



The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 3

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 22, 2015

Erving Police to Adopt Mandatory Body Cameras Montague PD Keeps Usage Voluntary



Erving police chief Christopher Blair demonstrates his department's new body camera technology. A small green light indicates the unit is storing video.

By MIKE JACKSON

"We work one officer to a shift... Videotape! It's going to protect you."

As a national debate over body-mounted videocameras unfolds, pitting privacy advocates against police reform activists, one rural police chief in western Massachusetts has made up his mind.

On Monday, October 26, the Erving police department may become the first in the state to mandate its officers wear body-mounted video cameras whenever on duty. Chief Christopher Blair has drawn up a policy for the cameras, currently under review by the town's selectboard, and argues vigorously for their use.

"I've wanted body cams since they came out," he said. Eleven years ago, when he became chief, he introduced dashboard cameras in the department's cruisers, a move he said eventually won the full support of his force.

"Since everything started happening in the country, the technology's been leaping and bounding," said Blair. "There's a dozen different body cam companies I looked into."

A grant from the town's insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA), has now enabled Blair to purchase five \$900 hi-

definition body-worn cameras from the Texas-based company WatchGuard Video.

"I've had it waiting around for these body cam issues to be resolved," he said. "I wanna roll these things out!"

Blair discussed three obstacles to adoption of the cameras. One, potential resistance from police unions, is not an issue in Erving, whose nine members, five full-time, are non-union.

The second is Massachusetts' stringent privacy laws, namely its wiretap statute, which in the past has been interpreted to require the informed consent of anyone subject to audio recording.

"You're walking around, 'hey, you're being recorded, you're being recorded' – it's ridiculous," he said. But the Massachusetts Supreme Court has ruled that if a camera is visible, the consent of the recorded parties is implied. The WatchGuard cameras have green lights on them when they are storing video.

Blair said that on a general call to a private residence, his officers are instructed to notify those present they are being recorded, and to turn the cameras off if requested.

But the department will run video when a warrant is in effect, or if they have "probable cause" that an arrestable offense is taking place. "If

see **CAMERAS** page A5

Redesign, In-Kind Donations Overcome Skate Park Snag

By JEN HOLMES

TURNERS FALLS – Construction on the Unity Skate Park, which began in late September, appeared to be moving along according to plan – until it was forced to halt when it turned out the water table at the site was two feet higher than expected. A solution had to be found – fast.

"I woke up one morning to this news and was like, 'This is awful. This is the end of the world,'" says Bryan Dolan, a longtime member of the Unity Skate Park Committee, referring to the news that the park could not be built as planned.

Dolan heard the bad news from

Eddie Lawrence, the project foreman from Grindline Skateparks, the Seattle, Washington-based construction company hired to complete the park. Lawrence says that he was not told of the high water table, and discovered it when he did a test dig, and hit water only three feet down.

While the skate park was designed to account for a moderately high water table line, this was too much for the current design to accommodate. The design included a swimming pool-like bowl – eight feet at its deepest point – which was to be a central feature of the skate park design, with more

see **SKATE PARK** page A4



The town's DPW delivered 200 truckloads of fill, much of it donated, keeping the project moving on schedule.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Politics of School District Aired in Gill

By MIKE JACKSON

The superintendent of the Gill-Montague school district and all three of its representatives visited Gill's selectboard Monday night to address two issues: anxiety that district leadership does not value Gill Elementary and may aim to eliminate it; and disagreements over whether former teachers on the committee should serve in negotiations over teachers' contracts.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan led with a very brief presentation on the district's efforts to strengthen student writing, starting at the elementary level and working across subject areas.

At the earlier grades, he said, the district is using a teaching approach developed by Lucy Calkins, and at the secondary level is working with programs developed by



Jane Oakes (right) of the Gill-Montague school committee spoke before the selectboard.

Keys to Literacy.

Sullivan then asked to address the selectboard's comments on presentations at the Great Falls Middle School which fifth-graders

from Gill Elementary are taken to.

Selectboard chair Gregory Snedeker had sent an open letter on behalf of the board suggesting

see **GILL** page A6

A Field Day for TFHS: Turners Falls 49 – Belchertown 0

By MATT ROBINSON

BELCHERTOWN – The Turners Falls Football Indians defeated the Orange and Black Orioles, 49 to 0, last Friday under the lights at Belchertown High School.

"Every kid played," Coach Chris Lapointe said after the game. "I only wish we had more younger kids – I would've put them in earlier."

Even though it was a total blow-

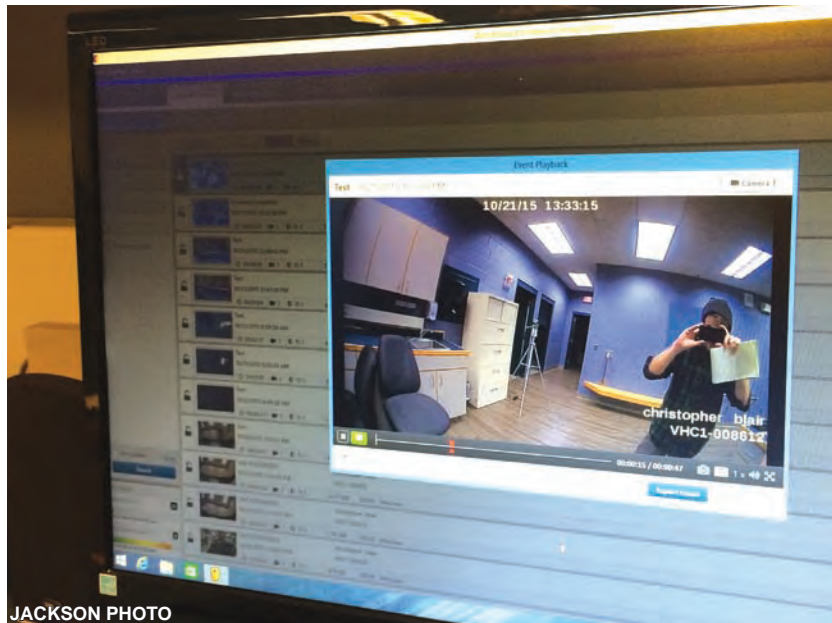
out, it wasn't a mean game. The mood on the field was light, the officials were friendly, and the announcer made amusing observant comments throughout the game.

Part of the reason the game was so friendly was because the outcome was not in doubt. Powertown's defense stopped the Orioles on every drive, and its offense scored 7 touchdowns on their first 7 possessions. And after each and

every good play, the cheerleaders chanted, "We are the Indians. The Mighty, Mighty Indians." If you've ever been to a game, you know the rest of the cheer.

Turners received the ball first, and for the first time in three games, Jalen Sanders didn't run the opening kickoff back into the end zone – simply because the kick was a knuckleballer, straight

see **FOOTBALL** page B4



JACKSON PHOTO

After Blair uploaded the high-definition video of our reporter, it was filed by the software under a category labeled "Test." Other labels included "Arrest," "Search," "Public interaction," "Physical or verbal confrontation" and "Motor vehicle stop."

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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“Choicing In”

Is a year of stability on the Gill-Montague school committee too much to ask for?

The district has made slow but steady progress in recent years, rising from a Level 4 to a Level 3 district according to state criteria. With continued support from the community, including the patience, trust and involvement of district parents, this progress can continue.

The regime of school choice makes turnaround difficult, for a strong school system must first be a desirable one – for families, as well as for teachers and administrators – and desire is often rooted in perception, which lags a few years behind reality.

The district’s governing body, a school committee elected from its two towns, is bound to play host to some degree of conflict, as real differences in management and educational philosophy come into debate. But there are procedures in place to allow the committee to achieve unity in action.

In turn, a committee with more practice governing coherently will be better able to handle internal dissent. Free and healthy debate is necessary for any institution that must innovate and adapt. When disagreement is always seen as being offered in the service of factional struggle, a deliberate threat to unity, it can never be taken at face value.

And its past culture of factional struggle can only stunt this particular committee. It does not need another rash of 5-4 votes and strained allegiances. This is not a matter of a lack of civility but of the habitually poorly chosen venue in which our towns concentrate our anxieties about the school system.

If there are, indeed, differences in educational and managerial philosophy undergirding conflict on the school committee, we invite its members to use the editorial pages of the *Montague Reporter* to make their arguments.

Disagreements should not be bottled up until they erupt during open meetings in bouts of procedural wrangling. We will be happy to print guest editorials for the consideration of the whole community.

If cultural differences in our towns at large are reflected in miniature on the school committee, then it is nevertheless a challenge to committee members to learn how to govern together, while leading the larger community in coming to terms with its contradictions.

No one wants to see a pack of

bureaucratic gladiators hack away at each other with *Robert’s Rules*.

The latest tempest in a teapot stems from, or targets, a decision announced by the chair, Sandra Brown, not to include former district teachers on the subcommittee that will negotiate the 2016-2019 contract with the teachers’ union.

We happen to think this is a sound idea in principle. But it is not one that appears to be backed by a majority of the present school committee.

Member Jane Oakes, a retired Gill-Montague teacher, has served on that particular subcommittee during both of the previous two contract rounds, and if she has the trust of members, and indeed of the electorate, to handle the role responsibly, then she may as well serve for a third.

We admire Brown’s desire to set a new precedent on the matter, but not at the cost of a procedural power struggle against a majority of her own committee. It is far more important to set a new precedent that the chair’s true role is to facilitate.

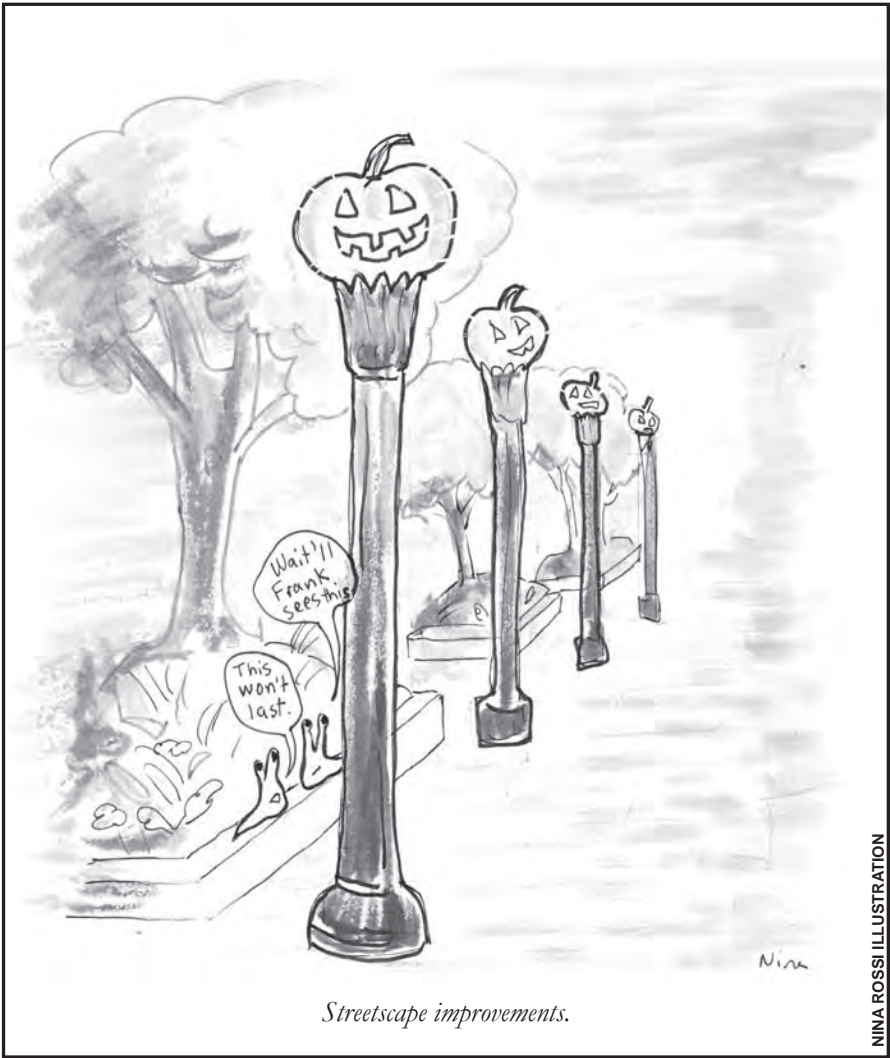
We think it is the job of the teachers’ union to fight for the best possible deal for its members, and expect that this would include the overall long-term health of the district.


If there were ever a serious worry that a public-sector union might deliberately seek to seed the other side of the bargaining table with its retired members, then amending town bylaws, or in this case the district agreement, would be a more appropriate way to defuse such a campaign than exercising the powers of a committee chairmanship.

Serving on this school committee is a thankless sacrifice. Everyone who runs for a seat, everyone who serves a term, is owed our thanks. We believe all involved have the best motivations at heart.

If you are a Gill or Montague resident who wants to see our towns continue to grow and thrive, please consider running for school committee in the spring. Parents and non-parents, former educators and civilians alike: if you have energy, kindness and good humor, free Tuesday evenings and a fresh perspective, your three-year term will be an invaluable public service.

And to the nine currently serving our towns: Keep up the good work, and take heart. You are helping the district repair itself after a hard time. It is a challenge, but it doesn’t have to be a fight.



Letters to  the Editors

Unity Food Kiosk?

Montague Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz was recently quoted as saying that his department is always looking for ways to improve the town’s parks, and that they have a very open mind to ideas, so here goes:

How about some kind of food kiosk, or lunch wagon, right on the banks of the river, maybe down past or adjacent to the small parking lot at the bottom of First Street?

We have this great river resource – imagine being able to go down to the riverside for an ice cream, popsicle, burrito or whatever you can imagine, and then have seating where you could gaze out at the river view while enjoying your treat.

The town could provide the seating, concrete table and chairs, or several park benches with a table or two, and then lease out or license some space to a young entrepreneur with their food cart, a la the streets of New York. Limited to the summer months with limited hours (noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays), so that they can make a decent profit without all the downtime.

Could this endeavor cut into the customers at the Shady Glen or Creamees? Probably not, but there would be nothing to stop them from being the owner of the food cart if they wanted to. It could be a modest new draw to the town: come to the Discovery Center, then stop for a lemonade and a rest by the river...

Jeri Moran
Montague

Thanks!

A big thank you to the Five Eyed Fox, and all community members who attended last week’s Chili Bowl Dinner to benefit the Brick House Community Resource Center.

A substantial amount was contributed to the Brick House by attendees, bringing us closer to our local fundraising goals for the year. It is wonderful to see downtown businesses and their patrons supporting the work of community institutions.

Partnerships like these help make our town such a great place to live.

With gratitude,

Anna Hendricks
Neil Young
Deborah Frenkel
Mike Jackson
Leah Ward
Meaghan Carr
Board of Directors,
The Brick House

River Guides Still Available!

Thank you for sharing Matthew McCoy’s Connecticut River paddling journey with your readers in Mike Jackson’s article “A Portage at the Falls” (October 1, 2015).

Mike noted that copies of *The Connecticut River Boating Guide: Source to Sea* are available at *Amazon.com* for \$100 to \$400.

Limited copies of this valuable resource are available from the Connecticut River Watershed Council at its original price: \$19.95 plus shipping at *www.ctriver.org* (click ‘Store’), or by stopping into our office at 15 Bank Row in Greenfield. Proceeds from the sale help to support the Council’s work to protect the Connecticut River.

Your readers may also be interested in knowing that the portage that is (usually) available from First Light Hydro Generating Company is part of their federal energy licensing agreement, up for renewal in 2018. In return for using a public resource – the Connecticut River – the company provides benefits to the community, including the Northfield Mountain Recreation Center and the Quinnetukut II Riverboat.

Their current license expires in 2018, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council is working to ensure that the public and the river receive the best possible deal (including functional portages and much more) when the facility receives its next federal license – one that is expected to be in place for 30 to 50 years.

Anyone interested in learning more about this hydro relicensing process can get involved by contacting CRWC’s MA River Steward, Andrea Donlon.

Thanks very much for including CRWC in your story. The Connecticut River Watershed Council has worked since 1952 to help restore and protect the Connecticut River. CRWC is a membership organization and relies on individual support to continue safeguarding our rivers.

Angela Mrozinski
Outreach & Events Director,
CT River Watershed Council

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Participate and witness the **Monster Dash 5K Family Fun Run and Ride** this Saturday, October 24, in Northfield

It will be a ghoulish good time as runners, riders and walkers dodge zombies and rush headlong through an old (haunted?) cemetery. Sponsored by the First Parish of Northfield. The family fun run and ride will begin at 9 a.m. at Town Hall, 69 Main Street. The race route will follow a looping, mostly flat course through this historic and picturesque New England town.

Runners, bicyclists and walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes. Registration is from 7:30 to 8:50 a.m. and the first 50 entrants will receive a free T-shirt. The first 70 to sign up will enjoy

a home-cooked breakfast in First Parish Church, across from Town Hall, immediately after the race. Registration is \$18 for individuals and \$30 for families, with proceeds benefiting First Parish Church.

The Carnegie Public Library is hosting a **Halloween Party** on Saturday, October 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The library will provide a safe environment for children of all ages and their caregivers to make crafts, play spooky games, and eat yummy snacks. Costumes are encouraged but not required.

Learn about life underground and overhead at a **Families Outdoors** program on Saturday, October 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Northfield Mountain. Spend some time outdoors, discovering and learning about the forest during a beauti-

ful time of year. You will explore life in and around a tree, life in the leaf litter and bizarre invertebrates living underground. The afternoon will include time for hiking, drawing, hands-on activities, observation and exploration.

Bring a sense of adventure, and wear clothes that can get dirty. This fun event is for ages 6 and older and is free to attend. Northfield Mountain is located at 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield. Please call (800) 859-2960 to pre-register.

The **last Great Falls Farmers Market** for 2015 is Wednesday, October 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. The market is sponsored by the Montague Agricultural Commission.

Greenfield's **Downtown Trick or Treat, Rag Shag Parade & Costume Contest** is Friday, October 30, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

The Montague Police Department is holding a **"K9 Arties' Tailgate Party"** on Friday, October 30. There will be a K9 demonstration in Peskeomskut Park from 4 to 5 p.m. and a dinner along with bobbing for apples, a donut grab, a kids' costume contest, prizes, raf-

fles. DJ Bobby C will be spinning tunes from 5 to 8 p.m. at St. Kaz.

The party is to raise money for a new K9 cruiser for Artie and Officer Ruddock. Tickets are available at the public safety complex and St. Kaz. For more info please see the MPD page on Facebook.

Turners Falls' own **Rag Shag parade** will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween.

The TFHS Student Council and Alumni Association will host a **Trunk or Treat** event in the TFHS high school parking lot on Saturday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Anyone wanting to participate with a decorated vehicle must pre-register by emailing tfhsalumni@gmrsl.org. **Registration deadline is October 23**, and vehicles should arrive that evening around 4:15 p.m. to begin their decorating. Prizes will be awarded in four categories (most creative, scariest, TFHS-themed and most unique).

This is a free event and a great opportunity to bring your kids out for one-stop trick or treating.

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week ending 10/16/2015:

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Abby Sanders
Asha Lewandowski

Grade 7
Derek Martin

Grade 8
Abby Waite

October 27: Leverett Special Town Meeting

WARRANT

Franklin, SS.
To One of the Constables
of Leverett:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Leverett, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Elementary School auditorium, on Tuesday the 27th of October 2015, at 7:00 in the evening (7:00 p.m.), then and there to act on the following articles, namely:

Article One: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$205,000 to cover potential assessment abatement liabilities and their related expenses, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article Two: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,038.20 from available funds for FY 2015 bills of prior year for the Police Department, or take any action in relation thereto.

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof on the Post Office, in the Town Hall and Congregational Church at Leverett, the Baptist Church at North Leverett and the Village Co-op at Moores Corner, fourteen days at least before the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 9th day of October, 2015.

**SELECTBOARD
OF LEVERETT**

GUEST
EDITORIAL

Sustainability: Music to His Ears

By DJANGO SKORUPA

When I think of a large-scale music and arts festival the first thing that comes to mind isn't usually garbage.

Musical taste aside, the things that normally spring up are colorful costumes, eccentric people of all ages, and the sort of freeing feeling that can only come from good music on green grass under a warm sun. And yet, what happens when all the freed souls leave the place, meandering back to their respective walks of life? The refuse must go somewhere.

In her article *Trashed: Music Festivals are Environmental Nightmares*, Katie Bain addresses this point. "At the big events like Coachella... literally tons of trash are created by fans, vendors and artists."

This is somewhat of an irony, given that so many of these music festivals claim to devote themselves to changing the world, or doing their part to make it a better, more colorful place.

But what can be done? It seems that whenever such a large group of humans invades a small space there will be waste on a huge scale. Be it political rallies, conferences, conventions, or even music festivals, get a group of us together and there's bound to be waste, right? It's just a byproduct of our consumerist society.

As you might have guessed, this is of course, completely wrong, and we have but to look to a festival that just wrapped up a few weeks ago in our own backyards for proof.

The North Quabbin Garlic &

Arts Festival in Orange has been going on for seventeen years, and every year is attended by over 10,000 people. And yet, despite being packed full for its two days, it manages to generate only three standard-sized garbage bags of waste. Everything else, from the wastewater in the hand washing stations to the utensils and plates from the delicious and varied foods, is recycled, composted, or reused in some way.

And our little festival isn't the only one to do this. Lightning in a Bottle, a festival devoted to electronic dance music that draws crowds of over 14,000, has focused heavily on sustainability in the past few years. It recently took awards for most sustainable festival in the United States.

Crowning over all of them, however, is Pickathon, a festival that in some cases seems to place sustainability over music, and it's wonderful. Single-use anything is strictly verboten, and guests purchase steel cups and tokens for reusable

bamboo dishes and utensils, which have wash stations located all over the festival.

In fact, even some of the larger festivals have begun trying their hand at sustainable practice, which begins to raise the question: why isn't this being implemented everywhere?

If we can take 10,000 people gathering in one place and produce only three garbage bags of non-reusable waste, how did my high school's one-day events produce more from 400 students?

And what about political rallies? Conventions? Conferences? All of these gatherings produce huge amounts of waste as humans gather in one place briefly, only to depart quickly, leaving behind waste which departs far less quickly.

I think it's high time we saw similar actions being implemented wherever we gather.

Django Skorupa, a Wendell native, is currently attending college in Rochester, NY.

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SKATE PARK from page A1

elements added above. This would need to be changed to stay safely above the water table.

Dolan explains that the initial surveying of the land, done by Berkshire Design Group of Northampton, did not include a soil inventory test. This test would have helped to more accurately determine the height of the water table.

Lawrence explains that Grindline did not design the park – Berkshire subcontracted that work to Pillar Design Studios, based in Tempe, Arizona – and that they were not alerted to the potential issue until they had already broken ground.

Despite this unexpected setback, all was not lost for the Unity Skate Park. But many changes had to be made to the plans, as quickly as possible, within the existing budget.

Emergency Meetings

Within days, Lawrence and Dolan met to begin devising a workable solution.

“You can do a design on paper, but in the field it might work very different,” Lawrence says when asked about the need for the redesign, “and even though this wasn’t our design, we were given a little leeway [from Pillar Design Studios].”

“Eddie helped us redesign on the fly. We all got together and figured it out,” says Dolan. Members of the Skate Park Committee were invited to help with the last-minute remodeling of the park, including himself, longtime local park advocates Nate Jackson and Zack Holmes and Playground Skateshop owner Barry Scott.

“There wasn’t really time to do this massive public design process,” explains Dolan, as the previous design process took nearly 9 months, and welcomed input from anyone wanting to get involved.

“We had to come up with a revised plan, fast, in order to stay on schedule and finish before winter,” says Dolan.

In the original design, the bowl dropped 3 feet, from 5 feet to 8 feet. That drop, according to Dolan, is called a “waterfall,” and it is an integral element of the design, allowing riders to gain speed more efficiently. The “waterfall” ultimately had to be scrapped due to an inability to stay safely above the water table line if it were to be installed.

To accommodate this change, and to keep the park above ground level, the bowl was raised up, and two elements were added to the design: an extension around the top of one side of the bowl, to add depth; and a “twinkie,” a kind of elongated rolling bump, situated along the flat bottom to allow riders to gain speed.

Dolan says that Lawrence’s “expertise was invaluable,” and expressed excitement about the new design.

“This could have been a disaster that left us with a lackluster bowl... I think the finished product will be more unique and fun to ride than what we originally designed,” he says.

Lawrence echoes that sentiment, saying that he feels the new design is “more creative, with a lot more unique elements.”

“We want to make it the best park we can,” he adds. “That’s our number one goal.”

Coming Through in a Pinch

Overall, the changes were based around the

idea that the park now had to be built from the ground level up, rather than having some portions of it dug into the ground. While the design changes accommodated for that, the base of the park still needed to come up more from the ground to make it feasible.

In order to raise the base on which the park would be built, the Grindline crew determined they would need nearly 2,000 tons of gravel fill material.

Dolan contacted Mackin Construction Company, based in Greenfield, to get an estimate on this material, but was concerned that the budget could not allow for this unexpected cost. Mackin, however, had a solution: he offered to donate 1,000 tons of fill, bringing the project back within its budget.

“I’ve been blown away many times by people’s love for the community, and the lengths they’re willing to go, with no benefit to themselves, just to better the community,” Dolan says, emphasizing how huge Mackin’s donation was to the skate park building process.

The in-kind donation of the fill totaled nearly \$8,700, effectively making Mackin the highest individual donor to date.

When asked about his generosity, Mackin explained that he had been following the skate park’s progress for years, and was happy to help. “It sounds like they’ve been working really hard to make this happen,” he says.

“You have to be involved in your town,” Mackin explains. “My company and my family have been around this area for a long time, so I like to give back. It was a chance to help. That’s all.”

“To me, Mike [Mackin] is really the hero of the story,” says Dolan. “He heard there was a problem, he helped us get through it, and it also means the taxpayers of Montague won’t have to foot the bill.”

In addition to Mackin’s generous donation, the Montague Department of Public Works also donated their time and equipment to transport the material – all 2,000 tons, or 200 truckloads, of it. Dolan, Lawrence, and Mackin all made a point to mention the generosity and helpfulness of the DPW, specifically town superintendent Tom Bergeron.

“The DPW are the ones doing the most work right now. Tom handled the situation great, and he’s just been great to work with all around,” says Lawrence.

Bergeron organized for the trucks to begin moving the material soon after it was purchased, at the request of Dolan – who had encountered difficulty finding trucks to hire – and they have continued to move it daily for over a week, at no cost to the skate park.

“It’s our town. It’s our skate park. We might as well help out when we can,” Bergeron said when asked why he so readily volunteered to help.

“It will save money for the project and for the town. We don’t plan on billing them for any of it,” he adds.

Aside from moving this fill material, Bergeron added that the DPW has been involved in the building of the park since September, assisting with the test dig and removing the waste dirt when construction first began, and that it intends to stay available for any future needs that may arise from the project.



Billie Hudson of the Montague DPW hauls fill to the park site.

Back on Course

Lawrence says Grindline was able to resume construction with no delay in their timeline, and at no additional cost to the project. The park should be completed mid-December, provided there are no other major issues along the way.

“Hopefully we’ll get a few runs in before the snow gets too deep,” says Dolan.

A grand opening will be planned for spring-time.

When Dolan explains the situation, he shows no signs of frustration or disappointment. More than anything, he expresses immense gratitude towards the community and the swift generosity of Mackin and the Montague DPW. Lawrence was also pleasantly surprised by how quickly, and affordably, this issue was resolved.

The initial reason no soil inventory test was carried out is unknown, says Dolan, who notes that results from such a test might have been misleading anyway, as the groundwater level can vary depending on the time of year.

Both Lawrence and Dolan emphasize, though, that it was not the fault of one party in particular, but that it was likely a result of miscommunications, which can easily happen when there are so many moving parts involved in a single endeavor.

“It would have been prudent to have conducted a geotechnical inventory,” said town planner Walter Ramsey, “but you can’t account for everything ahead of time. It’s still an ideal site.”

He added that the town is “very happy” with Berkshire Design, who are still retained for project management and oversight.

“It’s cool the community as a whole is so into the project. You don’t get that everywhere,” says Lawrence, who tours the country building skate parks. “Smaller towns seem to be more hands-on, and it’s great to experience that and see the enthusiasm.”

Both individuals also conveyed little surprise at a problem such as this occurring mid-construction.

“It’s sort of to be expected, you know,” Dolan says, “at least one thing like this happening.”

“Hopefully this is the only one thing.”



NINA ROSSI PHOTOS



As of this Wednesday, the fill was graded, and wood framing was being constructed to pour the concrete bowl planned for the park’s northern end.

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CAMERAS from page A1

I’m putting my hands on you,” he said, “I want a record of that, period.”

The third, on the other hand, is public record law, and questions about whether police video archive are subject to document requests. “You have to provide them free of charge to all these people,” he said. “What if they say, ‘I want every traffic stop that happened on Route 2 in front of the French King Bridge’ – now what do you do?”

“There’s privacy issues that are going to overshadow those public record requests,” Blair continued, pointing out that civilians’ social security numbers are often read aloud on the recordings. “It’s all being verbalized – is that private now? I say yes,” he argued.

“You don’t want us to have the ability to alter the video, right?”

When Erving officers park their cruisers at the station, an automated, wireless system uploads the files from their dash-mounted equipment onto one camera, and they check in their body cameras. Any incidents they have “tagged” during filming are stored, by category, on the station’s server, for lengths of time determined by category.

Officers are encouraged to review the videos, for the purpose of filing written reports, but only Blair has an administrative login to the system.

In an attempt to set department standards and avoid potential legal pitfalls, Blair consulted with policies recommended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as those in place in Chicago and Los Angeles, and drafted an eight-page policy for Erving.

An Opt-In Approach

Across the river, in Montague, Chief Charles “Chip” Dodge has taken a different approach to the same issues. Using the same MIIA grant, Dodge has also bought five of the same camera, WatchGuard’s Vista model, and says the cameras have been in use since the middle of August of this year.

“Right now, we have an agreement that officers do not have to wear them,” Dodge told the *Reporter*. “It’s their choice – we’re encouraging that they wear them.”

Dodge said that Sgt. Lee Laster is in charge of administering the cameras, and the software that collects and stores their video.

Montague’s department is much larger, and includes three sergeants, three detectives, nine patrolmen and six reserve officers. Covering the entire force “would need many more grants,” he explained.

“I think there’s at least four, maybe five people that are wearing them,” Dodge said. “Laster’s wearing them, [community police officer Peter] Lapachinski’s wearing them, and I think some of the newer guys are wearing them.... The officers seem to be enjoying them.”

Dodge explained that the department does not yet have any established policy for the use of the cameras, or the storage of video files. “Right now it’s just trial and error,” he said.

“Sgt. Laster has advised the officers that it is preferred to warn people that they are being filmed.”

“We discussed it for a while,” he said. “It was on the media every day that some bad police officer was being accused of doing something, or an officer is getting injured, or citizens may be making false allegations.”

Montague’s police department does not film in its cruisers, and its officers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

“They have a union, and it would be a change in their working conditions if I was to order them to wear these,” Dodge explained. “At this point I don’t think it’ll ever be a mandatory thing in our agency,” he said, unless it became a legal requirement.

Nevertheless, when he saw the grant opportunity through the town’s insurer, he decided to go for the experiment. “We jump on every grant we can,” he said. “It was my hope that it would lower the incidence of violence towards the officers.”

Dodge said that so far, no video recording taken by his department’s body-worn cameras has been entered as evidence in any court case. But he was unsure whether the department was archiving video that could be considered public record.

“If it’s not part of a case, and [someone] asked for it, I’m not

sure if we would still have it on file,” he said.

“I’m hoping we’ll find out if [the cameras] are in fact useful for us, or if they’re more of a burden.”

Framework Unclear

Blair said the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA) is trying to get state laws changed.

“There’s a whole bunch of guys – there really is, a whole bunch of Massachusetts police chiefs – that want this. But the legislature is dragging their feet in helping us.

“We need exemptions on the public records law. We need to change the wiretap statute. There’s a bill right now that was being discussed recently – I called [state senate president] Stan Rosenberg and left him a message a week ago, because they were discussing it at the State House – to give us an exemption: ‘a uniformed police officer does not have to tell people that they’re being audio-recorded.’ Because that’s what we’re doing – you just assume that we are recording you, you know?”

Blair described the state as “protective”: “Mass prides itself on its civil rights,” he said. “They’re trying to change the public records law to make it easier for the public to get more records, and quicker. How does that affect this? We need some sort of guidelines.”

He said that many of his fellow police chiefs did not want to implement body cameras – “they just don’t want to get into trouble!” – until state laws change, but said he would prefer Erving serve as a test case, if necessary, to more waiting.

“I’ve always been a leader in technology,” Blair said. “We had mobile data terminals first: Greenfield, Montague, and us. Our record management system? We were one of the first ones in western MA to have it.”

“Other departments have asked me for my policy,” he said, adding that Buckland’s police department is also considering mandatory camera usage.

Blair said the draft policy had been vetted by an attorney from the MCOPA, and he hoped the town selectboard will approve it next Monday.



PHOTO COURTESY MPD

Montague community police officer Peter Lapachinski has been voluntarily wearing a body camera in recent months.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

All Calls This Week Motor Vehicle-Related

Monday, 10/12

6:30 p.m. Report of erratic operator on Route 2 near Weatherheads convenience store. Spoke with same, no impairment.

Tuesday, 10/13

1 p.m. Subject reported a rock broke a windshield on Route 2. No information given; no call back.

3:20 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle lockout on Laurel Lane. Entry gained.

11:15 p.m. Fire alarm at French King Motel.

Assisted on scene as Erving FD investigated.

Wednesday, 10/14

1:51 p.m. Suspicious vehicle parked at French King Bridge. Subject found to be in woods; all set.

2:45 p.m. Suspicious vehicle parked at Old State Road. Was driving slowly in Ridge Road area. Found to be a solar salesman with a permit from the town.

Thursday, 10/15

8:05 a.m. Assisted Gill

PD with a motor vehicle crash on Route 2 in Factory Hollow.

Friday, 10/16

7:15 a.m. Assisted state police on the scene of a motor vehicle crash at Route 2 and North Street.

Sunday, 10/18

3:20 p.m. Motorist reported a vehicle went off Route 2 and was stuck in the mud along the river in the Farley area. Checked area. Vehicle had left the scene.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Sisson Engineering Now Eying Usher; Sicard Works For Selectboard First

By KATIE NOLAN

At the October 19 Erving selectboard meeting, chair William Bembury said he had met with Cody Sisson, president and chief executive officer of Northfield’s Sisson Engineering, and county and regional economic development officials to discuss potential expansion of the engineering company at the former International Paper property on Papermill Road.

Bembury reported that it seemed that the former IP property was larger than Sisson required, and the condition of the property was a negative. However, he said Sisson was interested in looking at the former Usher Plant property and town property behind the Erving police station.

Bembury said that Margaret Sloan of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments would be providing Sisson with more infor-

mation on the town-owned properties.

Coordinator Work

The board appointed Jacquelyn Boyden, Benjamin Fellows, Daniel Hammock, Beth Lux, Philip Wonkka, and its own members Jacob Smith and Arthur Johnson to the administrative coordinator search committee.

Referring to two additional openings on the committee, Smith asked, “Was there any further resident interest?”

Bembury replied that no additional residents had asked to join the committee.

Richard Koyabashi of UMass-Boston’s Collins Center for Municipal Management will attend the October 26 selectboard meeting, and bring a scope of services for the Center’s work on the administrative coordinator search.

While completing the annual

review for municipal clerk Betsy Sicard, the board discussed her expanded workload since former administrative coordinator Tom Sharp’s retirement in July. Selectboard members stressed that selectboard work was a priority before work for other committees and boards.

Boyden suggested that the selectboard send a memo to town committees and boards explaining that the committees and boards, and not Sicard, should be preparing meeting minutes, agendas and postings.

Body Cameras

Police chief Chris Blair purchased “body-worn camera” devices (BWCs) for use by Erving officers, after receiving funding for the BWCs from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency. Erving officers will start using them the week of October 26.

Bembury said that BWCs are

new to Massachusetts, and no other departments in the state are using them. Blair submitted a BWC policy for selectboard review, written after consulting with the MIIA, departments in other states where BWCs are used, and the attorney for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. Erving has had mobile video cameras in its police cars for several years. According to Blair, the cruiser video cameras have resulted in fewer complaints about officers during traffic stops.

Pipeline Bias

The board of health requested to post a video of its September 24 hearing on potential health effects of natural gas pipelines and compressor stations on its page on the town’s website.

The selectboard decided that, before allowing the video to be posted, they wanted to see a formal request from that board, or a

copy of its minutes showing that a majority of the its members wanted the video posted.

“[Pipeline opponents] don’t speak for all of us,” said Johnson. He said he felt that putting the video on the town website would support “a political agenda.”

Smith replied that the board of health members were “the people we put on the board” to protect health in Erving, although he said he did feel “there was some bias there” at the hearing.

He suggested the town could add a disclaimer on the website that the video did not represent the official town position.

Other Business

The board signed a memorandum of understanding with Bernardston, allowing Johnson, the Erving animal control officer, to act as animal control officer in Bernardston as well.

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Wednesday, October 28
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Kinder Morgan "Community Forum"

An informational session with Kinder Morgan representatives about the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) pipeline will be held in the gymnasium, while an open-table community forum event will be held in the cafeteria.

This community forum will be a space to learn about the issues surrounding the pipeline, hear what others are doing, and find out what you can do.

Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline will be there, as will many other groups from the region who are committed to stopping the pipeline.



Come visit the Solar Store of Greenfield table in the cafeteria and learn how you can reduce your energy load by installing solar PV or hot water systems!

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 20, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Best of Old and New at the Gill Store

"It's like falling in love all over again!" That's what Susie Maddern said about coming back to work at the newly renovated Gill Store. "It's beautiful! It's so crisp and fresh and clean. What pleases me so much is that they've salvaged so much."

She's speaking to the store's past, which the store's new proprietors have carefully preserved as they prepared it for a new venture of use in the center of Gill.

Maddern knows whereof she speaks. She was the proprietor of the store for 28½ years. This June, town librarian Elizabeth Greenough and People's Pint owner Alden Booth purchased the store from Susie and Phil Maddern, who had owned it since 1977.

Montague Selectboard

Esleek Manufacturing Co., with a workforce of approximately 100, one of the town's largest employers, and the biggest sewer user in Montague, has asked for the entire \$174,168 balance in the sewer enter-

prise fund to be applied to lowering the rates this year.

A cruiser "blew an engine," according to police chief Ray Zukowski, but "is running beautifully now."

The board granted a permit for a Hallowe'en parade for Montague Center Elementary students and related ghouls.

Pat Allen sadly noted that illegal dumping had led to a cancellation of the convenient seven-day-a-week leaf drop-off policy at the town recycling center. Some residents had used the drop-off to get rid of sinks, carpets, brush and branches and numerous other items.

Wendell: Living History

The Wendell Senior Center was packed Sunday afternoon, October 16 to hear stories from four longtime Wendell residents. Together they have lived in town 250 years.

The childhood stories shared included walking to Orange and back for movies; clearing the sand dropped by sand trucks in winter to keep the hills good for sledding; one telephone for an entire neighborhood; growing up without electricity; buildings toppled in the hurricane of 1938; and other tales of a close knit-community of only a few hundred people.

GILL from page A1

that, without reciprocal presentations on Gill Elementary, these presentations potentially undermined enrollment at Gill's school.

"It's not a sales pitch that they receive," Sullivan said. "It's a transitional thing." He added that the trip is optional, and that 10 of Gill's 19 fifth-graders went on the trip last spring, all but one of those having already decided they would be switching to the Turners Falls school this fall.

"Is it possible a kid could have gone, or in the past one or two have gone, and they've changed their mind based on the visit? I suppose that's possible," he said. "But it's definitely not the intent of the trip."

"In almost 2-1/2 years," he added, "I've never been a part of a formal or informal conversation about doing anything to close up Gill. A lot of people seemed to be very concerned about that the last time you all met, and that may be based on some history with another school in the district, but as far as I know it's a non-issue."

"The perception I had was that all fifth-graders were going," said selectboard member Randy Crochier.

"I think there's this concern, when we had another elementary school get pulled away and eventually closed, due to attrition and sort of shifting the grades," said Snedeker. "I think there's just sort of a natural fear that that might happen to another small school."

"It's an understandable, and high-stakes, concern," acknowledged Sullivan.

Jane Oakes then introduced herself to the board, saying that she was born and raised in Montague City, went to Turners Falls High School, and lived in Gill after marrying a man from Gill. She then worked in Montague, and Gill-Montague, schools as a schoolteacher, and after retirement was elected to school committee in 2010.

Oakes said that she has served on a teachers' negotiation subcommittee during each of the last two contracts, each time filing disclosures with the town clerks of Gill and Montague about her previous employment within the bargaining unit.

A disagreement has arisen within the district school committee after chair Sandra Brown, also of Gill, recommended that former teachers be excluded from that subcommittee. At its last meeting, Gill's selectboard spoke unanimously in favor of this proposed criterion.

"The implication that I, or any teacher on the school committee, would do anything that was not in the best interest of the district, is really unfair and unfounded," said Oakes.

"As the issue seems to be that a school committee member might show favoritism toward acquaintances or friends in negotiating a contract," she argued, "in these small communities, I don't know how any member of the school

committee would be able to negotiate, because everyone there knows employees, and has good friends that are employees of the district."

"We're not pointing a finger at an individual," said Snedeker. "We do have to deal with perceptions.... It is our responsibility to look at it, not in terms of the person, but in terms of the position that you're holding."

"The only person that it could be talking about is myself," replied Oakes. "It may not be the intent.... I think the electorate certainly has the right to not elect somebody, if they feel that's a conflict."

Crochier said he was confused by the conversation, as he thought several members of the school committee were former teachers.

"I'm the only person who has taught in this district," she responded, clarifying that Brown had only proposed former district teachers, not all former teachers, be excepted from the subcommittee in question.

"Maybe the information you were given as talking points didn't include that," she said.

Snedeker reiterated his concern that "when you're a teacher, and stepping into teacher negotiations from the other side of it... you need to be very careful of the perception."

"I guess people are looking at me with a little less confidence in my ethics, and I do not appreciate that," answered Oakes. "It does become personal... We're small towns – politics is people, and in a small town, it's people that you know."

Oakes added that members of any number of town boards could fall under suspicion of favoritism.

Peg Rewa, a former paraprofessional at Gill Elementary, echoed this last point.

"It's hard enough to find good people to serve," she said. "I just would hope that we would have the faith in those people to do the best job that they can."

"If you're going to say what you happened to do sometime in your life excludes you or includes you – or what you didn't do includes you – I think maybe we're in a sad state," said school committee member Valeria "Timmie" Smith.

"The school committee has been elected by its constituency," she said, "and they know, pretty much, our backgrounds."

Crochier said that he himself trusted all three former teachers on the committee "implicitly," but like Snedeker cited the "perception" of conflict as the issue.

Oakes called some of Crochier's statements at the previous selectboard meeting, including a comment that a former teacher representing the district on the teachers' unit negotiating subcommittee "sounds like a fox watching a henhouse," "inflammatory."

"I just think those discussions bring us down to a level that the community doesn't deserve," she said. "It's all our district, and we're all working together."

New Lights Dissatisfying

Newly installed LED lights at town hall and the safety complex do not sufficiently illuminate the entryways to those buildings.

"Light, in my mind, equals security," said Crochier, who noted that the new lights cast a "smaller footprint".

At town hall, putting a motion sensor on the porch light seemed like the easiest solution, though an electrician would be needed to separate it from the foyer light.

But Crochier said he didn't think the police station door should only have a motion sensor light.

"Personally, I would use that power to install a much larger light," he said. "You could have a bail person coming in who might have cash.... I think an area like that needs security."

"Sounds like we need at least one more light on each area we're talking about," said Snedeker.

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said he had asked someone from the Fred Davis Corporation, the company that sold the town its lights, to come by after dark sometime to make recommendations for the sites.

Other Business

Nobody has stepped forward with an offer to edit the town newsletter. "Hopefully absence makes the heart grow fonder," said Purington. It was noted that the town's recreation commission has been revived.

The state Department of Public Utilities has nixed the 35-town municipal electricity aggregation attempt led by the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG). Gill supported participation in such a plan at a 2011 town meeting.

HCOG has recommended a company named Colonial Power to towns interested in pursuing aggregation, and this month the DPU approved another, 24-town plan in the state, organized by a New York-based company called Good Energy LP.

Snedeker proposed inviting someone from Colonial Power to meet with the board, and selectboard member John Ward suggested having someone from Good Energy come to that meeting, too.

The board approved a \$49.95 sewer abatement requested by Kurt Kwader, who had filled his pool.

It also appointed Pam Lester back onto the energy commission.

The state cultural council has rewarded Gill's cultural council a pot of \$4,400 to fund projects in the coming year. This continues a slow climb: from \$4,250 in 2014 to \$4,300 in 2015.

Ward and Snedeker were re-appointed as the town's delegate and alternate delegate to the Franklin Regional Planning Board.



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Fowler said that on November 2, his commission will “step in” for

Kuklewicz requested that the board approve a proposal for Montague to join a group called the "Municipal Coalition Against the

"Bring them in here," replied Bergeron.

***Notes from the
Wendell Town Clerk:***

Also, a reminder that Friday, November 6 at 5 p.m. is the last

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DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



No. 11, Jess Loynd, returns the ball during Monday's match against Athol High School. The Indians garnered a win, and a spot in the Western Mass tournament.



Hailey Whipple passes the ball during the Athol match. No. 13, Nadia Hasan, is ready for the play.



Hasan passes the ball as No. 12, Jordyn Fiske, readies for the spike.

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Hypnotized All the Time

By JOE
KWIECINSKI

GILL—What’s it like to be hypnotized? “If you want to know what a person being hypnotized looks like,” said Janet Masucci, “look at the person next to you in the living room, watching TV. When a person responds to the story in the electronic box as if it’s **real by shedding** a tear, being frightened, or having an emotional reaction – that’s the same as hypnosis.

“Except in hypnotherapy, you have more control over how you’re directing your attention.”

Janet has been practicing hypnotherapy since 1979, and integrative acupressure since 1991. She has offices at Riverside Healing and Bodywork at 64 French King Highway (Route 2), near the boat ramp and Barton Cove.

Masucci began her professional life after earning a bachelor’s degree in art education at Montclair University in Montclair, N.J. in 1969. She was an art teacher for a decade before studying at the Institute of Relaxation in Blackwood, N.J. where she became a certified hypnotherapist. New England Institute of Integrative Acupressure presented her with professional certification in 1991.

“I use hypnosis,” said Janet, “to help people examine their beliefs and attitudes that have outlived their usefulness, and to focus on what is useful and healing. So no matter what a person comes to see me about – it’s a **matter of healing** their relationship with themselves, and how that contributes to the ‘problem’ that he or she came in for.”

According to Masucci’s **website**, www.janetmasucci.com, hypnosis



Janet Masucci, in her Riverside hypnotherapy office.

may be beneficial for many difficulties, such as allergies, assertiveness, cigarette addiction recovery, concentration and memory, creativity and self-expression, dream exploration, exploring childhood memories, healing physical and emotional trauma, healthy eating habits, intuitive development, meditation, along with motivation and confidence.

In addition, the following may be helped by hypnosis: physical healing, pregnancy and childbirth, productivity, relaxation and stress management, self-healing, self-hypnosis, spiritual growth, and surgery.

“Issues of personal growth,” said Masucci, “**and emotional healing** are other areas clients would like to work on. Some people want to be more in control of their lives, more productive, working on emotional or physical pain, high blood pressure, perhaps immune issue problems. Others might be trying to complete a late term paper to get their diplomas.

“And in their minds, they think that the work needs to be grander than is really necessary.”

Reflecting her teaching background, Janet regards hypnosis as an educational process. “There are many things we’ve learned, consciously and unconsciously. Some aren’t true, and we may choose to unlearn them. Hypnosis happens all

see **HYPNOTIZED** page B5

PUMPKINS, SCARECROWS, COSTUMES AND MORE!

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – There are several great events to catch this weekend within five miles of each other: Pumpkinfest on Saturday in Turners Falls, the Scarecrows in the Park display on the Gill town common, and Bernardston’s fourth annual two-day festival also called Scarecrows in the Park.

What Turners lacks in scarecrows it hopes to make up for in pumpkins. Organizer Michael Nelson has added inducements for festival-goers who bring jack-o-lantern contributions:

Bring a pumpkin, win a prize! For every pumpkin you bring to the event, you get to pick an egg out of our box of magic and mystery. Every egg contains something – with prizes ranging from stickers and candy to Yankee Candles as well as gift certificates to Turners Falls Pizza House and Chandler’s Tavern!

The size of the pumpkin display is determined by the number of pumpkins the public brings. We encourage all families to try and bring at least one pumpkin. Think of how amazing that display would be!



The Scarecrows in the Park display Gill Elementary students created includes a fabulous “Tonn Hall Fairy Princess Scarecrow.”

Pumpkin check-in stations will be at Avenue A and Seventh Street, in front of St. Kaz, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and three blocks north on the Ave in front of Subway, from noon to 6 p.m. Considering that last year’s festival was estimated to bring 10,000 people to town, that would bring a lot of candlepower into the streets!

The main thoroughfare, Avenue A, will be closed at 11 a.m.; the festival begins at 2 p.m., with pumpkin lighting beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be over 100 food and craft vendors, a beer garden with local beer and cider, three stages of live music, children’s games, pumpkin carving, and more, including free flu shots.

There’s free shuttles running from 2 until 10 p.m. Catch a bus at the Turners Falls High School, Sheffield School, and Kuzmeskus Bus Company on Main Road in Gill.

The festivities continue until 9 p.m. Like previous Pumpkinfests, there is something for everyone and excitement for all. The weather forecast even looks good.

For event details, including a list of performers, see the “Franklin County Pumpkinfest” official page on Facebook.

Gill

Further on up the road, heading north over the new Turners Falls-Gill bridge for five miles, pause to

see **PUMPKINS** page B5



‘Tis the season ...

Making the “Ordinary” Extraordinary: Barbara Milot’s Altered Photographs on View at Nina’s Nook

By CHRISTOPHER
SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Barbara Milot’s new show *Ordinary Storms*, on view at Nina’s Nook through November 12, confoundingly dazzles. Her photographic images of skies and clouds, wonderful in and of themselves, are transformed, sometimes almost entirely, by the superimposition of swirls, marks, scratchings and acrylic paint. It’s not that she’s imposing art on nature; she’s extending nature through art.

The ability to see form in the natural world, then extend or embellish it, is hardly new. The Paleolithic cave painters did more than use walls as canvases; they saw forms in the natural contours of rock.

Milot does something of the same, and while she is not actually writing on the sky, a near impossibility, she uses the original digital photograph image as a springboard for her imagination. The markings are not random. Rather they grow naturally out of the subsurface. The result is that the sky is seen as one element in a re-imagined universe.

In many of the paintings sky and water seem to merge. In some of the paintings, such as “Ordinary Storms



Barbara Milot, “Ordinary Storms 8,” 2013.
Marker, ink and acrylic on a photograph.

(In the Eye)” and “Ordinary Storms (Great Wave),” clouds become pools in which shells make their homes. In others, the sky is more

of a factor. In “Ordinary Storms (Downpour),” Milot uses acrylic and marker to give an illusion of a

see **MILOT** page B4



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Fall
Pleasures

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGE CITY – On a mid-October morning we awaken to the first frost here by the Connecticut. But the sun is bright, promising a warm-up later in the day. The wood stove is soon glowing again. The cat rushes to nab the best seat for tanning in the sunroom.

A couple of short hours later, grey clouds have overtaken the skies and it is snowing! The cat retires to bed again in disgust.

By early afternoon, the sun is back in view, albeit curtained frequently by passing clouds. It is a brisk forty degrees and we embark on one of the fall pleasures: apple picking.

On the way to the orchard we admire the ongoing rainbow of fo-

liage made even more dramatic by the black lowering clouds which spit occasional snow. It has been such a beautiful, extended season.

In no time we have a full half bushel of tree-picked Macs and have enjoyed the taste of the season’s cider. Now we’ll **have to get busy** making applesauce and a few pies as well as enjoying the proverbial apple a day.

Just before the start of the Columbus holiday weekend, we drove down to the end of Rhode Island to spend one more day at the ocean-side. It turned out to be a spectacular beach day, with warm temperatures and a light breeze.

The surf was still high, and the hurricane wind and waters had

see **GARDENER’S** page B3

Pet of the Week



“BASIL”

Hi there! I’m Basil!! I’m ready to find a home!
I’m active and enjoy playing.
I don’t know if I’m house trained, but I’m pretty good here!
I’m looking for: An active home... not too active, I like naps!
I like leisurely walks, maybe a jog, couch time, playing with toys, snuggling with you, learning new things, going on hikes, playing ball, maybe even swimming!
I want to go to college, but I’ll take dog training classes instead.

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

Senior Center Activities October 26 to 30

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 10/26
8 - 9:30 a.m. Foot Clinic (appt.)
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 10/27
9 a.m. Mat Yoga (Subscription)
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday 10/28
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 Monthly Health Screenings
10:50 Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 10/29
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans’ Outreach
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Card Games & Scrabble
Friday 10/30
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.
For information, call Paula Beters, 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 10/26
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 Artful Knitting & Crochet
Tuesday 10/27
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting Class, Nana Preps
Wednesday 10/28
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 10/29
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
6 p.m. Garden Meeting
Friday 10/30
9 a.m. Quilting,
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 Halloween Costume Party

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

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.



(Left to right) Greenfield Community College student-artists Drew Orluk, Peter Fath, and Anthony Abearn; professor Jenn Simms; and student-artists Johanna Hoogendyk and Hannab Chase installed pieces for Autumnal Rites in the Avenue A Storefront Galleries this week.

Autumnal Rites is a group exhibition that explores the thin veil between this world and the spirit world. Autumnal rites, like Day of the Dead, All Saints Day, and Hallows’ Eve, are among the oldest celebrated on earth. In every country these observances occur after the harvest, when the barren earth gives passage to the souls lying beneath it.

Not pictured were video artist Bret Leighton, also of MCTV, and RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, who curated the exhibit along with Prof. Simms. Autumnal Rites will be on view through November 23 at the Storefront Galleries, at 110-112 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Alcohol and Sleep Apnea



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is it my imagination or does my husband’s snoring get worse if he’s been drinking?

I’d have to listen to him snoring to give you an answer to that one. But I can tell you that drinking can intensify snoring.

As you fall asleep, your tongue, throat and the roof of your mouth relax. If they relax too much, they may partially block the flow of air to your lungs. Then the tissue at the back of your mouth vibrates, creating the sound of logs being sawed. As the airway narrows, the vibration intensifies and the snoring gets louder.

Alcohol relaxes throat muscles, so it promotes snoring. If you want to avoid snoring, you should stop drinking alcohol at least four hours before bedtime.

Here are some other causes of snoring:

A soft palate that is long and low restricts the opening from the nose into the throat. That triangular thingy hanging in the back of the

palate is called a “uvula.” If your uvula is long, that creates wood-sawing, too.

Overweight people have bulky neck tissue. Extra bulk in the throat narrows your airway.

A stuffy nose or one that is blocked by a crooked partition (deviated septum) between the nostrils requires extra effort to pull air through it. This creates an exaggerated vacuum in the throat, and pulls throat tissues together.

Very loud snoring may also be associated with obstructive sleep apnea, a serious condition. When you have sleep apnea, your throat tissues obstruct your airway, preventing you from breathing. Heavy snorers should seek medical advice to ensure that they don’t have sleep apnea.

About one quarter of adults snore regularly. Almost half of normal adults snore occasionally. Men snore more than women. And snoring usually gets worse as we get older.

Here are some ways to counteract mild or occasional snoring:

- Sleep on your side. Lying on your back allows your tongue to drop into your throat where it can make you snore.
- Tilt the head of your bed up four inches.
- Mouth-breathing during sleep can lead to snoring, so make sure your nasal passages are clear. If you have chronic nasal congestion, ask your doctor about prescription nasal sprays.
- Avoid alcohol, tranquilizers,

sleeping pills, and antihistamines before bedtime.

- Lose weight.
- Correct a deviated septum with surgery.
- Place adhesive strips on your nose. They can open your nasal passages and make breathing easier.
- There are more than 300 devices designed to cure snoring. Some of them work because they keep you off your back. A few stop you from snoring by waking you.

And here are some treatments for snoring:

- Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (thank God it has an acronym “UPPP”) is surgery to tighten palate and throat tissue.
- Laser Assisted Uvula Palatoplasty (LAUP) vaporizes the uvula and part of the palate.
- Radiofrequency ablation employs a needle electrode to emit energy to shrink excess tissue.
- Oral appliances are dental mouthpieces that help advance the position of your tongue and soft palate to keep your air passage open.
- Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) involves wearing a mask over your nose. The mask is attached to a small pump that forces air through your airway, which keeps it open.

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

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

GARDENER’S from page B1

brought in strangers to the New England shore: massive clam shells, and one nearly perfect whelk. Even the water temperature was toe friendly.

That far to our south the trees were already bright, especially the soft maples. We were amused by the local TV news Friday night which included interviews with two “leaf peepers” in Shelburne Falls.

One gentleman commented that while there was still a fine drizzle, the color was spectacular. His counterpart was a woman who complained of having driven all the way up from Connecticut to find the color “very disappointing”. “But I don’t care,” she said: “We’re going to Vermont!”

Most late afternoons we walk the bike path and then spend some time on the bridge taking in the ever-changing view.

Today, while some trees have lost their brightness, we see new ones just starting to turn. The nearby field of pumpkins jumps out in their orange suits now that their green foliage has been frosted.

Under the pergola my Mandevilla vine, which blossomed continuously all summer, has been done in. I had contemplated trying to bring it in to over winter in the sunroom, but decided to let it go and pick up another next season. Instead, we pick the last of the late roses to enjoy inside.

The next morning we get an even deeper freeze.

We are glad that the garden is prepped for next season. The garlic is tucked in under a thick blanket of grass clippings. The plots have been fed with composted manure. We have bulbs awaiting next spring’s warmth.

Now we can cut back the dying asparagus ferns, pull the few weeds there, and fertilize the plot.

We have indulged in the fall pleasure of “putting by,” and have jars of corn relish and sweet pepper relish stashed in the cellar cupboard. There is plenty of cordwood stacked and undercover. Soon it will be time to put in our seed orders for next year’s garden as this year winds to a close.

But the year still offers much pleasure to come: pumpkin fests, trick or treating with the grandkids, harvest dinners with friends and family, all the comfort foods of the season. As the dark deepens we can settle in the warmth of the fire.

As the temperatures fall, the blood thickens and the pace slows. Sleep is deeper in the long nights.

But while the fall season holds, enjoy the energizing of the cooler days. Try to find time for a walk in the crisp air to catch the fall colors again and then, when they drop, enjoy the expanded views the bare branches invite.

Make an apple pie spiced with nutmeg and clove. Drink a cup of warm cider with a cinnamon stick. Collect some of the storing vegetables: squash, onion and potatoes from our local farms, and store them in a cool place for the months ahead.

While we don’t look forward to the intense cold and the deepening dark, we wouldn’t live anywhere else. Our lives are marked by the changing seasons and we like it that way.

Enjoy your own fall pleasures while you look forward to the next season of happy gardening!



TV REVIEW

CSI: Cyber, with Ted Danson

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The show *CSI: Las Vegas* had its series finale last Sunday, but that doesn’t mean Ted Danson is no longer working with that type of show. He has moved on to *CSI: Cyber* to play the character D. B. Russell on that show. This character becomes the director of the cyber division when he joins the show.

For the second season premiere, there are a couple of storylines during the episode. D. B. Russell’s skills as a crime scene tech come in handy with the crime-of-the-week story that is happening in the episode. Because of these skills, the team is able to figure out that what they assume was a burglary was actually a murder. So far at this point, Ted Danson is fitting nicely into the show.

One of the other storylines from the episode involves a computer tech who’s part of the team having to testify at his sister’s trial, because she killed the man who murdered their parents. We learn that the poor girl saw her parents’ bodies after they had been killed. She pushed her brother away from seeing them like that.

The flashback sequence which features that action gives the audience a little bit of a window inside the dynamics these siblings have. By the way, her brother thinks she killed the man in self defense. But his sister lied to him; she had been stalking the victim, and it seems to have been a premeditated murder.

As for the crime-of-the-week storyline, one of the people in-



Hackers, beware: Ted Danson’s character, D. B. Russell, is on the case.

involved in the crime is found dead. What is left is to find a hacker who helped the guy get into the house. They do get the hacker who turns out to be disgruntled about something that happened to him. Also, unfortunately, he also turns out to be a man with a wife and two kids.

Besides that bit of sadness, one character learns his father has cancer and is refusing treatment. The interaction between a character played by Patricia Arquette and the D. B. Russell character is good to watch as well.

There were some weak points in the episode, but I overlooked them due to the interaction between Patricia Arquette’s character and D. B. Russell. It just to me seems that Danson being in the show, as well as being in the episode, made it so that everything I saw wasn’t falling completely flat. You know, like blowing up a balloon, and having the air suddenly come out of it just as you finish.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Female or Females Comprehensively Failed by Social Safety Net; Mushroom Foraging; Scams; Violent Dog; Loose Horse

Monday, 10/12

10:32 a.m. Caller reports that a female just left Shady Glen without paying for her meal. Female spoken to; caller advised of options.

5:35 p.m. Caller reports that when she returned home 40 minutes ago, she found her cat hiding in the closet and noticed that she had a broken window. Responding officer states that it appears that the broken window may have been caused by maintenance performing lawn care.

8:58 p.m. Caller advising of intoxicated male known to her walking up/down Third Street yelling, singing, and being loud. Party taken into custody then released.

Tuesday, 10/13

6:54 a.m. Call from motorist reporting loose white horse on Turners Falls Road. Day shift/officer advised; message left for possible owner.

4:57 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road advises that he usually places some items in front of his house for sale, and today 2 items were taken and not paid for: a jacket with a price tag of \$25, and a kids’ sink with price tag of \$20. Report taken.

Wednesday, 10/14

5:05 a.m. Caller reporting suspicious male party at corner of Fifth and L streets; male was asking caller questions. Officer located male, who was waiting for a friend he works with. Male stated he did ask someone who passed by what the time was. Nothing suspicious noted.

10:59 a.m. Report of a suspicious object on one of the benches behind the bandshell in Peske Park. Caller likened the object to that of a toaster with extra wires sticking out of it and a 6 foot wire on the ground nearby. TFFD and officer advised. TFFD request PD establish a perimeter. Upon arrival, officer and TFFD determined the object to be a ballast box on a picnic table. No hazard. Caller advised.

2:19 p.m. Chief Dodge received information about a suspicious situation. Caller observed a white VW convertible parked at Crocker Avenue and High Street. A male party got out of the vehicle and went down a steep embankment that the caller is not used to seeing people go down. Officer spoke with party, who was in the area looking for mushrooms. Party will park in a different area so as not to alarm the residents.

9:06 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that a female party is out on the back porch, intoxicated and babbling/yelling. Caller believes that the female enters apartments to take food when nobody is home or when they are sleeping. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 10/15

3:53 p.m. Caller reports that her prescription for Suboxone was stolen last Friday from 15 Fifth Street; she has since been to the doctor and obtained a new script, but she is unable to have it filled until she has a police report. While entering call, it was discovered that there was summons waiting to be served to this party. Caller advised; paperwork faxed to Greenfield PD. Officer spoke with caller and advised her that she could request a copy of this call from the records department during business hours. Caller filled out request form and was given copy of call; also advised that the summons was served to her last night by a Greenfield police officer.

Friday, 10/16

9:26 a.m. Caller, a contractor, received a call from someone asking him to do work on Wendell Road. Party wanted to give the caller a credit card number, have him run it for more than the job price, and have caller send him the difference. Party found not to be owner of residence for which work was requested. Officer spoke with caller, advised of options and that this appears to be a scam.

11:45 a.m. Caller from Crocker Building on Avenue A advises that a homeless female slept in their building again last night; requests that officers on night/early morning shifts periodically check the area as they expect she will return. Caller called back advising that the female was just outside the Crocker Building. Female defecated outside and has several of her belongings set up around the area. Female gone upon officer’s arrival.

2:19 p.m. Party into station with a cell phone she purchased yesterday from a male party. When party turned on phone to activate it, FBI warnings began popping up along with images of child pornography. Caller is concerned that if she is able to activate the phone, she will be held accountable for the images. Officer confirmed this is a scam where the sender advises that if the holder of the phone sends \$500, they can stop the FBI’s investigation. Advised of options.

5:53 p.m. Caller from Food City reports that one of the cashiers observed a female walk out with a deli grinder that she did not pay for. Officer located female’s belongings near the Discovery Center. Area checked; female not found.

9:16 p.m. Fire alarm activation at Judd Wire. TFFD advised and en route; confirmed active fire in ventilation system in rear of building. Second alarm and mutual aid requested. Greenfield, Northfield, and Gill FDs en route to scene; Deerfield FD en route to station for coverage. Fire extinguished; units clear except for a fire watch that is remaining on scene.

10:49 p.m. Housing called to advise that female is sleeping in the lobby of the Crocker Building; she would like her removed. Officer advises that female was told to move along; same was given her last warning. If she goes back into the building, she will be arrested for trespassing.

Saturday, 10/17

11:22 a.m. Caller reports that she, her dog, and her brother were all “attacked” by another dog while at Unity Park near the old bridge abutment in the field. Officer checked park and spoke to several parties, none of whom saw the incident. Other dog and owner not located. Report taken.

11:37 a.m. Officer checking on a party putting belongings into carts near the Discovery Center. Party advised that while this area is public space, she is not allowed to camp here and will have to move along.

11:43 a.m. Officer checking on a party in a vehicle in the wooded area near Unity Park; party inside is sleeping. Party spoken to; she is fine. Homeless and sleeping.

1:40 p.m. Caller from Old Stage Road contacted chief directly to report that “tee pees” have been erected in the area and there has been increased vehicle traffic. Caller’s son and a friend found small black containers filled with white powder in the area. Officers spoke to property owner, who is trying to get these people off of his property. Container with white powder seized; unknown at this time what the powder is. Property owner advised of options.

2:59 p.m. Structure fire on North Leverett Road. MCFD and MPD on scene. Determined to be chimney/furnace problem.

3:20 p.m. Caller reports that earlier today he was at the dog area of Unity Park with his dog on a leash, and a female’s dog “clamped on to” his dog’s head. Caller took his injured dog to emergency vet in South Deerfield; will request that female pay for the bills. Caller advised of earlier call from female regarding this incident. Copy of call left for animal control officer. Caller advised to keep dog quarantined until ACO speaks with him.

10:20 p.m. Hit and run accident on Montague City Road; vehicle struck tree in front of caller’s house then left area. Report taken.

Sunday, 10/18

7:56 a.m. Caller reports that a homeless person has been sleeping on the back porch of the United Arc. Party moved along.

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OYSTERGIRL's guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

#9: The Local is Political

For many people, the whole “going local” thing may just be a trend, like “green is the new black,” USDA-style “organic,” etc., but for me it’s the only thing that makes sense.

Since I was a kid I’ve had politically-conscious leanings, and have gone through a lot of phases in search of things that I could get passionate about and that could make me feel like my existence on this planet wasn’t entirely in vain. It took me a while to figure out that the bigger a cause was, the further it tried to reach, the more futile it seemed.

Douglas Adams explains this phenomenon in his speech, “Is There An Artificial God?”:

“[W]e don’t have to go very far back in our history until we find that all the information that reached us was relevant to us and therefore... any news, whether it was about something that’s actually happened to us, in the next house, or in the next village, within the boundary or within our horizon, it happened in our world and if we reacted to it the world reacted back. It was all relevant to us, so for example, if somebody had a terrible accident we could crowd round and really help.

Nowadays, [because of mass communication]... if a plane crashes in India we may get terribly anxious about it but our anxiety doesn’t have any impact...

We’ve all become twisted and disconnected and it’s not surprising that we feel very stressed and alienated in the world because the world impacts on us but we don’t impact the world.”

This is just how I felt. So it was only a matter of time before I drifted toward the local, the communal. This became strongest when I lived in Yellow Springs, Ohio. A village of 4,000, and very community-based, Yellow Springs allowed me to dive right into local living.

I worked at the adamantly village-bounded newspaper that is one of the few remaining independently-owned newspapers in the country. (A shout out to this paper right here, too!)

I managed events, art, and music at the main coffee shop/gathering space in town, and hosted many of my own events there. I worked at the local nonprofit art-house movie theater, where I also ran special events as part of the programming committee.

Friends and I made short films that screened locally, and theater, which was performed locally. For me, art is always about community. I’ve never thrived in places where it’s all about competition and being “the best”; talk about uninspiring.

Other villagers got engaged in the things I was doing, and I was often commended. I was thankful that I finally had a place where I could get involved, and take initia-

tive, without having to go through a ton of bureaucracy, or know the “right people,” or take so much time to get established in order to be trusted.

Getting involved on a local level – as an organizer or a promoter or an artist or an agitator or a participant or a provider – gives us the chance to make a tangible impact with whatever our passions are. We can enlighten, incite, and entertain, and in turn, be enlightened, incited, and entertained.

And, perhaps more importantly, we can take care of, and be taken care of by, our fellow community members, our comrades, our *compadres*. We share resources directly, rather than through our bureaucratic, dehumanizing economic system.

We make connections with real people, and can maintain our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being, because they’re always glad you came. You can see our troubles are all the same. And everybody knows your name.

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the paleo/ancestral movement.

She writes about food and philosophy and more at theycalmeoystergirl.com.

She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

FOOTBALL from page A1

into Cullen Wozniak’s arms. Cullen engulfed the ball and went down on his knees, starting Powertown’s first series at the midfield stripe.

Jalen and Quinn Doyle crashed and dashed into Orange territory, and on first and 10 from the Orange 20, Jalen hit pay dirt. He got the ball, brushed to the outside, and sprinted past everyone, and with a minute 25 seconds gone in the game, the Tribe led 7-0.

“Jalen Sanders kicked off and he also made the tackle,” the announcer mused as the Orange Offense took the field. A motion penalty, a gang tackle, and a Sanders sack gave the Orioles a third-and-25. The Blue D put pressure on the QB, and although the pass was complete, it fell short of the first down marker, forcing Belchertown to punt.

Turners took over on the 44 and Jalen broke loose again. He got past the line, got into the secondary, faked left, went right and followed his blockers all the way to the 11. On third and a foot, Quinn smashed his way into the end zone, putting Turners up 14-0.

Belchertown got the ball on their own 25 and proceeded to move backwards. On second and 12, Tahner Castine crashed into the ball carrier for another 8-yard loss. A false start gave the Orioles a 3rd and 25. A completed pass got some of the yardage back, but it wasn’t enough, and the Orioles were again forced to surrender the ball.

The punt rolled all the way to the Blue 23 and the quarter ended with Powertown facing third and 2 from their own 31.

It took Jalen 14 seconds to run the 69 yards from the scrimmage line to the end zone on the very next play. Once he got into the secondary, he kept his eyes at least 15 yards upfield. When a lane closed in front of him, he changed direction and darted into an open gap. The Blue blockers took his lead and slammed his pursu-

ers as they tried to change direction, and once in the open, Jalen sprinted all the way home. And 14 seconds into the second quarter, Turners led 21-0.

Orange attempted to pass on their next series, but the Blue D put too much pressure on the quarterback. After an incomplete pass and quarterback scramble, Belchertown was facing a third-and-5 from their own 30. Will Roberge picked off the next pass attempt, and Blue took over on the Orioles’ 20.

Doyle pounded the ball once and on second down, he bulled ahead another 17 yards for another Powertown touchdown.

When things go right for you, they go right. For whatever reason, the hike went high on the PAT kick attempt, and in an alert special team play, Jack Darling caught the ball for a 2-pointer and the Tribe took a 29-0 lead.

Belchertown took over on their 19, and after some colossal hits were forced to punt. The punt bounced all the way to the Blue 34. A flag moved the ball back to the 29, and on second and 14, Doyle dragged a few Orioles into the secondary, turned the corner, and banged his way to the Orange 49. On the next play, Sanders weaved through the Orange defense and wasn’t stopped until he reached the 10. Then he scored again on the very next play. With 1:17 to go in the half, the Tribe led 36-0.

“Jalen Sanders should be getting tired soon,” the announcer said, much to the amusement of the crowd, as Jalen lined up to kick the ball off.

Colby Dobias made the stop on the kickoff and a “tribe of Indians” (the announcer’s words) gang-tackled the Orange runner on first down. If Jalen was getting tired, he didn’t show it – the first half ended with another Sanders sack.

Second Half

Another sack, this time Akeeva Forcier’s turn, stopped the Orioles’ first second-half drive.

Turners took over on the Blue 48, and pounded their way down the field once again. Jack Darling scored a 7 yard TD, putting the Tribe up 43-zip.

The Blue D stopped the Orioles again and Turners took over with 1:05 left in the quarter. On the first play of the fourth, Sanders danced, scrambled, and banged his way into the end zone, and Powertown led 49-0.

Turners was unable to get to the mid-century mark as the PAT went wide, but it didn’t matter. It was time to send in the subs.

Jalen Sanders gained 234 yards on 9 carries and scored 4 touchdowns. Quinn Doyle rushed for 104 yards and 2 TDs. Jack Darling also scored a touchdown, and a 2-point conversion. Will Roberge, John Driscoll and Mark Waite also carried the ball for the Tribe. Tyler Lavin kicked 5 extra points.

On the defensive side of the ball, Tahner Castine had 6 solo tackles, and Quinn Doyle got 4. Roberge, Reilan Castine, Owen Ortiz, Darling, Sanders, Nick Croteau, Andy Craver, Dobias, Trevor Mankowsky, Ricky Smith, and Forcier also had tackles for the Blue D. Sanders had 2 sacks, and Forcier had 1. Roberge had an interception and Croteau defended a pass.

Turners will host the Lee Wildcats on Friday night, October 23.

MILOT from page B1

cloud bursting downwards.

According to Milot’s artist statement, the series emerged when she discovered an envelope of sky photographs that she had taken over the years.

“[I] began to draw on them and scratch through the printed surface,” she writes. “This was the start of my current body of work, the Ordinary Storms series.”

I can only think that the title of her exhibit is intended as playful. What she depicts are hardly “ordinary storms.”

They are fanciful, turbulent,



Barbara Milot poses in front of a wall of her work in this 2013 photo taken at Nina’s Nook. Meet Barbara at the opening reception held during Pumpkinfest this Saturday.

imaginative and compelling, the way an ordinary storm is not.

And yet Milot is also attuned to the ordinariness of the extraordinary: “The photographs are glimpses of the constantly changing effects of light in space, the very essence of ephemera, while the physical qualities of the materials interact with the insubstantial objects. The elusive subject suggests process and change, the transition from one set of conditions to another.”

She has also noted that her work is based on “observation of the landscape, space and natural forms.”

She elaborates her process further: “I also look at maps or related scientific diagrams and incorporate elements from these into my work.... I am interested in the tension that is created when the digital representation is interrupted by the tactile marks and structures.”

Ordinary Storms is on view at Nina’s Nook from October 8 to November 12. Meet the artist during Franklin County Pumpkinfest in Turners Falls this Saturday, October 24 between 5 and 7 p.m.

Nina’s Nook is located at 125A Avenue A. Hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

October 19 – 23: Dance, Music, and a Church Service



By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

The mornings are becoming cold and frosty, and we even saw some light snow this weekend! Some new musical programming has been uploaded this week as MCTV continues to cover local events. Now available in the TV schedule and for download from our website:

Upper Valley Music Festival 2015: Celtic Heels. Another excerpt from this year’s Upper Valley Music Festival, this time featuring Celtic Heels, an Irish Dance Troupe based in Greenfield with a modern flair!

Coffeehouse Series: Tak-

ing Back Eden, October 9. This month’s coffeehouse at the Great Falls Discovery Center featured Taking Back Eden, a contemporary folk-rock band based in Amherst.

Montague Church Service, October 4. Family dogs join the congregation while Rev. Barbara Turner Delisle leads a special service on “The Blessing of the Animals.”

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

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PUMPKINS from page B1

check out the first annual scarecrows in the park display in the center of the tiny town of Gill, courtesy of students at Gill Elementary. The exhibit is ongoing until Halloween.

Drive slowly on Main Road in Gill and enjoy the beautiful scenery as it rolls by – it’s one of the most picturesque spots in Franklin County!

Bernardston

Five miles from Gill center, take a left turn on Route 10 and follow the hubbub to Scarecrows in the Park in Cushman Park at the corner of Routes 5 and 10 in Bernardston. You will find live music, craft and food booths, and many more scarecrows on both Saturday and Sunday.

These scarecrows are awarded prizes in several categories, with the latest one this year being Reading, which joins Scariest, Funniest, Most Interesting Use of Materials, and Prettiest.

There is a full schedule of events online but some highlights include: hay rides, Tractor & Rag Shag Parade, two days of live music, Halloween Dance Party, artist demonstrations, a visit and demonstration from/by local canine police officers, a fiddlers’ jam, and of course

local food and libations.

Music begins on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the evening wraps up with movies in the music tent at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, come for a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. offered by the Bernardston Fire Department. Music and festivities conclude at 3 on the last day.

Scarecrow in the Park is brought to the community by the Bernardston Kiwanis, in support of its Scholarship Fund. For details, see the event pages “Scarecrow in the Park 2015” on Facebook.

And More!

That concludes the weekend lineup. Please check our Briefs and the events page to learn about plays, concerts, art exhibit and other stuff that are too numerous to list in one article.

One last thing: we’re including another event in Turners that happens the following weekend on Saturday, October 31, because it just might entail some advance preparations for some of you.

Richie Richardson, in collaboration with The Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, presents “You Fab Halloween Costume Ball” at the Big Hall Great Falls Harvest, 50 Third Street at 8 p.m.

Check out the article below for more information.



HYPNOTIZED from page B1

day long. With our eyes open, we get subconscious messages about who we are, and what we can and can’t do. **And we may internalize them.**”

Another interesting point is that some people worry about being influenced by hypnosis. Masucci notes that we are influenced by our culture and the people around us all the time.

By having more awareness, we can question those messages and use self-hypnosis to affirm what’s really true.

“Whether you’re paying attention or not,” she said, “your subconscious will respond to the suggestions that are right for you. Even if you are hypnotized, you will not respond to a suggestion that is not right for you. For example, if the suggestion is against your morals, you will not respond.”

Janet makes a CD recording, so that clients can “take the session home” to reinforce her suggestions. “I like to describe my technique as saying nice things in a soothing, boring voice, so you stop paying attention as you relax to sleep with pretty music in the background. Most of my CDs are made to be used at bedtime.

“Just because you’re hypnotized and you respond to a suggestion,

doesn’t mean that’s fixed for life. It took a lot of conditioning to get to where you were prior to hypnosis. Hypnosis has to be reinforced to secure permanent changes.”

Meanwhile, Masucci is equally delighted to be offering integrative acupressure in her practice.

It’s a manual therapy that can include pressure, stretching, holding positions, and energy work. “It might feel like what most people think massage feels like,” said Janet, “but people are fully clothed. We work the same meridians as acupuncturists, but we don’t use needles.”

Masucci believes the body is always moving toward homeostasis, the body’s self-correcting mechanism. However, sometimes we have blockages, either physical or mental, that interrupt the self-healing process.

“With either hypnosis or acupressure, I’m helping people to have more self-awareness in order to eliminate those blocks, such as improvements in awareness, posture, or attitude.”

Integrative acupressure works to balance flexibility, muscle tension, and energy flow. For example, muscles in the chest tend to become contracted because we’re always leaning forward – driving a car, sitting at a desk, etc. These activities

can lead to headaches and lower back pain.

In addition, integrative acupressure may be helpful for building and strengthening the immune system, calming the nervous system, building energy, and helping stiff, aching joints.

Sessions are one hour in length. “What I do depends on what the client needs, and what I feel is best. They should dress comfortably, bring sweatpants or pajama bottoms, and change here.”

After all these years, Janet Masucci still loves her work. “It gives me a lot of satisfaction,” she said. “I’m 68 and I feel I have plenty to give. I’m active with the Gill Energy Commission, care about the planet, and have faith in people.

“People can be unconsciously committed to being miserable. I help them to explore any attitudes or beliefs that are making them suffer needlessly.”

Riverside Healing and Bodywork is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Exceptions are made if someone is in pain. Other days are available for on-site events.

Janet also visits businesses and brings a bodywork chair. Riverside Healing’s phone number is (413) 863-8694.



“YOU FAB”: An Ode to the Spirit

By **RICHIE RICHARDSON**

TURNERS FALLS – I absolutely love the culture, the theatre, and the ritual of Halloween, and I consider myself a Halloween maven.

Even though the Day of the Dead festivals are celebrated universally, Halloween was not part of the cultural narrative when I was growing up in the Caribbean. Instead, we celebrated the traditions of All Saints and All Souls, which are observed on November 1 and November 2.

On those two days there would be cer-

emonial gatherings at the gravesites of family members and loved ones. We would gather during the day to clean their graves, plant flowers and bring lots of white candles.

Then at night, we would light the candles in a grand festival of light and the entire cemetery would come alive with festive remembrance; sometimes there would be music, but mainly with percussion instruments, solemn chanting and singing, but no dancing.

All Saints is also called All Hallows, or Halloween, and that was probably one of the few occasions when solemnity was truly observed, without any major fanfare. In my

culture, almost any event can easily blossom into some kind of impromptu festive celebration or big party.

If you were born in Trinidad & Tobago, the spirit of carnival, calypso and steel pan is firmly in your DNA. And the further away you are from that triad, the urge to libate in that rich cultural milieu will continue to grow, manifest, and expand in the most extraordinary ways.

In 1990, when I arrived in New York, my desires were to become involved in the Caribbean Carnival and New York’s Village Halloween Parade.

I designed my first masquerade carnival costumes for the Band Savage in 1991 and the following year, I became involved with Village Halloween Parade and for me... it was the most natural fit. Since then I have been enthralled with Halloween... conjuring, celebrating and producing.

Turners Falls

I moved to Turners Falls during the summer of 2014. However, the move coincided with my carnival projects and other creative commitments in New York. Therefore, I had spent most of my time there.

This year, I did not do the carnival, and that allowed me to spend more time in Turners. I was able to forge new friendships and establish some valued connections, and explore ways I can contribute and make a creative investment in the community.

February presented an opportunity for me to work with Rodney Madison to help launch a week of celebrations that would commemorate Black History Month. I also collaborated with Suzanne LoManto and Anne Harding to produce the BHM Music and Diversity event.

The success of the event gave me a deeper appreciation of the community.

Halloween Ball

The appreciation has grown and became the inspiration for the theme, YOU FAB.

YOU FAB is an ode to the spirit and openness of the people here, and for the support and embrace I have experienced in Turners Falls.

My themes are usually more Avant Garde and tend to be inspired by what is happening in the present and not in the past. This is a celebration of you and You are FABulous.

Richie Richardson, in collaboration with the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, presents

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Richie Richardson adjusts his costumes, modeled by mannequins, for the 2011 Labor Day Parade in NYC.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la nueva página en español del Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org

Día de los Muertos, más allá de Halloween

By VICTORIA MAILLO

TURNERS FALLS – El próximo fin de semana tendrá lugar en Turners Falls su famoso *Pumpkinfest Festival* como preludio de la tradicional fiesta de Halloween. Según algunas fuentes el origen de la noche de Halloween se remonta a hace más de 3.000 años cuando los celtas celebraban el fin del año el 31 de octubre. Los celtas habitaban en Irlanda, Inglaterra y Escocia. Años más tarde inmigrantes irlandeses trajeron la tradición de Halloween a los Estados Unidos en el siglo XIX. Menos conocido en Estados Unidos es el Día de los Muertos que se celebra en México y en otros países de Latinoamérica y en las comunidades hispanas en los Estados Unidos. En 2003 la UNESCO declaró el Día de los Muertos como Obra Maestra del Patrimonio Intangible y Oral de la Humanidad. Existen algunas discrepancias en cuanto al origen que es atribuido

por algunos a los indígenas de Me-soamérica que rendían tributo a sus muertos con calaveras y otros instrumentos votivos antes de la llegada de los europeos. Coincidió con el noveno mes del calendario azteca y las festividades que eran presididas por *Mictecacíhuatl* o Dama de la Muerte (la actual Catrina) duraban un mes. Otros estudios creen que era ya una tradición en el Imperio romano donde construían altares para honrar a sus muertos y de allí pasaron a la Edad Media en la que se celebraba el Día de los Difuntos hasta llegar a los Jesuitas que la trajeron al Nuevo Mundo. En cualquier caso, en lo que estamos de acuerdo ya sea una tradición indígena o católica es que las diferentes culturas se han preguntado a lo largo del tiempo acerca del misterio de la muerte o cómo honrar a sus muertos y lograr que sus recuerdos perduren. Mi opinión personal es que el actual Día de los Muertos



Altar del Día de los Muertos en Oaxaca, México.

es una mezcla de ambas culturas, un sincretismo cultural que es el valor más importante del encuentro entre los dos mundos. La diferencia más importante que existe actualmente entre el Día de los Difuntos que se celebra en España y el Día de los Muertos en México es que a este lado del Atlántico la muerte se toma con humor, con fina ironía, se la celebra y se le ponen calificativos como la flaca, la pelona, y la huesuda. En España, la muerte es un tema tabú y no se hacen bromas con ella. Volviendo al Día de los Muertos que se celebra desde el 31 de octubre hasta el 2 de noviembre hay una serie de símbolos que no pueden faltar. El principal es el altar. En todas las casas se monta un altar para honrar a los familiares y seres queridos que ya no están y en donde se colocan los alimentos y bebidas favoritas de los difuntos cuando estaban vivos. Otros objetos que podemos encontrar son libros, tabaco, velas, fotografías,

flores y todo aquello que fuera del agrado del difunto. La tradición dice que los muertos visitan la casa y vuelven a probar sus víveres favoritos. En el altar se colocan también ofrendas como calaveras de azúcar de diferentes colores, pan de muerto, chocolate caliente, y otros dulces. Si al familiar le gustaba la música se pone música o se colocan instrumentos musicales o si le gustaba pintar, los pinceles y los lienzos. En definitiva, una fiesta para compartir con los difuntos sus placeres en vida, una fiesta para celebrar la muerte y la vida. Felipe Gonzalez de Mariachi Shoe Repair en Avenue A de Turners Falls piensa colocar un altar en el establecimiento que comparte con Giselle de Cosa Rara para dar a conocer esta tradición y repartir dulces entre los chiquillos. No olviden pasar por allí entre el 31 de octubre y el 2 de noviembre para conocer *in situ* esta costumbre hispana.



Calaveras de azúcar.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries: Una labor social necesaria

By VICTORIA MAILLO

TURNERS FALLS – Si pasa por la intersección entre Avenue A y Third Street habrá observado a través de las ventanas a niños jugando y leyendo. Yo había pasado muchas veces por allí y tenía curiosidad por saber qué hacían en ese lugar. Una mañana me acerqué por allí y pude hablar con Susan Mareneck, la directora ejecutiva, que me recibió muy amablemente y me explicó la gran labor social que llevan a cabo. *Montague Catholic Social Ministries* nació en 1994 como respuesta a problemas sociales y de violencia doméstica en el área. En aquellos años Turners Falls tenía las cifras más altas

de violencia en el hogar de Massachusetts y una de las más altas del país. Las situaciones han ido cambiando y *Montague Catholic Social Ministries* ha ido ajustándose a las circunstancias. La organización ofrece diferentes programas para ayudar a familias e individuos con necesidades económicas o en situaciones de violencia. Me centraré en este artículo en los programas que ofrece y pueden interesar a la comunidad hispanica en el área. Susan me explicó que en colaboración con *The Center for New Americans* ofrece clases de inglés como segunda lengua. Así mismo pueden encontrar cada primer domingo del mes de 10 a 12 de la mañana un espacio se-

guro y en español para que los niños y sus padres jueguen y disfruten juntos con música, lectura y juegos. Hay también programas dedicados específicamente a las mujeres donde las participantes pueden compartir experiencias, hacer manualidades, usar la biblioteca y los computadores en un espacio seguro. Existen otros distintos programas para cubrir diferentes necesidades ya que Susan me explicó que están siempre atentos a los cambios sociales y demográficos que se producen en el área. Les recomiendo una visita por su sede en 43 Third Street si quieren conocer más detalles acerca de Montague Catholic Social Ministries.



Montague Catholic Social Ministries

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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: *Inside Art ii*, and *Reflections from Inside*. Exhibit of photography and a display of writings from men incarcerated in the Franklin County House of Correction. Opens 10/26 to 11/20. Reception is 11/6, 5-7 p.m.

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. Through 11/30. Hours for Discovery Center are now 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *Trees and Travels*. Exhibit by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Through 10/31.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *The Erection*. On-going exhibit chronicles the creation of Glenn Ridler's Little Big House. Photographs, printed text and video help tell the story. info@littlebighousegallery.com

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*. Runs 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 Show to 10/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Cornucopia: A Retrospective Duo*. Sally Chaffee and Marie Sakellarion. Beadwork, jewelry, traditional folk art, and decorative painting. Show

runs through 10/26.

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

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Fabric Art. Memorial Art Exhibit for Sara Clearwater Liberty*. 23 privately owned pieces, including floor coverings, tapestries and a quilt. Through 10/31.

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. Details: www.theartgarden.org.



Ben Hunter and Joe Seamons will bring their *American Roots* music to Mocha Maya this Sunday, October 25 for a 2:30 p.m. performance. Based in Seattle, Ben and Joe are dedicated to spreading the glory and whimsy of traditional blues and folk songs.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-operative gallery. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

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

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

the Arts Block Greenfield: *Greenfield Annual Word Festival*. Through 10/25. Different venues in Greenfield. 7 p.m.

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. 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 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *An American Werewolf in London*. Classic 1981 horror/humor movie, even includes Kermit and Ms. Piggy. It's almost Halloween! 7:30 p.m. Music by Ken Swiatek at 7 p.m.

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*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Julian Gerstin Sextet*, World music jazz. 8 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *An American Werewolf in London*. See Fridays listing for details. Music by Sue Kranz and friends at 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Poetry/Music Mash-up. Daniels Mahoney Hales* reads while *Umbra (Hairstons, DH & JD)* play. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Fancy Trash* and *The Neighbors*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mount Peru* w/special guest Love, Love. Alt. indie & rock. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Moose and the High Tops*. contact Tavern for times, etc.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Gurus of Blues*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons. American roots*. 2:30 p.m.

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

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Taste of Theater Tuesdays*. Play reading of Hitchcock's *39 Steps*. Donations. 7 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *iji* (Seattle), *Secret Lover*, and *Boy Harsher*. All ages / substance free. Doors at 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Original folk rock by Jen Spingla and Alyssa Kelly. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Larz Young*. Solo blues/folk/jazz. 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday
October 23-24, 7:30 p.m.
"An American Werewolf in London"

Music at 7 p.m.
Fri: Ken Swiatek, singer/songwriter
Sat: Sue Kranz & friends, folk fusion

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SAT
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SUN
10/25 | TNT KARAOKE 10PM

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

Leverett town clerk Lisa Stratford and her sisters brought the Reporter to Sedona, Arizona on a “sister trip” in August. From left to right: Stratford, Molly Emond, and Emily Emond.

Going somewhere? Bring us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Facing Eviction?

The Mediation and Training Collaborative (TMTC) is pleased to announce free mediation services are available to the public in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties for conflict resolution of eviction disputes.

Autumn brings an increase in people moving into rental properties. It also brings an increase in disputes that can arise between landlords and tenants. With winter fast approaching, it is important to have these disputes resolved quickly.

The Attorney General’s Office has made funds available to help provide mediation services, free of charge, to tenants and landlords involved in possible eviction, as well as those who are involved in the formal eviction process.

Before filing a case and paying a filing fee in Housing Court, consider resolving your eviction dispute for free with The Mediation and Training Collaborative (TMTC) at (413) 774-7469.

People often find that mediation aids in resolving conflicts they find difficult to handle alone. In mediation, a neutral “third person” – the mediator – sits down with the landlord and tenant in a meeting focused on resolving the issues, repairing communication, and writing up a payment plan/conditions agreement which is satisfactory to each person. Each party leaves with a copy of the agreement to follow into the future.

Mediation is done at a time and location convenient for both people and evening times are available. It can save parties from the stress and cost of litigation, often resolving disputes faster than they would be resolved in court. It also gives both parties more control over the outcome of their dispute, rather than leaving it up to the courts to decide.

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[FACEBOOK.COM/PUMPKINFEST](https://www.facebook.com/pumpkinfest)

Whether you are an individual or family living in an apartment, or a landlord renting to a tenant, free mediation is available to aid in resolving your eviction issues. Low-cost and sliding scale mediation is also available for other housing disputes.

Call Lea Occhialini at TMTC for more information, or to set up a free mediation for your housing dispute today: (413) 774-7469.

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