets poor mileage will not be an issue, he said, because it will not travel far – maybe 300 miles a year.

It can hold the soil he needs, or the five sheets of plywood that he puts down when digging a grave, a load too heavy for his small personal truck. The tires that it came with were worn and mismatched, and Mackey has already replaced them with new used tires. He does not expect major problems.

Mackey said he saw a place on the highway department lot where some poles could be used to support a shed that could house this truck. But highway superintendent Rich Wilder said those poles, and that place, are earmarked to make a shed for the grader and backhoe, equipment more expensive to maintain and replace than the pickup. He also said that plowing snowfall after snowfall shrinks the space available in the lot.

Mackey responded that the

truck's storage space could be plowed in, as the cemetery commission will not use it in winter.

Selectboard member Dan Keller asked how much room is in back of the highway barn lot, and highway commission chair Harry Williston answered, "not much."

Wilder suggested that the cemetery commission could use a highway truck, but Mackey thought that would not work well: the highway's small pickup is no larger than his own, and it is used almost every day, and the larger dump trucks are too big.

Heard suggested that Mackey and Wilder walk over the property and look for a place that might work.

Williston said, "You have my opinion."

## A Boarding House?

Board members heard town coordinator Nancy Aldrich summarize a letter from Mike Wing that suggested he might create a boarding house on an unused property.

That property is still in land court, so the selectboard can do nothing with it now, and they told Aldrich to pass that information on to Wing.

## Getting Online

Jeffrey Pooser, who is on both the selectboard and broadband committee, said the latter group is divided as to whether it is time to hire a consultant to help navigate the complications and finances of establishing and running a fiber-optic internet system through the whole town.

Pooser said having the money ready does not commit the hiring, but would allow the possibility when they see a clear need. Keller suggested \$5,000.

The town of New Marlboro, in the lower Berkshires, sent Wendell a letter calling for towns to band together to negotiate with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to secure "last-mile" internet.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley's thought was that the towns involved are too varied in their needs and resources, and that a single approach will not work for all of them. Selectboard members agreed with her.

## Solar System

Dan Mascroft and Haskell Werlin met the selectboard to talk about the stalled project to build a 1-½ megawatt solar installation on land owned by Dave Arsenault.

Mascroft began discussion about that proposal years ago, but construction never began because the additional supply of electricity would have required an upgrade to the Wendell Depot substation, adding a prohibitive expense.

Now, as part of their own heat and power system, Erving Paper is installing and paying for an upgrade that would make the solar project financially viable.

The state has reached its current cap for commercial net metering, but it is possible the governor will allow an increase, and they want to be ready if that happens because the new cap will be reached soon after it is allowed.

Assessors Stephen Broll and Chris Wings came in with Mascroft and Werlin, which was convenient

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Highway Super Will Stratford Will Retire Next Week

By TIA FATTARUSO

The Leverett Cemetery Association met with the selectboard, minus Peter d'Errico, Tuesday night concerning its need to address continued restoration and maintenance of local cemeteries.

The association has already used Community Preservation Coalition grant funds to refurbish stones and fences at the North and Moore's Corner Cemeteries, but there are several more to go. As none of the cemeteries are owned by the town, the town cannot take over their maintenance.

David Glazier, who has been volunteering his time mowing, said he believed there may be a Massachusetts general law that allowed for town involvement with privately owned cemeteries. Some research should uncover whether there is any truth in that speculation.

Fundraising ideas were discussed, as was the changing nature of income for the association, as plots become fewer and donations, once plentiful, dwindle.

## Forests

Kristin DeBoer, executive director for Kestrel Land Trust, joined the board to explain a conservation restriction (CR) her group is seeking on land owned by W.D. Cows, Inc. She was joined by David Powicki, bringing the support of the conservation commission.

The project, which she called the West Quabbin Woodlands Project, is just in its speculative phase, and involves land on Brushy Mountain and around North Leverett Pond, as well as in Shutesbury.

Kestrel aims to move land that is currently in Chapter 61 (taxable forest land) into CR protection through the Forest Legacy and Massachusetts Landscape programs, which would guarantee public access for hunting, fishing and hiking.

The board agreed to sign a letter of support for the project.

## Roads

The intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads is not safe. So says resident and firefighter Stewart Olson, who has spoken before of the need to make changes at the intersection.

Olson said that there is no clear right of way, as there are no yield or stop signs; that it is a place of recurring accidents with inadequate warning signage; that tractor trailers inappropriately use the roads as a short-cut, despite not being able to make the turn; and that groups of motorcyclists using the scenic roadway routinely stop traffic coming from the opposite direction.

The board offered to review the three engineering proposals that have already been designed, and agreed that the more immediate solutions of rumble strips and signs should be made a priority for whoever becomes the new highway supervisor.

On which note, current highway superintendent, William Stratford, is retiring effective October 23.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis recommended members for a hiring committee to review applicants to fill the position. Applications are due by Monday, October 19. McGinnis and selectman Tom Hankinson will meet to determine the interim needs for the department.

## Other Business

Saturday, April 30 is the tentative date for next year's town meeting.

Heather Hutchinson will again represent Leverett for the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

Nancy Paulin has resigned from the planning board, and the selectboard will seek recommendations for her replacement.

A special town meeting will be Tuesday, October 27, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school.

because Mascroft and Werlin need to know how such a solar facility would be taxed. Towns in the area have taxed them at their full value as personal property, or at various lower rates, depending on the town.

Wings said she would contact Orange to see how they have assessed the solar farms there, and Aldrich, as coordinator in New Salem, spoke with people in Athol.

The selectboard was not ready to make a decision, and that was good because this meeting was not on the agenda, and so a decision of that much importance is not allowed until the next meeting, when the agenda can include their plan, and more information has been gathered.

## Other Business

The selectboard approved a request to waive the town hall use fee for the next session of the Wendell community chorus.

Wendell received a "Sustainable Materials Recovery" grant of \$2,300 from the DEP. The money can be used for recycling and composting bins.

Having been denied their attempt to aggregate electric bills for individual households, the Hampshire Council of Governments has decided to drop that effort. They recommended that the town work with an aggregation specialist, Colonial Power, if the town wants to renew the effort to aggregate household electric bills.

Manley came in to say she has a new toy: a remote check-depositing machine. Now when she has a check for the town she can run it through the machine and it will be deposited in the town account without her making a special trip into town.

Building inspector Phil Delorey sent the selectboard a letter that called for a change in wording of the zoning bylaw that states a building lot must have 200' of frontage on a public way. He has discovered that few of Wendell's roads are legally public ways, and so those words must be changed.

The board signed the warrant for the October 29 special town meeting.

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EVICTIOn from page A1

secured with locks and buzzers.

A room on the ground floor, she said, had no door, but rather a blanket covering the entrance. And the back entrance to the building was also unlocked, allowing strangers “to walk into the building either from the back or front.”

Turners Falls Fire Department chief Bob Escott said that his department was aware of conditions in the building, but had not been involved in the events of the past week. “As far as we know,” he said, “the alarm system has been in working order, but that does not mean parts of the system” had been maintained.

McNeely’s emergency order to vacate found the building lacked smoke detectors and alarms, adding that “it is likely these detectors are being removed by the occupants since the management has consistently replaced [them]”. It also noted that a fire enunciator panel was not functioning.

Lodgers and Licenses

The department’s condemnation order referred to the building as an “illegal boarding house,” and noted that the building’s owner, Matthew Robinson, “do[es] not possess a permit to operate a lodging house.”

There appears to be some uncertainty about the status of the property. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield owned the building from 1925 to 1968, when it was purchased by John and Maureen Shanahan, who ran it as a single-room occupancy dwelling known sometimes as the Heritage House.

Robinson purchased it from the Shanahans in 2007. The town assessors’ records listed the property under the code associated with “rooming and boarding houses” until 2010, and since 2011 as “multiple use, primarily residential.”

According to the assessors’ records the building contains 16 “units,” 15 bedrooms, 6 kitchens, and 6 bathrooms.

The town’s zoning bylaws define a lodging house as “living quarters, accommodating more than five unrelated individuals, whether as a licensed lodging house, dormitory, co-op, commune or similar arrangement,” and state that such facilities are allowed only in business districts, by special permit of the zoning board of appeals.

Town planner Walter Ramsey and building inspector David Jensen, who also serves as the town’s zoning enforcement officer, confirmed that once approved, a building’s zoning would continue under any subsequent owners, unless that use is abandoned.

But running a lodging house also requires a license, granted annually by the selectboard, for a fee of \$35.

“There is no sense that he’s abandoning the use,” said Jensen. “But he has failed to get his inspections done for a number of years... I have submitted notes to the selectmen’s office a number of times that he is out of compliance with his building code inspections.”

Montague selectboard minutes from December 17, 2012 indicate that two lodging house licenses were approved that night for 2013: one for the “Heritage House,” and one for “F.C. Housing Authority.”

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority maintains the Moltenbrey Apartments, substance-free single-room occupancy housing it offers at

Avenue A and Third Street.

A year later, in December 2013, the Moltenbrey was the only lodging house license included on the town’s list for 2014 license reapproval, and in December 2014 no lodging house licenses appeared on a list of liquor licenses the board approved for this year.

“If he had [a license] in 2012 and 13, it was inappropriately issued,” said Jensen. “There were enough objections to withhold it.... It should have been withheld, pending his compliance with my [department].”

The health department’s order to vacate states that Robinson “has never passed the lodging house inspection.”

Law Enforcement

Police chief Charles Dodge indicated he had sent a letter to the board of health on October 8 expressing concerns about criminal activity associated with the building.

According to press reports, in December 2013 two armed, masked men invaded one of the building’s apartments, assaulted a woman, and stole a 200-pound safe. The next June, several residents were arrested for possession of heroin with intent to sell. Last May another raid on the property produced 109 bags of heroin and five more arrests.

The next month, a man was shot “multiple times” in the legs in or near the building. He was discovered on the ground in front of the Freedom Credit Union on Avenue A.

On September 28, authorities announced that a 46-year old man named Kirk Graham, “AKA Matt Farrell,” had been arrested on Millers Falls Road in connection with that incident, on charges ranging from assault and battery by means of discharging a firearm to distribution of cocaine and money laundering.

Around four o’clock on the afternoon of Monday October 8, an hour before the posted order to vacate would have gone into effect, a small group congregated in the driveway, drinking beverages and speculating about who would be allowed back if the lodging house is reopened for occupancy.

The order to vacate lists 13 individuals, but also states that the building “houses transients and people who simply enter undeterred from the street.”

Multiple people who identified themselves as tenants of the building said the landlord had collected rent at the beginning of the month.

On Tuesday morning, the building appeared empty. Robinson sat outside in his car. He stated that in his opinion, the health department’s action was probably “a good thing.”

Robinson said he hoped to reapply for a license from the town. “I feel like I have a cooperative relationship with the town and with the police,” he added.

But the building’s path to legal reoccupancy is currently unclear. Jensen said that the landlord must first satisfy the board of health’s concerns. “My personal opinion,” he added, “is he ain’t opening up until he satisfies his certificate of inspection, too.”

He also noted that several of the conditions listed in the emergency condemnation order would require construction, but that as of Wednesday, Robinson had not yet applied for any building permits.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



RAU’S from page A1

In order to keep his business going during the hard times, Rau sent out postcards to his customers offering longer service hours and repair services.

Ralph’s wife, Shirley, wanted to be in the station with him every day. She even pumped gas.

When Ralph, Sr. decided to retire in 2002, his son Ralph, Jr. and Ralph’s wife Debbie bought into the business and took over the operations.

Over the years, business has improved, and repairs have increased, due to the excellent reputation of their mechanics, cousin Jay Rau and Liz Sweet.

Debbie and Ralph also celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary on October 2, and so the party was a celebration of the many years of their being together in business and life.



Popular DJ Bobby C. joined the celebration by playing a variety of country and rock tunes, filling the garage with music and adding to the great party atmosphere.



Can’t have an anniversary without a cake, and this one was excellent. Chocolate, of course.



Jay Rau mans the BBQ, cooking great hamburgers and hot dogs, with homemade baked beans in a pot on the table. Here one guest examines his choices while Jay talks to another.



Liz Sweet has been working as a mechanic at Rau’s for ten years. She says she always wanted to be a mechanic, and loves her work.



Rau’s Towing has contributed to the success of the business in recent years. This tow truck is just great to look at as well as getting the job done when it’s needed.

BLANCHETTE PHOTOS

MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Speak Up About Proposed Bus Schedules

By SALLY PICK

Now is the time to give the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) your input on the proposed changes to the Franklin County bus schedules and fares.

The final community conversation with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) about these pro-

posed changes will take place Tuesday, October 20, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the John W. Olver Transit Center at 12 Olive Street in Greenfield.

You can also submit comments to [Michael@frta.org](mailto:Michael@frta.org), or by mail to FRTA, 12 Olive St., Suite 1, Greenfield, MA 01301.

The following is an example of one of the proposed route and

schedule changes, for the Amherst/Greenfield Route 23, which will be modified to leave Montague Center, travel down Route 47 to Sunderland, and “make transfer connections with UMass Route 31.”

It will increase from the two current trips to four, with the following morning start and end times:

| Olver Center, Grnfd. | Farren    | Food City | Avenue A & 3rd | Turners Falls H.S. | Middle School | Millers Falls | Montague Center | Arrive Sugarloaf Estates | Connect w/ UMass Bus 31 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6:45 a.m.            | 6:53 a.m. | 6:55 a.m. | 6:57 a.m.      | 6:59 a.m.          | 7:03 a.m.     | 7:07 a.m.     | 7:15 a.m.       | 7:30 a.m.                | 7:30 a.m./ 7:36 a.m.    |
| 7:20 a.m.            | 7:28 a.m. | 7:30 a.m. | 7:32 a.m.      | 7:34 a.m.          | 7:38 a.m.     | 7:42 a.m.     | 7:50 a.m.       | 8:05 a.m.                | 8:15 a.m./ 8:11 a.m.    |

• The proposed new route connects with the free PVRTA Bus 31 to UMass at Sugarloaf Estates. The regular 31 weekday bus would leave Sugarloaf Estates at 7:30 a.m. for UMass, and is intended to connect with the FRTA bus. It would arrive at the UMass GRC building at 7:45 a.m. The reduced schedule connecting 31 bus would leave at 7:36 a.m. and arrive at UMass at 7:50 a.m.

• The regular weekday 31 bus that

would connect with the later morning FRTA bus arriving at Sugarloaf Estates at 8:05 a.m., leaves at 8:15 a.m. and arrives at UMass at 8:30 a.m. The reduced schedule, later-morning connecting 31 bus leaves at 8:11 a.m. and arrives at UMass GRC at 8:25 a.m.

The consultant that FRTA hired to look at bus routes, schedules and fares, proposed these new times and routes without having time to assess

the schedules of current and potential new riders, including the schedules of the Five College students and employees.

Rather, for Route 23, the changes proposed were intended to match current schedules without additional travel time.

Sally Pick is a member of the Montague Energy Committee.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Eight Hassles; One Emergency

**Monday, 10/5**  
4:30 p.m. Report of alarm on East Main Street. Same checked and secure.

**Tuesday, 10/6**  
1 p.m. Welfare check requested on Northfield Road. Found to be fine.

1:11 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle

without insurance and revoked registration.

**Thursday, 10/8**  
11:40 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 and State Road. Not a hazard; awaiting tow.

**Friday, 10/9**  
8:10 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 and State Road. Same towed.

10:35 p.m. Report of fire alarm at French King Motel. Found to

be guests in violation of fire regulations.

**Saturday, 10/10**  
7:50 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on River Road.

8:35 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant.

**Sunday, 10/11**  
12:15 p.m. Alarm on North Street. Found to be secure.

**DEJA BREW** from page A1

later. They came from far-off New Salem.

It was Saturday night, and the pub started to get busy: large groups filling the tables in the back, a hungry family playing trivia at a booth; casual conversations at the bar; the cook hustling out orders for take-out and eat-in pizza, paninis, salads and steak-tip dinners.

The band came in and started to set up. I keep an early schedule, and we left as the band began their setup. I apologized to one band member, saying my bedtime is nine o'clock. "Mine too," he said. "Nine o'clock a.m."

We had come hoping to catch up with Deja Brew's owner, Patti Scutari, but without calling ahead, and she was on the fly when we saw her out front. The next morning, we talked in the otherwise empty back room of the pub, with the bright October sun shining in and warming the conversation.

Patti and Vic Scutari, two radical Long Islanders with four children, first came to Franklin County to protest when the IRS took over Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner's house for refusing to pay taxes for war. They had been running a soup kitchen for ten years in Long Island, and were impressed with the progressive and tolerant attitudes in this area.

Wendell's librarian, Rosie Heidkamp, told them of a situation that might fit their needs and interest: the Wendell Country Store, a house with four bedrooms and two bathrooms, and a business attached that might even support them. They bought the store in 1993.

Patti told us that, after their first

week working 16-hour days as owners, Vic said, "We need to open a night spot." She said her reaction was, "Whoa, slow down..."

It took eleven years, and support from alternative community financing, for Deja Brew to open. The Scutaris raised \$15,000 by selling "Deja Dollars," packets of 20 coupons, each good for \$10 in food or drink at the future pub.



Owner Patti Scutari says Deja Brew has "more than met" her expectations.

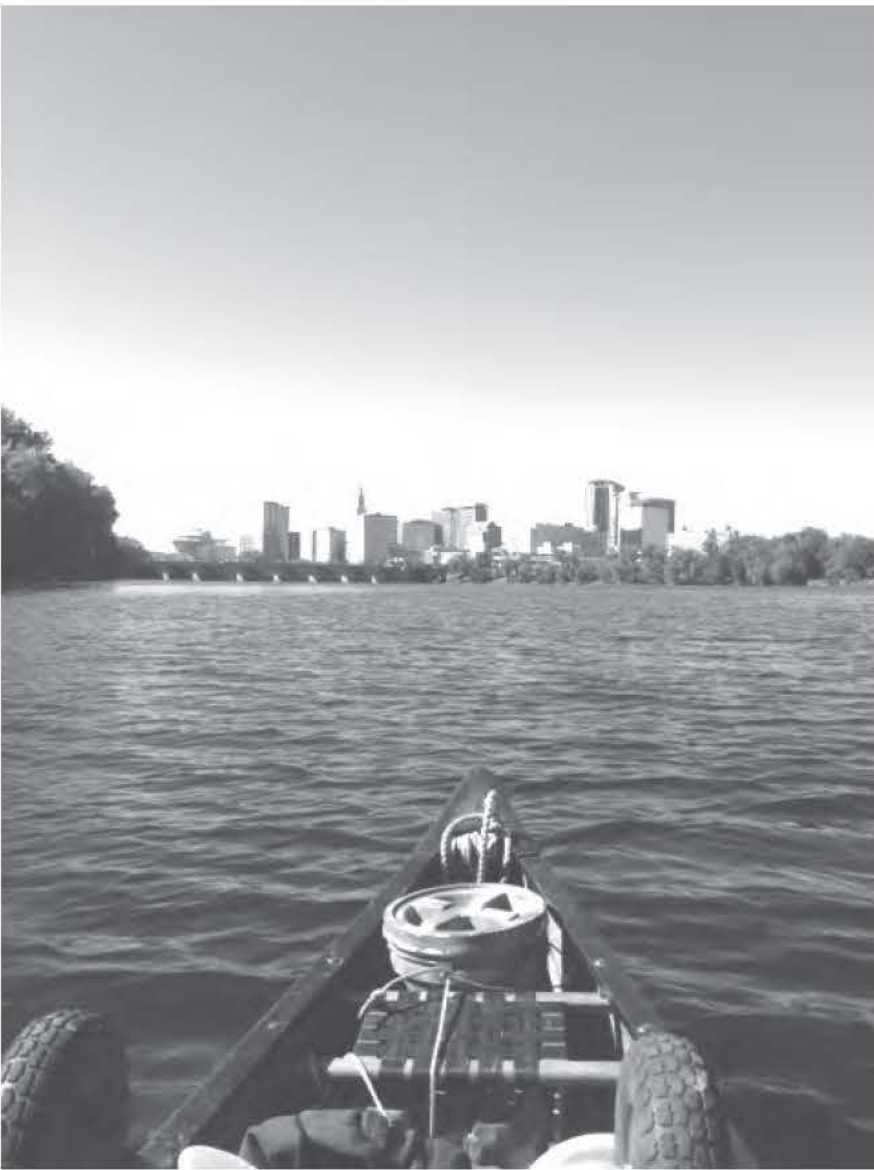
## Safe and Sound

*We heard back from Matt McCoy, who was featured in our October 1 edition after Mike Jackson found him portaging a canoe from Barton's Cove to Montague City (MR Vol.13#46, page A1, "A Portage At the Falls").*

*Mr. McCoy was paddling by himself from the Connecticut River headwaters at the Canadian border down to about Essex, Connecticut.*

*"I got to the Long Island Sound on September 25," he writes. "It was a wonderful experience. It really is a beautiful river."*

*Mr. McCoy also sent along this picture, which he took while "passing through Hartford."*



MATTHEW MCCOY PHOTO

With the permit in hand and community and conventional financing, the Scutaris opened up the Country Store's former beverage/video/pet food section to build the original 15-by-30 foot pub, with an open-air deck outside.

The September 8, 2005 *Reporter* article described it this way: "The inside is inviting, dark and cool, with copper table tops and bar, a five-choice brass tap, brass foot rail, recessed hanging lamps over each table. The ceiling is not tin but due to the ornate treatment I thought it was until I was told otherwise. It's a nice place just to walk in and visit."

Later, a heated tent was installed on the deck to provide a three-season dining space. In 2010, with more Deja Dollars sold, the deck was enclosed and made into a year-round dining room.

About three years ago, the front section of the bar area was expanded toward the parking lot, to make more room for musicians and dancing, and a gazebo has been built in the back lawn for outdoor music and gatherings.

Patti says she and Vic envisioned Deja Brew as a family-friendly place where citizens could meet and talk, where a woman would feel comfortable entering alone, on the model of an Irish public house.

From the beginning, Vic insisted on cloth napkins, a touch of the class that seems to have pushed aside the early concerns about the disturbances that can accompany alcohol. Patti's contribution to the atmosphere was the requirement that bartenders and wait staff dress in style, with the men wearing dress shirts and ties.

Deja Brew "has more than met

my expectations," Patti says. Over the years, the pub has seen birthday parties, rehearsal dinners, several weddings, a 50th wedding anniversary celebration, and people "raising a glass" in memorial send-offs to departed friends.

Working couples, tired from the daily grind and not interested in cooking at home, appear at the pub as "the dinner crowd." After evening town meetings, the pub has become a place to go to recover from and absorb the results of the meeting.

Last fall, Deja Brew opened up during the day for a meeting between regional planning graduate students from UMass and Wendell citizens exploring the possibilities for senior housing in town.

In a town where many people don't have television, Deja Brew is the place to watch major sporting events and election returns. Kate O'Kane said she appreciates joining a community of people to watch presidential debates, making these theatrical productions more palatable.

Through his declining health, Vic Scutari was a regular there for dinner – and the last food he ate, two days before he died in January 2013, was a piece of chocolate cake in the back room.

This Saturday, October 17, Patti is inviting the community to celebrate Deja Brew's tenth anniversary with her.

She promises rocking dancing music by Trailer Park, ten-year anniversary glasses, and more Deja Dollars, which will go towards financing an expansion of the kitchen, including a real pizza oven.



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# LOOKING BACK

## 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 13, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Three Pulled from River; Fourth Swims to Safety

It's a miracle no one drowned. On Saturday, October 8, nearly 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period. There was detective Lee Laster on top of the dam, screaming into his cell phone to Northeast Utilities to close the gates so the men in the water would have a chance. There was Gill fire chief Gene Beaubien hauling himself out of the drink by clutching the buoy cable as Gill's brand new rescue boat filled with water and sank. There was his deputy, Ken Sears, swimming strongly through the swollen waters, making for shore, while a young firefighter named Steven Peters, 22, is swept inexorably downstream toward the dam. And through it all, hanging onto his battered craft for dear life, the man who started this chain reaction of near calamity by trying to bring his motorboat to safe harbor while 20,000 cubic feet of water per second was hurtling past him, Jim Stuckey of Gill. As Stuckey's Riverside dock collapsed to the onslaught of water and flotsam logs, Stuckey decided to risk life and limb to save his 1960 Lone Star El Dorado. Peters and Sears landed in the

river when their rescue craft took water. A rescue boat and the El Dorado were lost over the dam. Peters was saved 30 yards from the edge of the dam thanks to a rope thrown by David Chandler, 37, a Massachusetts Electric Company lineman who happened to be visiting relatives in the area.

### Noise Regs Finalized

Bar owners who fail to keep the noise coming from their establishments within reasonable levels face the possibility of having their entertainment licenses revoked, under terms of the noise regulations passed unanimously by the Montague selectboard on Tuesday evening, October 11. The revised noise regulations are limited in scope to noise from bars and nightclubs, after town counsel advised the board to scale back their broader attempt to regulate all noise from whatever source in town. The board was also advised it did not have statutory authority to impose monetary fines for infractions of the noise regulations, without first passing a bylaw through town meeting granting that power. "We'd like to have a balance between having lively centers of activity — but not disruptive behavior — in the downtowns," said selectboard chair Allen Ross.

### GMRSD from pg A1

as an individual. Bastarache explained that he'd been "doing this" for seven years, having served previously as representative, and on various committees and negotiating teams, and that he found one characteristic most important: members working together with some decorum. He expressed concern with what seemed to him a return to the past, with infighting and disrespect. He reminded the members that this behavior was what got the district such bad publicity, having been "plastered all over" newspapers. Speaking of the committee's September 29 meeting, he said, "I was appalled at what I saw." He reminded members that as role models for children in the district, and representatives of the community, it is important they conduct themselves with decorum and mutual respect. "I care deeply," he said, adding that he has children in the district, and is an alumnus of the high school himself. "I have a fear that the focus on education will be lost. There is cause for concern." Brown thanked Bastarache for his comments, and the meeting moved on to informative presentations on Special Education programs by Nancy Parlakulas and on the district's program for English Language Learners by Rebecca Wright. As they spoke, the room gradually filled up with more visitors, mostly teachers, who sat and listened to the meeting but did not participate.

**Position Disclosed**

Later, Jane Oakes, a member from Gill, asked to make a state-

ment, and Brown agreed. Oakes said she wished to clarify her position, and past experience, in response to recent discussions regarding contract negotiation subcommittees. Brown has proposed that former teachers should not sit on the subcommittee that will negotiate teachers' contracts. Oakes said after she retired from her career as an elementary school teacher in the district, she decided to run for school committee. She was elected in May 2010, five and a half years ago, and was immediately asked to serve on a contract negotiations subcommittee. At that point, she said, she consulted the state attorney general's office, and even though there was no conflict of interest, she filed a disclosure of her previous employment with the town clerks of both towns, as well as with the school committee. After her re-election in May 2013, she again filed a disclosure when she served on a contract negotiations team for the most recent contracts. Oakes said, "My only reason for being a school committee member is to serve the best interests of the students, district and community. The implication that I, or any teacher on this school committee, would do anything not in the best interest of the district is unfair and unfounded. "As the issue seems to be that a school committee member might show favoritism toward acquaintances or friends in negotiating a contract, then no members of this committee would be able to negotiate, since everyone here knows employees of the district.

"Furthermore, I would like to state that it is important to remember during contract negotiations that the school committee and staff are all part of the same district, and negotiating for the 'best deal' for the district as a whole is always essential."

**Controversies Tabled**

There was an expectation that there would be a discussion about the composition of the subcommittee for negotiating teachers' contracts, with teachers and interested parties remaining as the meeting progressed. As the meeting wound down and the hour got late, Gill member Valeria "Timmie" Smith asked if the committee would be discussing the matter. Brown answered that it would be put on a future agenda. Another issue, around Gill Elementary fifth-graders' informational visits to Great Falls Middle School, was not on the agenda, but came up at the very end of the meeting when Brown read aloud a letter from the Gill selectboard on the matter, while refusing to entertain discussion of the matter because it was not on the agenda. In response, Joyce Phillips, member from Montague, attempted to read a letter on the topic she said was written by a Gill Elementary teacher. Brown refused to allow this, again citing its absence from the agenda, which led to some harsh words between them. This item should be on the agenda at the next meeting, which will be held on October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School.



### BREWERY from pg A1

It is hard for me to tell how much I like a beer until I have had a few glasses, so Bev and I purchased a quart of the pale ale to take home for further inspection. I later asked George about why he chose Turners. He explained that he had been looking in other places, including Florence where he and his wife, Emily Deines, live. Their original plan was to open a brewpub there, and when that fell through, the business plan changed. George decided to look in Turners, a place he always liked to visit. By happenstance, when he decided to come up to Turners and look into industrial sites, the building behind Simon's Stamps was available, and he thought it was perfect for his vision to create fine beers for sale and local distribution. I asked him about the name, Brick & Feather. "My wife Emily came up with it," he said. "It fits how I think about making beer. There is the industrial side of brewing, represented by the brick, and there is the other side: the art of making a fine beer." When asked about tours of the brewery itself, George said he's open to giving group tours when people come to visit, but that the operation is just getting up and going. I'm sure he has his hands full brewing beer. Curious beer drinkers can stop in to sample or purchase a quart or growler of their beer offerings on Thursdays and Fridays, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cheers!



Lawrence George, owner and head brewer at Turners Falls' brand new brewery, Brick & Feather.

### MORE NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE...

## Last Meeting's Good News!

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – District superintendent Michael Sullivan brought good news to the school committee during their September 29 meeting. Sullivan said he was pleased to say that Turners Falls High School tenth graders did very well on last spring's MCAS tests:

- In English, 94 percent of students scored proficient or advanced. This was the highest percentage for the TFHS ever, and 3 percent higher than the state average.
- In science, 82 percent of students scored proficient or advanced, which was 11 percent higher than the state average.
- In math, 78 percent scored proficient or advanced, and 53 percent scored advanced. This tied the state averages.

"Overall," Sullivan said, "this was the school's best MCAS performance since the tests have been given. Congratulations to our faculty and staff in addition to this year's juniors." Sullivan also reminded everyone that district-specific PARCC results

are scheduled for release in November or December. Families will receive individual results for PARCC then, but he doesn't know when individual MCAS results will be available for release. Sullivan also announced Turners Falls High School juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to take one tuition-free course at Greenfield Community College this year. Students can sign up for "dual enrollment" through their guidance counselors. Some prerequisite courses may be required. (This differs from the traditional path that students have been following, taking credits at GCC that transfer back towards high school requirements while also working towards a college degree, with families responsible for all tuition and fees.) With the Educational Transitions Program, for each student enrolled, the bill for the college course will be paid for by an anonymous donor. There is an application process and certain criteria for enrollment in this program.

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FOOTBALL from page A1

Athol's next series faltered after some nice stops by the Blue D and some costly penalties by the Raiders, and with 45.3 seconds left on the clock, Blue took over on their own 42.

Six more precious seconds ticked away. Turners was facing second and 7 from their own 45. Then Tionne whipped the ball downfield and found an again-open Croteau. Nick scrambled into the end zone and the half ended with the score 27-0.

Athol was finally able to put points up in the third quarter after a 67-yard pass play. But the Tribe prevented their attempted 2-point conversion, and at 4:24 of the third, the score was 27-6, where it would remain.

Four Indians accounted for Powertown's points: Quinn Doyle and Jalen Sanders each scored a touchdown, Nick Croteau had two, and Tyler Lavin added 3 PATs.

Sanders led the ground attack with 122 yards. Doyle rushed for 95, Jack Darling had 29, Tionne Brown scrambled for 17 and Will Roberge and John Driscoll also carried the ball.

Tionne went 2 for 8 in the air, both receptions for touchdowns. Will Roberge helped out with 2 interceptions.

Turners next travels to Belchertown on Friday, October 16 to play the Orioles.



# SPORTS CORNER

Below: Turners' Cassidbe Wazniak drives the ball down the field at Pioneer Regional High School. The Indians defeated the Panthers 2-0.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Above: Jess Loynd sets the ball for Jordyn Fiske's attack during a game against Pioneer. Turners Falls defeated Pioneer Regional, 3-2.

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## Dolls Animated by Art, Ancestry and Spirit



By EDITE CUNHA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Belinda Lyons Zucker makes dolls. That isn't all she makes – she is also an accomplished painter, printmaker, and sculptor – but in her words, “dolls are big.”

She began making dolls back in the late nineties, when her first grandchild, Jazz, was born in South Carolina. She now has two children



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

“Aunt Etta (King),” by Belinda Lyons Zucker (shown at top right).

and three grandchildren.

“I wanted to do something that represented my feelings as a mother and also honor the tradition of figure-making as a tribute to ancestry,” she says.

So she made “Aunt Etta at 94,” a sculpted doll made of polymer clay amalgamate over wire, with a soft body. Aunt Etta at 94 represents Belinda's grand aunt, tiny and wizened, sitting in a rocking chair holding an apple.

That was the birth of The Grandmother series, a group of forty dolls that became a solo exhibit in 2006 at the Northampton Center for the Arts.

“Etta” was the first of The Grandmothers, but Belinda has made hundreds of dolls of various kinds. A quick look at her website, [www.picturetrail.com/beezdolls](http://www.picturetrail.com/beezdolls), shows us the stunning array. In addition to the beautiful details of all of The Grandmothers, there are also Fetish, Wall, Wrap, and Clay Figure dolls. Most of these have moved out into the world, into private and public collections.

Lyons Zucker's dolls pay tribute to her own ancestry, which is rooted in the West African country of Sierra Leone, by way of Edisto Island, a Gullah community off the coast of South Carolina.

“I'm carrying this tradition in my soul,” she says. “It is passing through generations, surviving ‘the crossing.’”

Thus, for Belinda, there is a par-

allel in her dolls to African sculpture. In African cultures, the sculptures are not just for the pleasure they bring when they are looked at. They actually capture a spirit. In them, the aesthetic and spiritual senses come together.

“This all changes the idea of what a doll is,” she says: she is creating spirit, working in the art of reliquary.

She starts out with a lump of clay, fashioning the face, the eyes. “I just keep messing around with it till it tells me to stop,” she says. “It's wonderful when that happens! Then I match findings to go along with that spirit.”

The findings are a fine tuning of details that further manifest the doll's spirit.

Another doll, Aunt Etta (King), is a stately figure in a long blue dress with a white lace collar. She sits primly in a straight-backed chair, hands crossed on her lap, legs crossed at the ankles. She wears exquisite black shoes and a well-coiffed curly wig, demure pearl necklace, and pearl stud earrings.

But her glasses are gold rimmed cat's eye glasses. She loved her glasses and “she loved gold,” the artist adds with a grin: “She had six gold teeth!”

Aunt Etta was made on commission for Belinda's uncle Bill. The exquisite fur stole she wears is fashioned from a piece of Aunt Etta's actual stole.

see DOLLS page B4

## Old Sinks Rise Again



ROSSI PHOTO

Ken Buzzell checks out a “double basin with apron” model in his sink sanctuary.

By NINA ROSSI

**GARDNER** – At the end of a dead-end street on the outskirts of the former furniture capital of New England is a vintage appliance mecca that owner Ken Buzzell has dubbed “Grandpa's Antique Kitchen.” Over a hundred sinks dot the landscape around the collector's home at 2 Whitney Street, sharing the acreage with pigs, ducks, chickens, roosters, and several dog kennels. Here and there, storage containers harbor stoves and refrigerators from the pre-plastic decades. Under tarps or stored directly on the ground are sinks, ranging in age from 50 to 150 years old.

The former tool and die maker and manufacturing supervisor started collecting old appliances about fifteen years ago when he purchased this property and the house

that sits on it. The house was built in the 1970s and was nondescript enough that he and his wife Peggy thought they could create a vintage home inside of it. They went looking for kitchen items, he says, and “it just got out of control.”

There is the matter of style – those swooping curves, the heavy chrome or nickel-plated trim, the art deco pin striping – but also indestructible, rock solid, durability. “These sinks will be around in 2,000 years,” claims Ken, gesturing to the collection in his yard. “They are made from 1/4 to 3/8-inch cast iron, with good porcelain. Porcelain is crap now.”

Even the best old porcelain can show signs of wear, though. What about refinishing?

Ken doesn't believe such repairs will last. In his collection, he has some worn sinks that he'll sell for

\$100. The same sink with perfect porcelain will go for at least a thousand dollars more, depending on the size. Color can add a lot more to the price.

The most popular model right now is the double basin with apron, also called a “country style” sink. Fittings are standard, so there is no problem integrating an older sink into a modern kitchen or using brand new faucets with them. To protect the porcelain, just put a rubber mat in the bottom of the basin. Simple.

When he searches for sinks for his collection, Ken hunts out the cream of the crop, those that are unusually attractive, or interesting, or rare. The one he has in his own kitchen is a gorgeous mint green double-drainboard model, whose special feature is a matching, lidded compost bin that pulls out on a scissors arm from underneath.

He also has a very rare sink from the 1800s made of wood, its double basin lined with nickel silver. The drains have a unique pipe stopper that also serves to handle overflows, and the divider between the basins follows a pleasing curve. A 1930s model has a round lid on one side where a dishwasher could be accessed.

He remembers the story behind each appliance: where he traveled to get it, who owned it, etc. For instance, the Magic Chef gas stove he uses in his kitchen came out of an apartment building in Manhattan. He found out, on the way out the door with it, that it belonged to

see SINKS page B5

## AT THE SHEA: “EVIL DEAD” PROMISES TO BE A BLOODY MESS

By JOE KWIECINSKI

special show.

**TURNERS FALLS** – When the cast wishes each other good luck before the curtain goes up Friday night at the Shea Theater for opening night of “Evil Dead: The Musical,” it might not be such a good idea to use the traditional “break a leg.” After all, the creepy but laugh-packed musical production is a deep homage to the original *Evil Dead* trilogy and – dare we say – “brought to life” by Sam Raimi and Bruce Campbell.

The local performances will be staged by the Ghost Light Theater at the Shea on consecutive Fridays and Saturdays, October 16 and 17, 23 and 24, and 30 and 31, at 8 p.m. each night. The Halloween performance will be an extra

“Evil Dead: The Musical” is making its debut in the Pioneer Valley. The script and score are nods to the original movies that formed a trilogy – self-aware, tongue in cheek, and given to going to extremes.

The musical was first performed as a stage production in 2003 in Toronto, and was an instant hit.

It's been staged many times over the years, and last year still showed life (?) with a North American tour.

Press materials for the local presentation stress that this show is “in no way appropriate for young audiences.” There is a lot of “blue language,” and simulated “red blood.”

see EVIL page B5



KEVIN TRACY PHOTO

Joe Van Allen as Ash, and Sam Hinds as his little sister Cheryl, star in Ghost Light Theater's production of *Evil Dead* at the Shea.



## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### Autumn Chores Conundrum

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – The work list seems daunting. The days dwindle down, and all the tasks that should have been done over the summer months are still there, the list almost untouched: paint the front porch, repair cement steps, split wood, clean down cellar and up in the attic, repair the car port, and so on.

But who can seriously work in summertime 90-degree heat? For a brief moment we can sympathize with slow-paced life of the Deep South. No wonder things take time to get done down there: too hot!

At least up here in New England we get a break between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, before the snow flies, to get stuff done.

Yet, this morning, the yard looks so quiet and lovely in the early fog of autumn. I'll just linger a little bit to savor this season.

So many summer birds have left: the hummingbird, the thrush, the oriole, the grosbeak, gone.

But there's the distant crow, calling from across the water, and a baker's dozen of white-throated sparrows down from the hills of Wendell, bobbing and scratching among the rustling new-fallen

maple leaves.

In a moment, the October sun will burn through the mist, and maybe that parula warbler will work its way through the tangle of asters like it did yesterday. For sure, the bumblebees, busy as ever, will commence their nuzzling the purple aster banks as yesterday. They'll be tolling the nectar in earnest before their Big Sleep that will soon be coming on.

I guess I'll take time to check out the dozens of big Baldwin apples  
see WEST page B3



LOUIS AGASSIZ FEURTES ILLUSTRATION

Setophaga americana – Northern Parula Warblers



# Pets of the Week



## “STELLA & BELLA”

Hi there. I'm Stella and I'm part of a great 2-fur-1 deal with my sister Bella. We're like two peas in a pod! You'll love the warmth of my fur as I sit on your lap, watching the snow flurries.

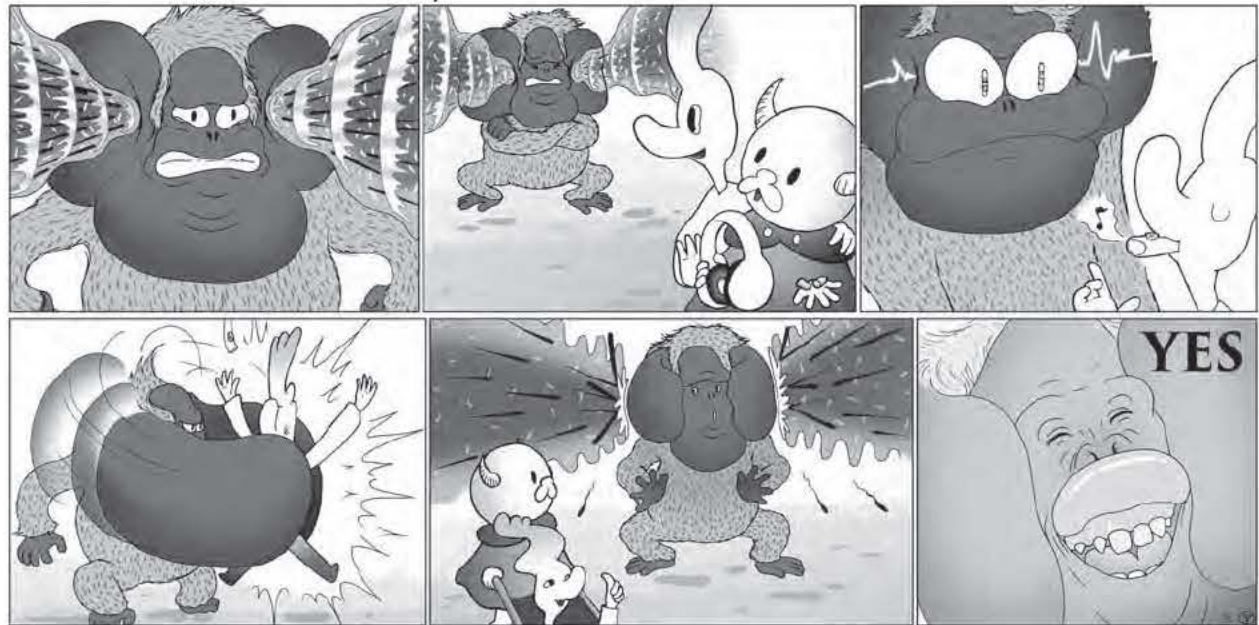
I am a bit of a chatterbox, which works out well because my sister Bella is a good listener.

Our person was unable to care for us anymore, so here we are, the rhyming sisters.

Come down to Dakin and ask for the rhyming kitties!

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

# WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [overture.org](http://overture.org).

## Senior Center Activities October 19 to 23

**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 10/19**  
8 - 9:30 a.m. Foot Clinic (appt.)  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 10/20**  
9 a.m. Mat Yoga (Subscription)  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Painting Class  
**Wednesday 10/21**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 10/22**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Card Games  
**Friday 10/23**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Writing Group  
**Saturday 10/24**  
Pumpkinfest

**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 congregat meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 10/19**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
12:30 Artful Knitting & Crochet  
**Tuesday 10/20**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:30 Painting Class, Friends' Mtg  
**Wednesday 10/21**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo & Snacks  
**Thursday 10/22**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles  
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class  
7 p.m. BOH Pipeline Meeting  
**Friday 10/23**  
9 a.m. Quilting,  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 Pizza & Movie  
**LEVERETT**  
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto: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

## Televised Meetings & More!

By PAM KINSMITH

The MCTV staff and crew are knee-deep in new footage in the editing suite as well as shooting new material fast and furiously in the Montague area! New to our viewing calendar this week:

*2015 Season Finale of the Fat Detective:* Another day in the life of our resident philosopher, the Fat Detective. Includes a behind-the-scenes interview with the show's star, who shares his thoughts on what will take place in Season Two.

*Oct. 5 Gill Selectboard Meeting:* The meeting was opened with a presentation by the Gill Historical Commission. Presented by commission chair Ivan Ussach, topics included

updating the GHC museum room, the new Archaeological Accountability Policy, and the Battlefield Project meeting for area landowners. A number of project updates were discussed, ranging from the Green Community Grant to the safety complex roof. Discussion also included the coalition of towns in opposition to the gas pipeline, issues with the Fire Department vehicles, Gill Elementary, and the potential for a large-scale solar project.

*Oct. 5 Montague Selectboard Meeting:* Discussions included a range of topics related to the downtown including the issuance of a temporary alcohol permit for Black Cow Burger during Pumpkinfest, fund disbursement as part of the

Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement Project, the selectboard's appointment to the Franklin Regional Planning Board and the implementation and administration of the CDBG FY'15 program by the housing authority. Two hearings on pole location were also on the agenda, as was the announced appointment of new police officer Nathan Pervere.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capturing the moment! (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Smooth, Still Hands

confused with Parkinson's disease. Unlike Parkinson's disease, however, ET doesn't lead to serious complications. Parkinson's is associated with a stooped posture, slow movement, a shuffling gait and other difficulties.

Not all tremors are ET. There are more than 20 kinds of tremors. For instance, excessive caffeine, alcohol withdrawal, problems with thyroid or copper metabolism or the use of certain medications may cause tremor.

A genetic mutation is responsible for about half of all cases of ET. The only other known risk factor is older age. Although ET can affect people of all ages, it usually appears in middle age or later. Men and women are affected equally.

Abnormal communication within the brain causes ET. There is no cure yet for this disorder.

Tremor is an involuntary movement of one or more parts of the body. Most tremors occur in the hands. Tremors can also show up in the arms, head, face, vocal cords, trunk, and legs.

Victims of tremors usually get them when they make a delicate movement such as writing with a pen or tying shoelaces. Tremors usually

disappear when a person is resting.

Some people have relatively mild tremors throughout their lives, but others develop more severe tremors and increased disability.

Most people with ET don't need treatment. The effects of the condition can be eased by avoiding what aggravates the problem – lack of sufficient sleep, anxiety, stimulants such as caffeine, and temperature extremes.

Drinking alcohol can calm tremors for up to an hour after consumption. However, tremors tend to worsen when the alcohol wears off.

Physical therapy and exercise can develop more stability in hands that shake.

And there are other medications besides Botox that can bring relief. These include beta blockers normally used to treat high blood pressure, anti-seizure medications and tranquilizers.

If tremors are severe and drugs don't help, there are surgical procedures available.

If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com).

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I heard that Botox can help if you have shaky hands. Is that true?*

“Shaky hands” is a symptom of “essential tremor,” which is the most common movement disorder. The medical community calls it “essential,” because it isn't linked to other diseases.

Botulinum toxin type A (Botox) injections, popular for ironing wrinkles, is used to treat muscle spasms and tremors caused by diseases such as multiple sclerosis, and neurological conditions such as muscle spasms of the neck, shoulders and face.

And, yes, it's true that Botox is used to treat hand tremors. Injections can bring relief for up to three months. However, if Botox is used to treat hand tremors, it can cause weakness in your fingers.

Essential tremor (ET) is often

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**WEST** from page B1

ripening in our heirloom apple tree. Good winter keepers, their pungent and sweet smell already fills the front hall and kitchen where they will spend part of the late fall and early winter until they're turned into applesauce and passed around to the neighbors.

A number of French-style apple tart pies have already been consumed and added to our waistline! We mammals are fattening up for the lean season on the way. There's no denying the basic nature and seasonal cycles of our species.

Speaking of fattening up, the black bears have not been back to the yard in the past few weeks, but we're expecting them any night now. They make their rounds through here every four weeks or so, covering and maintaining their territory. Last time, they got into a basket of Baldwins left on the back porch, and carried a dozen or so off to the edge of the yard (how did they do that?). We found the apples scattered near the shed with each one partially chomped through, huge bites with big teeth marks evident. Hmmm.

Speaking of the shed, I should get around to repairing the roof instead of watching the apples ripen.

I head for the back of the yard and get immediately distracted by the lovely parula warbler working the rhododendrons. Into the house I go to get the binoculars. Remembering I need a hammer while I'm in there, I rummage around in the toolbox, grab hammer and roofing nails and head back out to look for the warbler, binoculars swinging around my neck, hands full with hammer and nails.

No warbler, warbler gone.

Put down hammer and nails and go into the shed for the roofing paper. Trip over the rake, reminding me to put it out of the way, leaning against the tree where I can find it, since the lovely leaves are starting to fall down.

Unrolling the roofing paper, I take a minute to watch a startled spider

and its heal-all ball of a cocoon deposited in the roll.

Back to the shed for the shears. Hmmm. Rusted and needing oil. I go back to the cellar for the antique oil can, which makes its peculiar *pock* sound when you push on the bottom. Back out to the shed.

Drat! I need a ruler. Back to the house for the yardstick.

Looking into the nail can, I realize I don't have enough for the job. Jump in the car and head off to Aubuchon's. May as well stop at the Greenfield Savings Bank and the post office while I'm at it. Low on gas, I stop at Robert's service station to fill up, especially since it's Tuesday and you get extra points on your rewards card.

I'm thinking I may as well pick up a cup of coffee at the Second Street Bakery on Fourth Street. Then I remember I'm supposed to meet Gizmo there to talk Red Sox baseball history at ten. No Gizmo, no Ed Gregory. Wait! That's *next* Tuesday. Phew!

Get my gas, get my coffee, go to the bank, go to Aubuchon's (of course for the nails!), go to Dean's window at the post office. Get my nails, mail my bills.

Then by chance I cross paths with Joe Graveline and pass the time of day, as the clock moves forward in time's inexorable way.

When I get home, it's lunch time. Just as I begin chomping on my sandwich on the now-sunny back porch, there's the parula back in the rhododendron! Into the house to fetch the binoculars, and spend ten minutes watching the migrating warbler.

Guess I'll put off that roofing job until tomorrow, it'll have to wait another day, what's the difference? It'll still be there tomorrow or the next day, besides I have to cut and stack wood this afternoon.

I'll probably get to it all in a day or two, depending on luck, my evident sense of sequence, careful organization, and how nice the next autumn morning will be.



## October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

October is for National Breast Cancer Awareness. This started as a partnership in 1985 between the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries, which has now become part of AstraZeneca, which produced several anti-breast cancer drugs.

The purpose in mind for this month was to get people to see mammography as the most effective tool in the battle against breast cancer.

The famous pink ribbon was made the symbol of breast cancer awareness in 1993 by Evelyn Lauder, senior corporate vice president of the Estée Lauder Companies. She was also the founder of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Many different things are done to promote and raise funds for this cause, such as the Warriors in Pink clothing line, TV and movies with breast cancer as part of them, and various things being highlighted in pink. In 2007, the Tokyo Tower was lit up in pink, followed by the White House in 2008.

Public events such as marathons are good opportunities to promote this cause.

Two movies about breast cancer have been on the Lifetime Network. One is *Why I Wore Lipstick to My Mastectomy* (2006), which was based on the memoir of Lifetime executive and breast cancer survivor Geralyn Lucas.

Another is called *The Five* (2011), which features five short films about the impact of breast cancer on people's lives. Each short film focuses on a title character, and they all share an interconnecting thread, a character named Pearl who is a doctor to a couple of the women featured in the films.

Warriors in Pink Apparel is featured in one of the films, and during the commercials when it originally premiered. Warriors in Pink's profits go toward breast cancer research.

People buy other apparel connected with this cause. Ed Burakiewicz of Greenfield says he likes the Warriors in Pink line, and has also has purchased "t-shirts with breast cancer research logos on them."

Those pink ribbons certainly have paid off when it comes to being a symbol of awareness for breast cancer.

"Almost everyone knows someone who has been affected by

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Midnight Skateboarders; Smoke From Sparklers; Skunk Drowner; Pill Pincher; Kids Tossing Knife

**Monday, 10/5**

12:47 p.m. Caller advises that party is wandering around in the Food City parking lot and may be casing vehicles. Upon arrival, officer observed party walking back into residence at 15 Fifth Street.

1:34 p.m. Caller reports that she can see her elderly neighbor lying on the ground and a large pit bull standing in close proximity; not sure if the dog knocked the woman down. Responding officer spoke with neighbor, who advises that she is fine and that the dog did not knock her down.

7:31 p.m. 911 caller reports that a house that she drives by with her granddaughter on the way to/from school has its front yard decorated like a graveyard for Halloween with people hanging from tree. Caller concerned about her granddaughter seeing this and being upset by it, or thinking it is something to try herself. Advised of options.

9:36 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that someone was walking around her car; when she went to the window, the person said, "Someone's there; we gotta go," then ran towards the back of the house, jumped into what looked like a dark minivan, and left the area. Caller just wants this on record.

10:26 p.m. Caller reports that a male is walking near Avenue A and Seventh Street pushing what looks like a baby carriage; male appears to be throwing things from the baby carriage onto the grass. Unable to locate.

**Tuesday, 10/6**

12:28 a.m. Suspicious vehicle parked on side of Industrial Boulevard. Parties moved along;

male and female on meal break from work.

1:11 p.m. 911 misdial; caller advises he was looking for the number for Ruggeri's Package Store and meant to call #11.

**Wednesday, 10/7**

12:16 a.m. Caller reports group of 4-5 people skateboarding on Third Street. Group is being very loud and making it difficult for the caller to sleep. Officers clear; no skateboarding occurring at this time.

10:32 a.m. Manager reports that male is causing a disturbance in the food pantry at the Survival Center. Officer advises male was initially denied at the food bank because they thought he was not being truthful. After talking with the man and with the officer, they did end up offering him food, which he refused to accept.

10:37 a.m. Report of a loose dog near the treatment plant on Greenfield Road. The dog is disabled and has a prosthetic with wheels on his back legs. The dog is struggling to get back up the hill. Area checked; unable to locate.

12:50 p.m. Caller wishes to speak to an officer re: filing a complaint against a male party. Officer advised caller of options and called male party to advise him regarding his conduct. Male admitted to saying some rude/nasty things to the caller while holding a BB gun, and agreed that during future dealings with the health department he will act more civilly, and keep his dog leashed or contained.

4:39 p.m. Caller from 15 Fifth Street wishes to have on record that a female party came into his apartment, asked for a cigarette, and took his \$20.

6:50 p.m. Caller from Avenue A advises that her daughter stole \$50 and half of her medication (Oxycontin). Advised of options.

7:28 p.m. Two calls from same party reporting suspected gunshots on J Street. Area checked; nothing unusual found.

**Thursday, 10/8**

8:54 a.m. Caller from Second Street reports that about a half hour ago, someone opened the door to her screened porch and stole her cat. Caller did not see who took cat but did hear the screen door open. Officer spoke with caller and her boyfriend; boyfriend advises that the cat has gotten out on its own before and it's possible that it did so again.

10:05 a.m. Animal control officer received an email from a citizen reporting that a party has been trapping and drowning skunks that he finds at/near his property. Citizen attached screen shots of party's Facebook page where he openly admits to his behavior and admits that the ACO has spoken to him before. ACO advised Chief Dodge and will be following up on the cruelty to animals complaint.

1:22 p.m. Caller reports that a female on Fourth Street is yelling and cursing in her apartment. Units spoke with female and advised her again regarding the complaint. Landlord advises that they will try to rectify issue.

7:25 p.m. Caller advises of 4-5 high school kids out in the area of Avenue C and Keith Street playing with sparklers, which has created a large cloud of smoke. Officer clear; no issues; "kids" are Hallmark students.

**Friday, 10/9**

2:01 a.m. Report of fight in progress at 15 Fifth Street, possibly 4-5 males involved.

██████████ was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property over \$250.

8:37 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer re: an incident involving a student from Sheffield Elementary School threatening a teacher. Confirmed no weapons were mentioned and that there was no imminent danger to teacher or students. Officer spoke with caller and principal; investigated.

11:57 a.m. Report of a hit and run accident at Hallmark Institute

of Photography; caller observed heavy front end damage to her vehicle when she came outside between classes. Officer advises no debris by vehicle; accident may have happened elsewhere. Caller later advised that the accident appears to have happened at her residence in Greenfield; she has contacted GPD.

**Saturday, 10/10**

12:45 p.m. Report of at least 8 youths, 9-10 years old, tossing a knife into the air and catching it, stabbing it into the ground, etc. in the parking lot across from Town Hall. The group is also flipping off motorists as they pass by. Officer spoke with youths. One admitted to having a pocket knife and throwing it in the air and trying to stick it in the ground. Youth advised to take knife home, tell his parents what happened, and that his parents could call MPD if they had any questions.

8:36 p.m. Caller advises of a disturbance in neighbors' apartment; he can hear female party screaming obscenities, loud music, and crashing. Banging was heard upon officer's arrival; party detained for short period due to her behavior after conversation with officers; later released and agreed to stop acting in such ways. Male party with active warrant not located at residence.

10:05 p.m. Officer approached by party advising of a male on a bicycle traveling towards Gill that appeared to be impaired. Officer checked on party, who resides in Riverside in Gill; ok to continue home.


**Sunday, 10/11**

2:21 p.m. Caller reports that 5 minutes ago, a male party purchased diabetic needles and went straight into the bathroom at Rite Aid. Subject is still in the bathroom. Officers en route; subject gone on arrival.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street complaining of neighbors having a "wild party"; caller is unable to sleep due to the noise. Officer reports that noise is very audible from road. Officer spoke to homeowner, who will be shutting down the music. 11:54 p.m. Caller advising of possible drug deal that he witnesses on an almost nightly basis while walking his dog. Referred to an officer.

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DOLLS from page B1

“White fox – her favorite. She wore it to church every Sunday,” explains Belinda.

Of the forty grandmother dolls she’s created, Belinda has kept only one, her own favorite: Miss Cora, a 17-inch doll seated in a handmade chair. She is made of cloth with polymer clay head and shoes.

Miss Cora was roughly inspired by her mother’s friend of that name. But while crafting her, Lyons was always thinking of all the women in her life who were like grandmothers to her.

Miss Cora was from Georgia, had 6 kids, and cooked all the time. When she finally sat down, in the rocker on the front porch, she’d have a bible on her lap.

“She did everything with grace,” Belinda says. “An amazing woman.”

Aunt Annie Lee was her great grandmother’s sister. She was well into her 90s, with flowing white hair, when Belinda met her on a trip to South Carolina for a family funeral.

“It was only a glimpse,” she says. “But just a glimpse can really imprint. It was cathartic for me.”

Artistic Beginnings

Lyons Zucker, who has lived in Montague for over thirty years, was born in New Haven, where her mother had moved from South Carolina. When she was a teen, the family moved to Boston, where she attended high school.

In 1969 she went on to study clay and sculpture at the Museum School in Boston. She loved clay sculpture, but one really needed to have a studio to continue it.



The artist at her workbench, preparing pieces to sell at the Franklin County Pumpkinfest, including ghoulish heads (in foreground), and “She Waited Too Long,” which features a skeleton in a wedding dress.

She moved into painting, studying with a Japanese instructor named Kaji Aso. When Mr. Aso left the Museum School to start his own studio, Lyons Zucker followed him out, and continued working with him for seven years.

“Then I had a child,” she says,

“and that was that.”

But “that” is never “that” for someone with Belinda’s motivation and energy. She helped organize and create the Cooperative Arts Institute in Boston, a group of artists who started programs in schools – art, music, storytelling workshops

Artists of Franklin County Exhibit at Discovery Center: “The Nature of Life”

TURNERS FALLS – The Artists of Franklin County present “The Nature of Life,” a group art exhibit in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. A mix of fine art and photography with creative reflections on nature and inspiring images of wildlife, flowers, grasslands and waterways, the exhibit is an opportunity to see work by several new artists as well as seasoned ones.

The artwork will be on display starting October 11, with an artist reception on Saturday, October 17, in the Great Hall from noon to 2 p.m. The public is invited to join us. The exhibit will continue through the end of November.

Artists taking part in this exhibit are photographers Ellen Blanchette, Dianne Interlande, Bruce Kahn,

Gloria Kegeles, Ginny Newton, Lynn Pelland, Beth Pelton, Debbie Rittall and painter and multimedia artist Alice Thomas. The show is curated by Ellen Blanchette. The artists are all pleased to support the work of the Great Falls Discovery Center by offering their art work for the public to enjoy.

About the Artists

Ellen Blanchette is a news reporter and photographer, working for the Montague Reporter since 2008. She lives in Greenfield. She has shown her photographs of flowers, landscapes and elements of the natural world for several years with participation in exhibits in Greenfield, Turners Falls and Montague Center. Along with Diane Clancy, she coordinated the Artist Windows

Exhibits for several years, putting art in Greenfield store windows along Main and Federal streets. Of nature photography, she says, “Watching the natural world through a camera lens helps me connect back with the fullness of nature, and see my place in it. It is a great source of inspiration and brings me much joy.”

Dianne Interlande is a photographer with a wonderful eye. She says she enjoys capturing the natural beauty of her surrounding. She lives in Montague.

Bruce Kahn’s artist statement: “Bruce Kahn was born in a log cabin on the Indiana plains in 1835. He served with distinction as Minister of the Bizarre in the cabinet of Abraham Lincoln. After the death of his beloved President and lover, he returned to a quiet life on the prairie where he invented the wooden cardiac pacemaker, the personal foot massager, and the wheel. After inventing the digital camera, Kahn took up photography.”

Gloria Kegeles says, “My non-representational photographs contain elements of nature reflected in the surfaces of restored vintage vehicles, combined with elements of the vehicles themselves.”

Ginny Newton of Erving states, “Photography is my main creative outlet and fits into the cracks and crevices of my everyday life. It engages my mind in so many surprising ways. My photographic interests are far ranging though within my heart I consider myself a fine art photographer. My images reflect the wonder, reverence, joy, and vibrancy I see in the world around me. The images on display were all taken ‘In My Own Backyard’ in 2015.”

Lynn Pelland says she’s always been creative but photography is

– that addressed the busing issues in Boston at the time. One of these programs was the Tribal Rhythms curriculum, which is still active and well-known.

Eventually, she stepped down as a working member of the Institute in order to concentrate more on her own work, but she is still involved as a member of its board of directors.

These days, she is moving away from the soft body, cloth dolls she began with, and is more into clay sculpture. As a member of the Mud Pie Collective at the Leverett Arts & Crafts Center, she can use their fully-equipped workshop, and has a personal space for her own work and tools. She mostly does commissioned work now.

A Cozy Niche for Her Art

For Lyons Zucker, who recently downsized from a roomy house with studio and storage in Millers Falls to a tiny, two-room apartment in Turners Falls, this is a great boon.

“I sometimes spend 7 or 8 hours there at a time,” she says.

In order to accomplish this move, there was a lot of getting rid of things, which is always difficult for any artist who can see possibility in just about everything. She does not go out to collect materials much anymore. Instead, she likes to make do with what she has.

“I have everything I need here. I wouldn’t have kept it if it hadn’t spoken to me in the first place.”

Sitting now in her cozy living room, every item that remains points to her artistry. The books, the small work table, the many tidy bins of materials tucked into every

nook. A pile of small, neatly folded, brightly colored fabric scraps.

And, of course, the few sculptures she has kept for herself, like Miss Cora: “She’s my buddy,” she explains. “Her and I... we hang.”

Miss Cora has a beautiful petticoat of antique cotton in delicate hand-worked lace from an antique shop in South Carolina. “It was all torn up, but it ‘spoke.’ The shop keeper said, ‘you really want that thing?’ Oh, yes! I will use pieces of it. There was only one whole, un-torn piece big enough to make Miss Cora’s tiny petticoat.”

Also in her apartment is N’Kisi, a terracotta figure standing about a foot tall, with a tiny shadow box niche sculpted into her belly. She has pendulous breasts, carries a spear, and has nails driven into her shoulders and arms. In many West African cultures, each family has one in their home or altar.

“The English call them fetishes,” she says. “Each nail represents a prayer or wish, an appeal for help. They combat evil spirits, and bring health and protection.”

The hole in the belly is where the spirit dwells. Small bits of mirror there deflect and reflect evil, to keep it from entering.

Her work is a crossing of cultures and ideas within her ancestral background, keeping traditions alive via memory. Given the chance to create, this all comes through the work.

“I want to stretch the definition of dolls as playthings,” she says, “to objects of art that serve as mediators.

“Each character can represent a time or a feeling of a real-life person. I want them to speak to you, and make you smile.”



“Honey Look!,” a photograph by Bruce Kahn, taken in Florida in 2013.



“Hatchery Road,” a photograph by Debbie Rittall.

her true passion. Of living in Turners Falls, she says it is “filled with beautiful wildlife, amazing scenic areas and architecture, which have provided me with some of the best backdrops to pursue my passion. Capturing the beauty I see with the lens is my greatest thrill. Photography has become my salvation, my peace. I’m among a world of amazing photographers and I strive to someday achieve a level of their caliber.”

Beth Pelton says, “I fell in love with photography 30 something years ago in my high school darkroom. I enjoy the challenge of trying different forms of photography and value the unique friendships I have made through this art.”

Alice Thomas is a poet, painter, printer-maker, photographic and multimedia artist. She has exhibited in the gallery at Greenfield Community College and other local venues, and in West Palm Beach, Florida. Exhibitions include pairing her art with her poetry. She’s published online, in college zines as well as in

her own book-art. She participated in the Artist Windows Exhibits in Greenfield. She was awarded the NR Artist Award at GCC. She has also taught drawing, art history, painting, and critique-writing.

For more information on the exhibit please contact Ellen Blanchette at (413) 773-8752, or ejblanche@comcast.net.



Detail from “Pink Tulip,” a photograph by Ginny Newton, taken in her backyard in Erving, 2015

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# EVIL from page B1

Kevin Tracy will direct “Evil Dead: The Musical” at the Shea. He and Kim Overtree co-founded Ghost Light Theater back in 2011, with a mission that included entertaining and challenging their audience.

“We wanted to start a theater that was a little harder-edged,” said Tracy, who is a paramedic and firefighter for the town of Westfield. “Most community theaters are more family-friendly.” Looking ahead to Friday’s debut of “Evil Dead,” Tracy is excited. “I would like the audience to really enjoy the show as escapist art,” he said “A place to go, have fun, forget your troubles.

“At the same time, people can look at it as a piece that looks at the 1980’s horror movies in an intelligent way that distills the essence of what camp horror movies were all about back then. Camp horror movies are simple morality plays that give you a punch of adrenaline through a hovering sense of danger.”

The production has such toe-tap-pin’ tunes as “All the Men in My Life Keep Getting Killed by Candarian Demons,” “Do the Necronomicon,” and “Look Who’s Evil Now”.

Ten characters make up the cast in Ghost Light’s offering of the cult musical. Joe Van Allen plays the central character, Ash, who carries immense responsibility in the story. Without him, there is no story, according to veteran director Tracy.

Gifted with an incredible stage physicality, Van Allen is able to turn from a bumbling fool to an action hero on a dime, an extremely hard trick.

Sam Hinds essays the role of Cheryl, Ash’s younger, awkward sister. Sam turns into a demon and spends the show spouting one-liners from a trapdoor in the basement.

Hinds is a Northampton High School senior and is extraordinarily funny. Her mother is Karen Webb, the troupe’s costume designer.

A third character is Linda, played by Erin Fitzgerald. Linda is Ash’s girlfriend, innocent and young.

Colin Allen takes the role of Scotty, Ash’s best friend. Scotty provides a foil for Ash. While Ash is well-meaning and tries to help others, Scotty is ruled by self-interest.

Emily Eaton plays Shelly, the final member of the quintet, which is on a weekend getaway at a cabin. Shelly is not the brightest light in the firmament. She is the stereotype of the first person killed in a horror movie or tale, but will she be “the one” in this production?

Christine Voytko plays Annie, the daughter of the owner of the cabin. Annie, her fiancé, and her parents form part of an archaeological team that is researching the Necronomicon.

She is heading to the cabin where she has new pages of the book to show her father.

Ed (Christopher Rose) is traveling with Annie and suffers the indignity of being interrupted constantly by everyone.

Josh Mason tackles the role of Jake, a local hillbilly hired by Annie and Ed to bring them out to the cabin. In doing so, he becomes wrapped up in the story.

The other characters are the Fake Shemps, played by Monique Debois and Russ Nadeau.

The duo are kind of like the gremlins of the show, assisting cast members, for example, in moving objects off the stage. The Fake Shemps also play other characters as well. Russ is the spirit of Dr. Knowby and Monica plays a moose.

Producing the show is Megan Healey; the conductor is Ted Trobaugh; choreographer, Sarah Devine; fight choreographer, Emily Eaton.

Tickets can be obtained for \$20 through Eventbrite. There is an extra \$5 charge for a “splatter zone” pass, with poncho included. For more info, please visit [ghost-lightmass.org](http://ghost-lightmass.org).



# SINKS from page B1

Alistair Cooke.

His refrigerator, circa 1936, came from Vermont, and at one time was the first one on the street. Buzzell bought it from the daughter of its original owner, and the compressor still worked.

He has driven as far as Winnipeg, Canada to fetch an appliance – 1,900 miles one way – and regularly goes appliance hunting all over New England and the East Coast.

Ken cautions that if the original compressor still works on an old fridge, don’t replace it! He will cosmetically refurbish a refrigerator from his collection for a customer, but he farms out the compressor repair to someone else.

Seen in his current collection are several hotel refrigerators, giant cabinets with double doors and heavy latches. There are lots of models from the early 1950s, but nowhere near as many as there are sinks.

Incorporating a vintage sink into your life is a lot easier than modifying food storage around a tiny, old-fashioned refrigerator. One of the drawbacks to older fridges is the freezer unit, which tends to be just a cooled box hanging inside that is large enough for ice cube trays and a slab of meat or two. These build up thick layers of frost that engulf everything inside of it, and owners end up chipping things out with a knife, being careful not to puncture the sides where refrigerant ran



Ken Buzzell stands in his own vintage kitchen. Note the built-in compost bin under the sink. Alistair Cooke’s Magic Chef range is partially visible.

through channels in the metal.

When asked about the energy efficiency of these older fridges, Ken offered the opinion that the onset of the self-defrosting feature in the 1950s made fridges less efficient than previously, since they used heat/cool cycles to melt the frost. More energy-efficient models started being made in the 1980s.

Taking a tour of his animal and appliance refuge, and listening to Ken’s road stories from a lifetime of Harley Davidson riding and sink fetching, is quite a treat. Ken keeps vintage breeds of pigs and chickens, and a pet chicken and rooster, Rusty and Crystal, that come to his call.

Dozens of ducks march up and down the paths, amusing greatly

with their constant chuckling chatter and funny waddle. The many piglets running around in their pens are just adorable.

And Ken himself, with his bright blue eyes and snowy white hair and beard, looks rather like a biker Santa Claus. (The group he rides with is “Sons of Arthritis: Ibuprofen Chapter.”)

Be aware that it’s very easy to fall in love with a vintage appliance and then end up with a complete vintage kitchen. It starts with a stove or a sink, and before you know it, you are burning bread in an old manual-flip toaster, or giving milkshake parties with a five-cup shake shop blender that came in its own red enamel cabinet. I have been to Grampa’s Antique Kitchen three times and walked out with two sinks so far, continuing a theme that started, for me, with a 1932 Universal Electric range.

The TV show *American Pickers* has found Buzzell, and are coming to Gardner to film sometime this month. If you want to visit, make an appointment at (978) 302-4223 to be sure he isn’t out hunting down appliances somewhere.

You can also check out his online store, at [GrampasAntiqueKitchen.com](http://GrampasAntiqueKitchen.com). Most of his sales are online, and he crates and ships all over the country.

It’s all about the style. As it says on Ken’s business card: “Old Shit Rocks!”



Buzzell with his pet chicken, Crystal.

# RECORD REVIEW

## Bryan Gillig, “Cave Trilogy” (2015, feeding Tube Records)

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – Bryan Gillig returned this summer from a meandering motorcycle circumnavigation of the eastern states just in time to release “Cave Trilogy.” The record is a triple-album masterwork of psychedelic country, or “Cosmic American Music,” a term coined by Gram Parsons that Gillig prefers.

To understand this genre, it may help to consider the bizarre end of Parsons’ life, which sounds like it could be the subject of one of Gillig’s songs. The singer-songwriter, most famous for his work with the Byrds and the Flying Burrito Brothers, died at age 26, by an overdose of morphine and alcohol.

His friends, in an effort to fulfill the deceased’s wishes, stole his body from LAX and drove it to Joshua Tree using a borrowed hearse. They then poured gallons of gasoline into his casket, tossed in a match, and blew up their friends’ body, leaving 35 lbs. of charred remains.

Gillig spoke with me about his desire to live his own life in a way that creates the weirdness

he wants to see in the world. Parsons’ experience shows us that even death, and tragicomic cremation, can have this effect.

Gillig wrote all the songs on “Cave Trilogy” over the past two years, while living lightly in western Mass. Crucial to the sound of the album, they were recorded last summer in a cave by the river in the vicinity of the abandoned Strathmore paper mill complex.

The sound of water flowing is a constant presence throughout the album. Whether it’s in the background while Bryan is playing, or loud in the foreground between the songs, it’s always there.

While listening, it made me feel like I was there in the Cave, that the record was taking place in the present, in real-time. Studio recording (as opposed to cave recording) has the opposite effect – the songs can become distant and detached objects.

This type of “field recording” is not new, but its intentional use for aesthetic affect is more recent. While the origins of the practice probably go back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century beginnings of audio recording, it became of national importance during the Great Depression. The Federal Music Project, a part of Roosevelt’s New Deal, recorded regional American music. Field workers drove specially equipped ambulances, outfitted with recording equipment, to document musicians where they lived.

Part of the goal for this project was to preserve the sounds of American ways of

life that were fading away as an unfortunate side effect of modernization. Much of the mission focused on Appalachian music, African-American music of the South, and cowboy music. After World War II, Folkways Records, now Smithsonian Folkways, has continued doing this work to this day.

Gillig’s music sits like a new temple atop the ziggurat of American folk music. His instrumentation is traditional: just baritone ukelele – I thought it was a guitar – and voice. The songs linger mostly in the melancholic vein of country music.

At first glance it seems like he employs many of the usual themes of this tradition – deserts, natural objects and phenomena, the Bible, outlaws. He thinks of ‘the road’ as the “theme-of-themes.”

But when you really listen to Gillig’s lyrics, things start to get weird. He’s inspired not so much by other musicians but instead by science fiction and westerns. He mentions Ursula K. Le Guin and Jorge Luis Borges as big influences.

When I first heard the record, I felt like I was listening to Cormac McCarthy play music, as if the songs were written by a minor traveling musician character in his *The Road*. This is post-apocalyptic cowboy music.

Gillig’s music is given its visceral potency through his chosen vantage point, wheeling high overhead of normal existence. He’s traveled a great deal and intentionally maintains as much freedom in his life as possible.



That’s six whole sides.

As someone who’s had periods like this, I believe that this lifestyle allows one to observe the world better, to see truth and notice patterns.

Gillig sings a lot about the mind’s ability to witness different versions of reality, and I believe that this comes from a philosophical perspective that’s born out of the freedom he cultivates. Gillig made this clear to me: “The way that I live and my music,” he says, “come out of a similar place, which is a desire to meet some kind of reality.”

Through his life and his music, Bryan Gillig sings the song of nostalgic confusion, giving words and melody to the dismemberment of place and history in America.

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## the poetry page

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

— William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

## October's Featured Artist: Alice Thomas

### red monarda

your bent butterfly fingers  
whip as you  
flash your castanets  
then glide your drape  
of bloodied silk  
to tease the flame  
your sultry fragrance  
strikes before you  
dancing the wild code  
of intention's full bloom  
flailing your skirt  
at the brilliance of Spain's day  
your windy whirs  
ruffle bees' flight  
dares there's no escape  
but then a whole field of you  
cannot be swayed  
from strike or nod  
you cannot stand as lily or rose  
demure before the vase  
your savage moves fly  
across the steamy hours  
of beak and sting  
Machado would hide  
until your mountain passes  
---wilts off  
one more reason  
to write of earth's wild  
beauty just before  
the valiant end

### roots

in my dream  
i knit the underworld  
flaring along the dirt  
below earth's crust  
busy light and night  
i tat the lace of pansies  
and quill their hearts  
attach them to seed and sky  
to hold their figures  
ever deeper i macramé  
dandelions' feet  
to hold their drape  
against the saw of day  
bulky snarled  
reaching down  
down bleeding  
just above  
the elegant black magma gleaming

### garden sketch: tomato

a garden's volunteer  
is somehow more sweet  
than any other

spreads its umbrella  
of muscled clusters beyond all promises  
then grows prodigiously

their heady fragrance  
of buttery blossoms  
wafts the farmer's field

a streamlined breeze skims  
as leaves dance  
a honeyfruit promise

bobbing ever so low  
above nature's aeolian churn...  
and if i told you

bees gently strum their harps  
across the curve  
would you anticipate utopia even more

### iris

time's shovel reaches down  
along the mind's border  
and plants a long  
bulbous thing  
of sturdy life to eye  
this is the calendar  
of waiting and patience  
in honor of  
the hoped for: spring  
of skinny leaves and  
blue Siberians  
all whiskered and mustachioed  
that hold raindrops  
at their tiny swells  
dropping --- sliding down  
to wells  
finding themselves  
far from sea  
stuck among the craggy rocks  
along a steep hillside in New England  
--- the regal life having been set  
in the garden's sweet carpet  
it nestles home

### rain at the farm

it rained all day in Greenfield  
like water from a fireman's hose  
lashing in rivers of wash-away  
of brewed black tea

that river deposited your jeans  
and boots in the never pile  
left you soaked and standing at the gate  
your gear down the road

i saw you hold your dog and walk  
over the back field in autumn's pumpkins  
as you stood and stood a figure of reckon  
fingers lacing your hair a sigh falling over the world

then came your walk  
the one that troops across the earth  
the one that slides into the night  
because you know there is nothing you can't fix

### evening

day falls its crestone hue  
all by itself at eight o'clock  
smoothing down to the last shovel of it  
along the shadows at  
the truck and barn

now---no longer sounds of screechy  
owl or crow that sigh for night  
just as the water eaks its final tear  
beside a regiment of nails  
that wait at the wooden handles of day

the cat draws back on its forepaws  
then moves to occupy a cooler place  
along the damp-umber soil  
as the darker side of day commences  
and the farmers' backs begin their groan

now the harvest boxes wait  
with overflowing bellies  
bulging with heads of red cabbage  
as dragging boots draw near  
the swinging gate of night

Alice Thomas

Alice Thomas is a regional painter, printmaker, photographer and multimedia artist of individual art, assemblage and installations in western Massachusetts. She has exhibited in the gallery at Greenfield Community College, her community, and in West Palm Beach, FL.

Exhibitions include pairing her art with her poetry, which is published online, in college zines as well as in her own book-art, "appropriation".

She was a principal in Art in the Window events, exhibiting in businesses in Greenfield, and is a winner

of the NR Artist Award. She has also taught drawing, art history, painting, and critique writing, and holds the trademark "GeoCut".

As a poet, Thomas is published widely in western Massachusetts, and considers herself a regional poet. This year, she published a film version of her book *Chaproots* on [thebooksmovie.com](http://thebooksmovie.com) site, and read at the Garlic & Arts Festival in Orange. She is published in *Plum* and *Silkworm*, and is an editor for *Plum Online Literary Journal* and the layout editor for a local business webpage. She attended the 2015 Bread Loaf Orion

Environmental Writers' Conference and 2015 Juniper Summer Writers' Institute, and was published in a Levellers Press anthology compiled by the Center for New Americans.

Her work has appeared several times on the *Montague Reporter's* Poetry Page, and on Facebook pages for the New England Farmers Union and the Center for New Americans. She was a winner in the 2014 Poet Seat Poetry Contest.

The *Montague Reporter* is pleased to showcase her work as our feature poet for October 2015.

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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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

Millers Falls 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. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays.

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

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines*. New pencil and ink drawings, wire figures, sculptures by Glenn Ridler. Ends 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Ordinary Storms*. Artist Barbara Milot's superimposed drawings on photographs exploring weather images. Reception 10/24, runs to 11/12.

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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: "Cornucopia," a Fall Members' Show. Fine arts and crafts by member artists. Check website for seasonal hours: [www.sawmillriverarts.com](http://www.sawmillriverarts.com) Show to 10/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Cornucopia: A Retrospective Duo*. Sally Chaffee and Marie Sakellariou. 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.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The Art Garden Call For Submissions: Community Art Exhibit "In Someone Else's Shoes: A Reflection on Perspectives and Empathy" Deadline 11/2. De-



*John McCutcheon has been billed as "folk music's Renaissance man -- master instrumentalist, powerful singer-songwriter, storyteller, activist, and author. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer." At the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett, on Thursday, October 22.*

tails: [www.theartgarden.org](http://www.theartgarden.org).

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-operative gallery. For more information see [www.sawmillriverarts.com](http://www.sawmillriverarts.com).

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See [www.wendellmass.us](http://www.wendellmass.us).

## EVENTS

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Nagual, Floodbeast, Scent, 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". Additional charge if you want to sit in the "splatter zone". Every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 31. \$

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Wendell Free Library: Free Movie Series presents *Elvira Mistress of the Dark*. Schlocky, fun horror movie. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya Shelburne Falls: *Meadow hawks*, Indie Rock. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Evil Dead: The Musical*. See 10/15 listing, 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tenth Anniversary Bash with Trailer Park* 8:30 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint* 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Alejandra O'Leary*, Indie Pop Rock. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon* 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1998) First in a six part series of Taste of Theater Tuesdays, live play readings. The story of five unmarried sisters in a small Irish village in 1936. A radio is their only link to the world at large. 7 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *John McCutcheon*, a rare Valley appearance of John McCutcheon, singer, songwriter and most accomplished multi-instrumentalist of folk music for social change this world in a better direction. 7:30 p.m. \$ Reservations suggested.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Holly May* (Country Pop) and *Wisewater* (Americana Pop) 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Back to the Future II* on the big screen at 9p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

The Bookmill, Montague: *Open Mouth Presents: Carter Thornton, Tom Carter, Matt Krefting*. Three multi-talented artists in one evening. 8 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Evil Dead: The Musical*. See 10/15 listing, 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Julian Gerstin Sextet*, World Music Jazz. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rebel Base-Holy Vex-Rick Rude-Teratoma*. 9:30 p.m. \$



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## Flashes of Time: Coggeshall-Burr's Barn Show



"New York Rain," painting by Misha Coggeshall-Burr.

By NINA ROSSI

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Once a year, The Barn Gallery at 70 Main Street in Montague Center is open to display the oil paintings of Misha Coggeshall-Burr. For three hours, landscapes painted as "flashes of time" are available to view and purchase during what might be the most exclusive – if not, certainly the briefest – art exhibit in Franklin County.

Mishael's paintings of New York City capture the busy, colorful, sometimes wet and wild streets of the city that he loves to visit, using "bright, dissolving lights and dark, long shadows."

More local scenes of streams and woods of New England weave a very tranquil spell.

The artist and his family moved here from London five years ago, where Mishael worked at the Tate Gallery as an art handler. The couple bought an old farmhouse "that no one

else wanted because it hadn't been updated since the 1930s," and turned the barn into a lovely gallery space that has hosted the exhibit for four years.

Yes, Mishael confirms, he'd like to get broader representation in a "real" gallery, at some point! His work sells well during his annual Barn show; the prices at these shows are extremely reasonable for work of a high quality. He's sure to find representation at a gallery easily, once he has time to pursue it.

Coggeshall-Burr is considering adding a spring show in 2016 – perhaps during the May Day celebrations, an event that helped draw him and his wife to the village with its happy paganism.

In the meantime, if you missed the last opening and closing this past Saturday, check out his selection of paintings online: [www.coggeshallburr.com](http://www.coggeshallburr.com).



Patrons and neighbors fortify themselves at the Barn Gallery.

## MONTAGUE REPORTER



Gill's Janet Masucci peruses the Reporter on a recent trip to Provincetown.

# ON THE ROAD

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