



# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 6

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 12, 2015

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Board Votes 3.7% Average Residential Tax Increase

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its October 9 meeting, Montague's selectboard approved a property tax increase of 3.7% (approximately \$115) for the average "single family residence" in the upcoming fiscal year. The average commercial bill will increase by 3.2%, or \$184.75.

This was the first tax classification hearing under new director of assessing, Karen Tonelli. She sat at the front table along with Paul Emery, the chairman of the board of assessors. Other members of the board sat in the front row of the audience.

The tax increase was "recommended" by the assessors, although according to Emery they are prohibited by the state from taking a formal vote on the issue. Emery said the recommendation was made "by consensus."

According to a handout distributed by Tonelli, total value of town property actually declined somewhat from the previous year. This was attributed "mainly to normal

see MONTAGUE page A4

## OPINION

## Inequality in Montague: Are You Part of the 50%?

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

Once the domain of academic economists like Thomas Piketty, the years following the economic crisis of 2009 have encouraged us all to think about exactly how wealth is distributed by our economy. In 2011 the Occupy movement took the notion of "the 1%" (as opposed to the 99%) and injected the term into popular politics.

Now, the campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders for the Democratic presidential nomination has been built around the issue of income inequality. This campaign, which was initially seen as quixotic, has grown in popularity to the point where Hillary Clinton has also begun to campaign on policies to address the unequal distribution of income in American society.

However, the arguments of economists, while credited as important, are often seen as being too technical or, frankly, boring to understand. Piketty's book *Capital in the 21st Century* was perhaps a little-read bestseller.

One of the advantages of living in a small town is that statistics, which seem bewildering on a national scale, become understandable for the town you live in. The U.S. Census "American Community Survey" collects information from

see INEQUALITY page A6

## Robotics: The Real New Math at Franklin Tech

By LESLIE BROWN

TURNERS FALLS – The class assignment is to build a robot programmed to successfully draw an eighteen-inch square.

This is not your parents' math class, nor is it mine. This is not about rote memorization of math facts and learning the steps of four mathematical operations. It's not even the "new math" which actually seemed to be just another language for the same things.

The "Problem Solving: Robotics" class at the Franklin County Technical School is just that. For

the instructor, Bryna Diamond, the goal is to develop and challenge student creativity. There are nine teams of two students, all seniors for whom the next step is one into the real world of life and work or more study.

On the first day of the class, these eighteen students from a variety of vocational programs learned what the first trimester's goal will be: to create and program a robot which can draw an eighteen-inch square.

Today there are five classes left in which to achieve this goal, and these plumbers, electricians,

see ROBOTS page A5



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

*Emmett Friedrichs (programming and web design) and Emily Sullivan (landscaping and horticulture) work on programming their robot to draw a square on the whiteboard.*

## Out of the Playoffs, By Inches

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – On Friday, November 6, the McCann Tech Green Hornets edged Turners Falls, 14 to 13, out of the D-VI playoffs.

"Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda": Those are the words spoken to us by Coach Ringo O'Reilly when Frontier tied us in 1977. It was the first time in almost 2 years that any team came close to beating Turners Falls. The players were heartbroken, many were blaming themselves, but the coach wasn't discouraged and wouldn't let us blame ourselves.

After all, it's only a game, and practically speaking, there were more games to be played.

This was the mood on the field after the loss to McCann Tech. It's

hard to feel good after losing such a close, hard-fought game, and even harder to remember all the good things that happened.

The game was a good game – one of the most entertaining ones all year. But football is a game of inches, and Turners was unable to get enough of them to keep their final drive alive. So they won't be Western Mass Champions this year, and won't get a chance to play for the State Crown, but practically speaking, there're still two more games to be played.

Friday's game was a defensive struggle from the get-go. Neither offense was able to score in the entire first quarter.

When Colby Dobias recovered a

see FOOTBALL page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Turners Falls' Quinn Doyle works around the Hornets' defense.*

## Bacteria in Village Water Cause Townwide Confusion

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – For two days last week, households in the Montague Center Water District were issued a "boil order" by the town's board of health and state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), after routine sampling found *E. coli* bacteria in the system.

The order, issued on Thursday, November 5, explained that a sample taken three days earlier from the department's storage tank on Monday had tested positive for *E. coli*, a common indicator for the presence of human or animal feces, confirmed by a total coliform test on a sample taken Wednesday.

It warned Montague Center residents that they should boil their tap water "for at least one (1) minute or use bottled water" before drinking, making food or ice, brushing teeth



*One of the district's Main Road facilities, with its storage tank.*

or washing dishes with it.

As the news filtered out through text alerts and social-media postings, confusion spread through the town – compounded by the arrival in downtown Turners Falls

see WATER page A7

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Highway Foreman Calls for Talks Over Department Morale

By TIA FATTARUSO

LEVERETT – At Tuesday night's selectboard meeting, highway department foreman Silas Ball raised concerns of low morale and frequent turnover in his department, which he said were directly related to issues involving retiring supervisor Will Stratford.

Ball had the signatures and backing of many former and current highway department employees.

Ball said he had decided to approach the selectboard after two months of ongoing attempts to have a conversation with selectboard member Julie Shively, who sits on the personnel committee. The board

told Ball that they were, in fact, the appropriate forum for his concerns.

Board chair Peter d'Errico told Ball that any issue which calls into question the character of a town employee is required to go first to an executive session of the board where that party has been given at least 48 hours' notice. One can then waive the right to executive session explicitly or by neglecting to appear at the designated session.

The board therefore was not at liberty to discuss the issues Ball raised, but asked if he would indeed like to request to be scheduled for an executive session, which Ball affirmed, and the board will do.

see LEVERETT page A8

## "Bump Out" Seeks Identity

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – It is the unique privilege of "townies" to criticize the outcome and process of anything new that happens, especially if it is a permanent feature of some kind. Like the new "Bump Out Park" that's bulging out of the sidewalk on the southwest corner of Third and A.

It's a pointless but satisfying little exercise of the jawbone to do so, and the part of me that considers the Bump Out fair game for a little ribbing says: "Who is going to maintain it? It will be a bone of contention to shovel out in the winter. There's an unsafe situation for cars backing out of the spots just past the corner. The berries from those serviceberry trees are going to make a mess..."

There, now that's out of the way.

An interesting future is in store for the Bump Out that will keep folks



ROSSI PHOTO

*John Furbish and Suzanne LoManto look at schematics in front of a projected image of the Avenue A "Bump Out" at Tuesday's meeting.*

*The orange square at one end of the planter indicates one possible site for a new public artwork.*

jawing for quite a while yet. Turners Falls RiverCulture is formulating a request for proposals (RFP) for public art to decorate the park. There is hope that such art will also supply another name for the little park, and help forge something of an identity for it – like the way Spinner Park is

see PUBLIC ART page A6



# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

## A Proud Neighborhood Tradition Shows Its Age

It's nice to be able to do things locally, even if the results are sometimes a little awkward. Our own newspaper is a case in point for that – and every week, we rely on the goodwill and encouragement of neighbors who see the benefit of a news platform on this side of the river, and are willing to cut us some slack.

The commissioners and operator of the Montague Center Water District had a bad week last week. Drinking water is the kind of thing no one notices when it's going well, and it doesn't happen by magic.

Hard work and diligence, day by day, year by year – contending with challenges, and improvising to solve them: this is the work of a water department.

Maintaining pumps, tracking volumes of flow, keeping an aging distribution system watertight and pressurized is a job in and of itself. Filtering and disinfecting the water, and keeping up with testing and reporting, is another. And so is calculating and sending out bills – and collecting on them, while trying your best to avoid having to follow through on the shutoff threat.

We don't know much about the circumstances that led to the DEP and board of health issuing a boil order on Montague Center water last week. No one seems to have gotten sick drinking the water, and it seems like it was a good run-through of the wise health and safety systems we have in place.

Routine testing flagged an anomaly, the potential problem was isolated and dealt with, and the public was urged to take precautions in the meantime. It's the kind of chain of events that could – and over a long enough timeframe, probably should – happen to any water department anywhere.

But we don't know much about the circumstances that led to the boil order, because no one from the Montague Center Water District has spoken publicly on the issue.

The actual notice that came out on Thursday was an excellent document that clearly communicated what was known, and what steps were being taken. We are sure the issue led to several busy days for a tiny staff, and we congratulate them for their hard work in getting the system back online.

But at no point was a public meeting announced for homes in

the District, and at no point did anyone in the department speak with the press, except through the Montague Police Department – a practice equally irksome to the police, who did their best to be helpful, and to those of us who don't think it's a fantastic idea to treat the police as society's central communication apparatus.

Swamped by queries, the MPD even had tax collector Cheryl Clark go in on her day off on Friday to print out a list of affected addresses, which they posted to their Facebook page.

When the order was lifted, water commissioner Gary Dion apparently contacted the MPD, who again posted the news on Facebook, and from there reporters from outlets such as WWLP and the *Recorder* duly passed it on to their audiences.

As a Thursday newspaper, we were already distributing our weekly issue when the warnings were issued, so we just sat back and marvelled at the mess. But when it came our turn, it became clearer what the source of the problem was.

The Montague Center Water District, established in 1953, is an entity independent from the town, a "municipal corporation" that keeps a PO box in Millers Falls. It acquired the village water supply, built by Edgar L. Bartlett in 1911. (Bartlett also developed the village's electric lighting.)

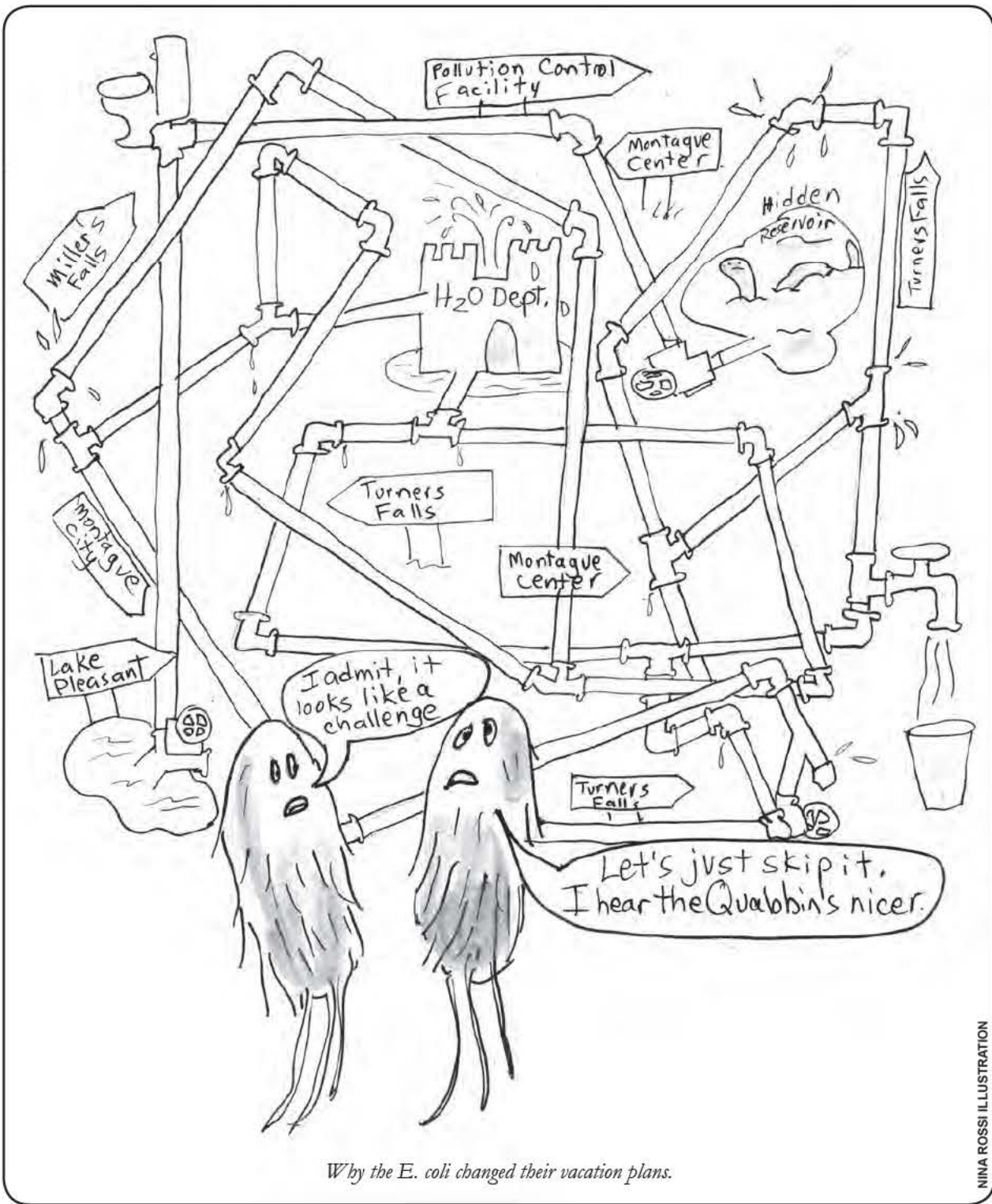
It should be up to the inhabitants of Montague Center whether to maintain their neighborhood water department. It may well be that "small is beautiful" – there are many inherent merits to decentralized infrastructure. And in any case, the system can connect to Turners Falls water in an emergency.

But the District has no website, and it is unclear when its annual meetings are held, or when its commissioners are elected. Its own answering machine discourages callers from leaving messages.

And none of the four phone numbers we were provided for individuals affiliated with the department led us to an interview this week.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously remarked that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

Chlorination is more appropriate when it comes to drinking water, but still, he had a point.



## Letter to the Editors

### Please Support and Celebrate a Critical Wellness Community

In this time when drug overdoses, suicides, and involuntary psychiatric commitments are nearly daily news, there is a community of mutual support in Franklin County for those struggling with trauma, despair, extreme states, addictions, homelessness, and other life challenges. And right now we need the greater community to be involved.

The Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (not to be confused with our next-door neighbor in Greenfield, the Recover Project) spans across our part of the state with centers in Holyoke, Springfield, Pittsfield, and Greenfield, as well as a peer-run respite house in Northampton and varied events and groups throughout the region.

Our Greenfield Center is currently facing a budget shortfall after learning that money generously granted by the city of Greenfield to help cover our costs for the past five years may no longer be available.

The WMass RLC is an entirely peer-run community, which means that everyone who participates has lived experience of human distress and crisis. We honor and share our

personal history as we work together to create genuine human relationships that help us to heal and grow.

The calendar of the Greenfield Center is very full. We hold unique support groups including Alternatives To Suicide, Hearing Voices, Men's Wisdom Group, and Vet to Vet. These are spaces where folks can come together to connect and support one another in a space that is non-judgmental and dedicated to being a healing environment. We also host free alternative wellness practices that are hard to access elsewhere such as acupuncture, yoga, and mindfulness.

I am one person who has struggled with thoughts and feelings of suicide, unusual sensory experiences, severe anxiety, environmental sensitivities, and multiple chronic illnesses.

For me, this community is the first space I have been in where I feel truly respected. I don't feel like I have to hide or misrepresent any part of myself out of fear of somebody else freaking out, shunning me, or judging me. This basic human acceptance has helped me to feel more relaxed, empowered, and whole.

The WMass RLC helps me feel

like myself in a world that often harms and marginalizes folks who are suffering or having trouble fitting in. This community, and the broader human rights movement it is connected to, has both saved and inspired my life.

I want to ask for your solidarity and involvement.

We are hosting an Open House Fundraiser Kickoff Celebration on November 16 from 2 to 7 p.m. at 74 Federal Street in Greenfield. Following the open house there will be a benefit concert with Grace & Catastrophe from 7 to 9 p.m.

Many local businesses have donated goods and gift cards that will be raffled off at the open house. There will also be lots of free food, music, poetry, and art activities happening throughout the day.

I hope you can make it! You can find out more about our center, make a donation, and view the status of our fundraising campaign by visiting [youcaring.com/savetherlcsgreenfieldcenter](http://youcaring.com/savetherlcsgreenfieldcenter).

**Matthew Cohen**  
Turners Falls  
RLC Community Coordinator

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
*Every other week in July and August.*  
*No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

This is a great time to button up your home and other heated spaces before the heating season kicks into high gear. Make your improvements and save on heating costs to reduce your carbon footprint.

The Gill Energy Commission will be offering a free **Building Science workshop** on Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. to noon at the Gill Elementary School, 48 Boyle Road, Gill. Learn a dozen no-cost and low-cost ways to improve the comfort of your home, and reduce energy costs!

The workshop will be led by Andy Cole of Andy Cole Builders, construction improvement licensed as well as a member of the Gill Energy Commission. Cole will discuss the costs associated with each of the improvements as well as present the incentives and rebate options available. Many of these methods will cost little to nothing.

This workshop is being offered free to attendees with funding from the Gill Green Communities grant. Residency in Gill is not required to attend.

Following the workshop all attendees will be sent the PowerPoint presented at the workshop to keep as a resource. Preregistration is required; class size is limited to 40.

To register, contact Janet Masucci at 863-8694 or [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com). Directions and carpooling options will be made available after registering.

If you do your banking at the Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners

Falls, on Saturday morning, November 14, then you can enjoy the **music of Ed Hines** from 10 a.m. to noon.

The **Franklin County Community Development Corporation** (CDC) invites the public to their 36th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The Arts Block, 289 Main Street, Greenfield. Networking and refreshments starting at 4:30, program starts at 5:30 p.m.

The CDC is an economic development nonprofit geared toward helping local entrepreneurs and small businesses. It makes loans, counsels business owners, and provides space for light manufacturing and commercial kitchens.

Hear from Katie Stebbins, Assistant Secretary of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development.

Also enjoy products of innovative local entrepreneurs who are stimulating our regional economy. Catering by Elmer's, 2015 Entrepreneur of the Year, with delicious delicacies locally made by FCCDC clients plus locally produced fermented and non-fermented beverages. The event is free, and all are welcome.

UMass Professor **Christian Appy** will be speaking about his new book, *American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity*, at the Greenfield Public Library on Wednesday, November 18 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The **Leverett Library Trustees** will meet on Wednesday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leverett library.

**Leverett author Gerald McFarland** will also be at the Leverett Library on Thursday, November 19 at 7 p.m. to read from and discuss the third book in his Buenaventura series, *The Last of Our Kind*.

McFarland, historian and novelist, received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and his Ph.D. from Columbia University. During his forty-four years at UMass-Amherst's History Department, he published four books in his field of U.S. history: *Mugwumps, Morals, and Politics, 1884-1920* (1975); *A Scattered People: An American Family Moves West* (1985); *The "Counterfeit" Man: The True Story of the Boorn-Colvin Murder Case* (1991); and *Inside Greenwich Village: A New York City Neighborhood, 1898-1918* (2001).

Beginning in 2010, he turned to writing fiction. His novel *The Brujo's Way* (2013) was the first volume of a planned trilogy, the Buenaventura Series. The second volume in the series, *What the Owl Saw*, was published in 2014; and *The Last of Our Kind* (Sunstone Press, 2015) completes the trilogy with a dramatic and surprising final episode.

It's **Christmas Bazaar season**, and there's another one at the Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls on Saturday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with raffles, food, crafts and gifts.

The **Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter** and the Vet Tech Club of Holyoke Community College, in a joint venture, would like to announce that on Saturday, November 21 they will hold a rabies clinic offering both one-year and three-year vaccines.

The event will take place at the shelter at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls (behind Judd Wire), from 10 a.m. to noon.

Dr. Walter Jaworski will be administering the vaccine. Proof of last vaccination will be required for the three-year dose. All dogs must be leashed and all cats in carriers. Cost will be \$20, cash or check only please.

For more information, please contact the shelter at (413) 676-9182.

The **7th Annual Powderpuff** game between the Franklin County Technical School and Pioneer Regional is a go, and in the works for kick-off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 21, at FCTS, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

As in the past six years, there will be a collection point for non-perishable food items at the gate. No glass, fresh or frozen items, please. Alternative admission to bringing a non-perishable item is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. All proceeds from the gate, and sponsorships made, will go towards the homeless shelter.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

### OBITUARY

## Ovide J. "Tish" Cadran, 1931-2015



Ovide J. "Tish" Cadran, 84, longtime resident of Turners Falls and Greenfield, died peacefully Tuesday on November 3, 2015 at Poet's Seat Health Care Center in Greenfield.

He was born in Turners Falls on June 10, 1931, the son of Ovide R. and Delina (Gagne) Cadran. Tish attended local schools in Turners Falls before leaving school at an early age to work for Socquet's Hillside Dairy Farm and Couture Brothers to help support his siblings and mother.

Tish was a veteran of the Korean War. As a Private Second Class he served honorably in the United States Army from 1948 to 1952 as a member of the Military Police and a Combat Medic. He was assigned to the Medic Detachment, 14th AAA Gun Battalion where he was meritoriously awarded the Army of Occupation Medal in Japan, Combat Medical Badge, Korean Service Medal with 3 Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal, and Distinguished Unit Citation.

After being discharged, Tish held jobs for many years with both the Millers Falls Tool Company and Railroad Salvage Stores. He even-

tually became self-employed as a contractor until he retired in 2010.

Throughout his life he was an avid camper, fisherman, traveler, and self-taught history buff. One of the greatest trips he took was back to Korea, to visit the sites and areas where he had served during the Korean War, nearly 60 years after he was discharged from service.

Tish leaves his four children, Cheri and her husband Salvatore Angelo of Mays Landing, NJ, Bryan Cadran of Greenfield, Candice Cadran and her husband Michael Eschenbach of Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, and Ovide T. Cadran and his husband Jason Fradette of Windsor Locks, CT, and two step-grandchildren, Crystal Angelo and Salvatore Angelo, Jr., both of New Jersey.

Tish also leaves behind his brother Ronald Cadran and his wife Ellen of Bernardston, and two sisters, Barbara Jarvis and Susan Emond, both of Greenfield, and several nieces and nephews.

He is pre-deceased by his parents, Ovide R. and Delina Cadran, as well as sisters Eleanor McDonald and Janet Whitney and brothers Robert and Norman Cadran.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, November 14 at 11 a.m. at the Kostanski Funeral Home, 1 Kostanski Square, Turners Falls. Burial will follow at St. Anne's Cemetery in Turners Falls.

Calling hours will be held Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Dial/Self, 196 Federal Street, Greenfield, MA 01301, [dial-self.org/teenline.html](http://dial-self.org/teenline.html).

## Montague Reporter Holiday Gala

Thursday, December 3  
Cocktail Hour at 5:30 p.m. – Buffet at 6:30 p.m.

**French King Restaurant**  
French King Highway (Route 2), Erving

You are cordially invited to attend, support, and celebrate the many years of service of Patricia Pruitt and Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno at this very special event.

Over the years, Patricia and Chris have written for, advised, and served as editors at the paper. Patricia continues in her role as the editor of our monthly Poetry Page. Come one, come all – show these two how much their service has meant to our community paper!

*Entertainment provided by guitarist Ed Shamo, and singer Dusty DuFresne.*

Reservations requested:

To pay by check, write "c/o MAG - Gala" in the memo line, and send to: Montague Reporter, 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

To pay online, go to [montaguereporter.org](http://montaguereporter.org) and press the Donate button. This will bring you to our PayPal – make sure you include "c/o MAG - Gala" and your name(s)!

\$30 per person / \$50 per couple by November 27.  
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week ending 10/23/2015:

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**Grade 8**  
Madeline Williams

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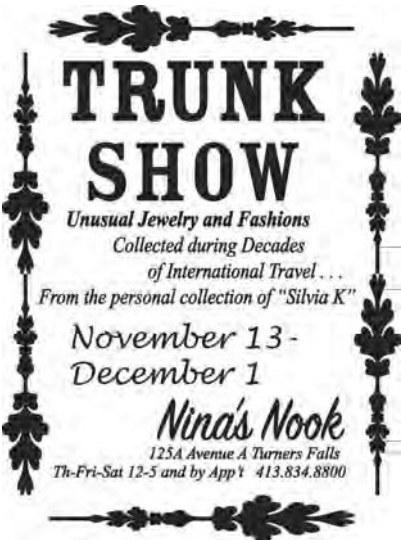
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MONTAGUE from page A1

depreciation of properties.” But the “tax levy” – the total amount raised from property taxation to fund the 2016 budget – increased to \$15,304,244. This represented an increase of 2.75%, or \$408,258.59, over the previous year.

In theory, cities and towns may only increase the total levy by 2.5% annually under the state “Proposition 2.5” law, passed in 1979. However the total levy increase is generally higher because so-called “new growth,” and debt excluded by a local vote, are not included in the 2.5% cap. Similarly, the tax increase for a given property owner may be either higher or lower than the average due to variations in property values.

Tonelli explained that the total levy to be raised was essentially set by the budget passed by the Montague town meeting in May. Generally town meeting votes on a budget that assumes the total levy will increase to the 2.5% limit, plus new growth. Thus the main issue to be decided at the tax classification hearing was how much of the burden should fall on homeowners, as opposed to commercial-industrial-personal property (CIP).

Montague has a split tax rate, meaning that the rates for commercial, industrial and personal property (\$26.3 per thousand dollars) are significantly higher than the rates for residential property (\$17.61 per thousand).

Tonelli presented a table with 25 scenarios ranging from no shift to CIP at all, to a 1.5% one. The board voted on a shift of approximately 1.3%. The data showed that if Montague did not have a split tax rate – the same rate for local businesses and homeowners – the residential rate would rise from \$17.61 to \$20.23, a 14.9% hike.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell stated that he was uncomfortable with the residential increase, and the rest of the board appeared to agree. However the only way to remedy this situation under the budget passed by town meeting would be to shift even more of the burden to local businesses, which the board was unwilling to do.

The board decided not to approve a number of exemptions allowed by the state, although it did not take formal votes on these issues.

**Golrick Condemns “Lipstick”**

In other news, the board approved a request to execute a professional services agreement for \$10,500 with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The agreement involves a contract for research needed to apply for a federal designation for the Millers Falls neighborhood as an historic district. The board had delayed the vote the previous week in order to respond to a series of questions asked by Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick.

Town planner Walter Ramsey revisited the “talking points” he had presented about the issue at a meeting on October 15. He then responded to the questions raised by Golrick on November 2.

Golrick, for example, had asked “Is Millers Falls even historic?” Ramsey responded “yes,” and followed up with a list of structures that had been built at the turn of the twentieth century. He explained that despite the “great fire of 1895... by 1905, most of the major buildings still in existence in the center [of Millers Falls] had already been erected.”

Ramsey also pointed out that district could still be classified as a historic district even with no public buildings, although the Millers Falls Library is a public building. He stated that “yes,” the designation is “part of a strategy to attract additional public resources to the district,” and that “yes,” the historic designation “will support the Powers Block.”

The Powers Block is a cluster of buildings at the center of the village being developed by Obear Construction under the town’s commercial homesteading program.

Golrick told the board that she felt the historic designation, which could lead to tax credits, violated the town’s promise not to assist Obear in financing the development of the Powers Block. She called the process “a ruse,” and compared it to “putting lipstick on a pig.”

**Grants**

Next MJ Adams of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCHRA) requested that the board execute agreements with the Montague Catholic Social Ministries and Franklin County Home Care for programs financed by 2015 Community Development Block Grants. The board approved the request.

Bruce Hunter, also of the FCHRA, asked the board to authorize and disburse a payment of \$73,012.50 to Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care for work on the Avenue A Streetscape Project. The board approved that request as well.

Under the heading of “town administrator’s report” the board agreed to execute an agreement between five Franklin County towns and the FRCOG involving services associated with the federal process for approving the proposed natural gas pipeline. The “scope of services” includes legal services, and technical assistance for studies of environmental impacts.

That agreement also includes an appropriation of \$13,750, as approved at the recent special town meeting in October.

The board also agreed to execute a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant with the state for \$12,500. Energy committee chair Chris Mason described the purpose of the grant, which will fund an energy audit of the Sheffield School buildings. Mason explained that the main purpose of the audit will be to determine the most efficient heating upgrade for the network of three buildings, which include an elementary school, an auditorium, a gym, and the school district administration building.

Funding for a back-up boiler was rejected by the annual town meeting in May, pending an audit. In October, town meeting approved a smaller appropriation for a temporary back-up for the coming winter.

**Other Business**

The board then reviewed the various license fees charged by the town. A number of local license holders have expressed the opinion that the fees were “high enough,” and should not be raised.

But Boutwell stated that fees in many towns in the areas are significantly higher, some “more than double.” “Maybe if we are low, gradually raise them,” he suggested.

Board members were hesitant to make a decision without more data. Rich Kuklewicz suggested that the board revisit the issue in a few weeks, with a list of other towns’ fees “on a spreadsheet.” He also noted that the

fees are designed to cover “administrative overhead,” and thus are “not a tax.” The board delayed a decision pending more information.

The meeting was about to move into executive session when Mike McCarthy, from a restaurant called Riff’s in Easthampton, requested that the board consider removing a “tree” in front of Kali B’s restaurant on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Riff’s plans to purchase Kali B’s this winter, changing the name to “Riff’s North.” McCarthy said the tree blocks the vision of drivers leaving the business’s parking lot, and would also block potential signage Riff’s North is considering.

Kuklewicz suggested that the state shade tree law might come into play,

although he also noted that the tree resembled an “overgrown shrub.”

Administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz told McCarthy he needed to get in touch with the tree warden or the building inspector. Mr. McCarthy was sent on his way while the board went into executive session to approve and release minutes of two previous executive sessions.

The board emerged from the town hall employee lounge to release the minutes of an October 5, 2015 session involving salary negotiations with police chief Chip Dodge. The board did not release the minutes of an October 26 session involving litigation, because the minutes were not available.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town to Videotape  
Selectboard Meetings

By KATIE NOLAN

Cable and video committee member Moonlight Davis said that he had toured town hall with Montague Community Television station manager Dean Garvin to consider how to televise meetings of town boards and committees. Davis said they planned how to set up the downstairs meeting room and where to put cameras. The cable and video committee is planning a trial videotaping of the November 19 planning board meeting.

Davis said the committee is still working on questions such as whether the meetings will be televised live or edited, what kind of cameras to buy, and which platform to broadcast on.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson commented, “Yes, we want to do it televised live.”

Davis noted that the committee currently includes three people – selectboard chair William Bembury, Tim Cronin, and himself – but that he would like to expand the committee to five or seven members.

Special Town Meeting

The board is preparing the warrant for a special town meeting November 30, to include two articles.

One article will correct language from the May 2015 annual town meeting setting the fiscal year 2017 funding for the POTW #1 wastewater plant. The town accountant discovered that the ATM language was incorrect and could lead to disapproval by the state Department of Revenue, which could delay sending out property tax bills.

The second article will reconsider the enhanced retirement package for former town employee Robert Miner. Town meeting voted in 2001 to pay into the Franklin County Regional Retirement System on Miner’s behalf, in order to increase his retirement payout. This is the same process voted at the October 2015 special town meeting for current highway employee Dana Moore, Jr.

After a town meeting vote, this type of enhanced retirement package must be voted favorably by the state legislature. However, according to Bembury, “Nobody knows what happened...there is no record of it from that day on.”

Bembury said that selectboard

member Jacob Smith was working with legislators Susannah Lee and Stan Rosenberg and FCRRS on the issue.

Pipeline Legal Fund

The board signed a memorandum of understanding with Conway, Montague, Northfield and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for FRCOG technical and legal services relating to the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline/Kinder Morgan Northeast Energy Direct pipeline.

The October 6 special town meeting approved \$13,750 to pay Erving’s share of the costs. At that meeting, Morningstar Chenven said that the technical and legal fund was not for the purpose of opposing construction of the NED pipeline, but was a municipal coalition that would protect the town in case the pipeline is approved and built.

Other Business

The selectboard approved firefighter job descriptions developed by chief Philip Wonkka.

Wonkka commented that new LED lights in Station #2 “give off a lot of light,” more than the older style lighting previously used in the station.

He reported that dress uniforms approved for department members were expected in late November. Bembury suggested taking a group photo of department members once the uniforms arrive.

After a hearing attended only by Frank Prondecki, the board approved changing the liquor licensee name for the Franklin Grocery & Package Store (Prondecki’s) in Millers Falls from Edwin Prondecki to Frank Prondecki. The state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission will rule on the petition and inform the town, and Prondecki, of its decision.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded the town a \$500 recycling grant. The money will be used to purchase blue recycling bins for use by town residents.

Bembury said that several new people had expressed interest in being members of the administrative coordinator search committee, and that those appointments would be considered at the November 23 selectboard meeting.

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ROBOTS from page A1

landscapers, health technologists and information technologists are hard at work on the fine-tuning of their robots.

One robot's wheels need improved traction so that it will not slip on the white board. Another robot, which runs its marker on a track with rounded corners, will require a tweak of the track to create a squared corner.

A third robot, named Penelope,

mysteriously creates a squiggle at each corner of her otherwise perfect eighteen-inch square. Another team has created a robot which can draw a perfectly straight line, but they have not yet worked out turning the corner. Two other teams seem at an impasse, as one team member is absent.

Asked about the class, the students reply that it is fun and that they like to build things. It is not clear if they realize how much their minds are be-

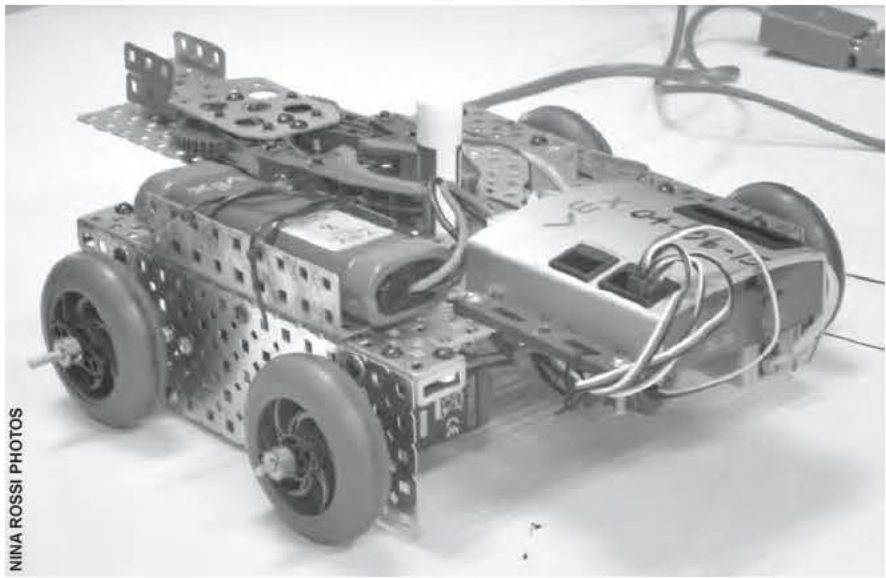
ing stretched.

The first day of class, they were given an assignment, access to pieces of metal, wires, rubber wheels of several descriptions, a computer program, and a battery. Now, with five classes remaining before performance time, it's down to the last crunch.

We watch as one team tries adding rubber bands to their robot's wheels for improved traction. Another team is constructing new corner structures which will create a square corner instead of a curve. Another team is fine-tuning the programming to remove Penelope's squiggle.

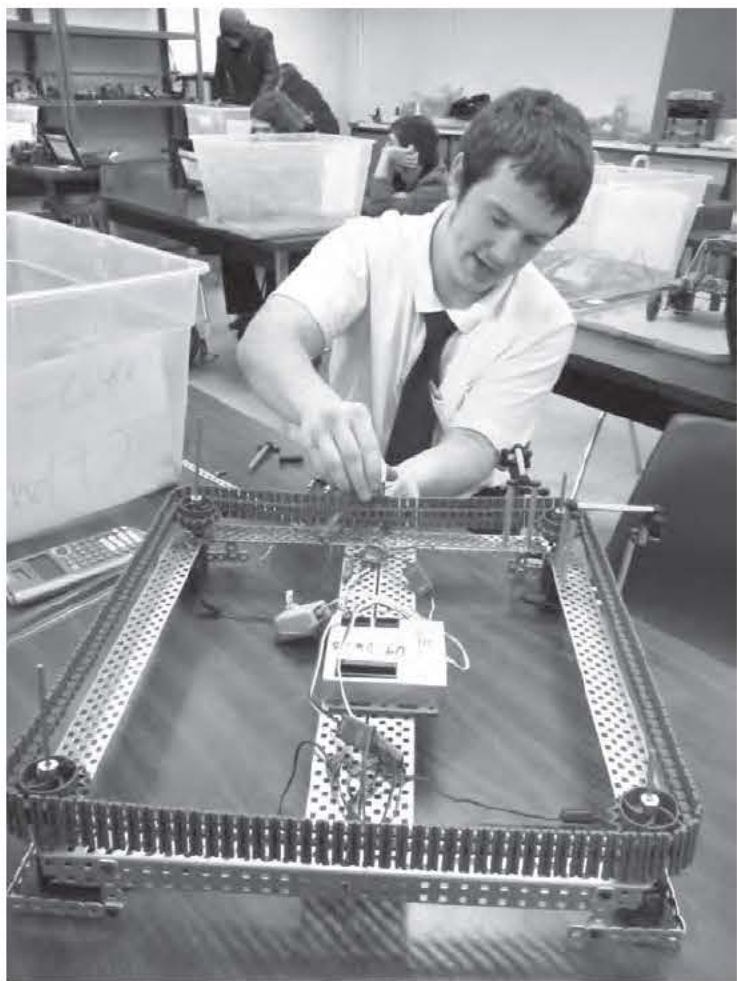
While a large part of the grade in this class depends on the successful completion of the robots' drawings of the eighteen-inch square, classmates move about the room, offering advice or support to other teams, thinking through the problems.

These students are learning the use of a program, about math and about construction. More importantly, they are learning to stretch their minds, to think outside the box and to work as a member of a team. What better preparation for the world of work soon to come?



NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

Emmett and Emily's robot Penelope thinks about four corners.



Steven Easton (electrical) works on his robot in Bryna Diamond's robotics class.



FOOTBALL from page A1

fumble early in the second quarter, Powertown was poised to draw first blood. Turners took possession on their own 26, and Tionne Brown got the ball to Jalen Sanders, who shot inside, hit traffic, then broke to the outside. He sprinted down the field and wasn't stopped until he made it to the Green 30.

Tionne kept the drive alive when he connected with Nick Croteau on third and 5 from the 25. This set up a first and goal from the 10.

Then on second and goal from the 9, Quinn Doyle pounded into the end zone. Tyler Lavin kicked the PAT, and Blue took the lead, 7-0, just under eight minutes into the second quarter.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Jalen Sanders breaks away for a 44-yard run, setting up the Indians' successful drive to the goal line during the second quarter.

McCann took over on their own 41, and proceeded to march down the field themselves. They soon had a first-and-goal from the 5. The Blue goal-line defense stopped the Hornets time after time, but on fourth and 7, McCann completed a

short pass and the Hornets were on the score board. A flag on the play gave the True Blue Faithful hope that the play would be called back,

but the penalty would be assessed on the ensuing kickoff and the score would stick.

The Hornets tried to take the lead by going for 2, but the Blue D stiffened, and Turners held onto a razor-thin 1-point lead.

It took the Tribe exactly 11 seconds to extend that lead. McCann was forced to kick off from their own 25 and attempted an onside kick, but Blue retained possession with wonderful field position.

On the first play from scrimmage, Jack Darling ran around the corner and raced 44 yards to put the Tribe up 13-6 with 2:02 left in the half. This time the PAT failed, and the margin remained 7.

On their next possession, McCann had trouble moving the rock. Coach Chris Lapointe kept calling timeouts, hoping to get the ball back before the end of the half.

A pass broken up by Trevor Mankowsky and a Jalen Sanders



Turners Falls quarterback Tionne Brown side-steps a Hornet defender as he tries for a first down at the end of the fourth quarter.

sack forced a third-and-23, but a flea flicker caught the Blue D off guard, and McCann got a first-and-10 from the Blue 30.

But Turners would not let them score. A sack, followed by a fumble, gave Powertown the ball back with 35 ticks on the clock, and the teams went into the locker room with the score 13-6.

Second Half

McCann got the ball first in the second half, but an interception returned it to Turners. They started on the Green 40 – but an incomplete pass on a fake punt gave the Hornets the ball back on downs.

McCann drove from the Green 40 to the Blue 18 where Turners forced a fourth-and-1. And on fourth down, McCann got just enough to keep the drive alive. McCann only managed one yard on their next play, but on second and 9 from the 15-yard line, they gained 10 yards setting up a first and goal from the 5.

Twice McCann fumbled, and twice they retained possession. Then came third and goal.

Turners seemingly stopped the runner, but the whistle was never blown, and he continued into the end zone. McCann scored the two-pointer and took their first lead of the game, 14-13.

Turners had one more chance to win the game with 1:43 left. The Blue D forced a fourth and 6, and McCann punted. Jalen returned the punt to McCann's 31. A 3-yard run got the ball to the 28, and an incomplete pass stopped the clock.

Under immense pressure, Tionne ran a keeper. He ran toward the sideline, and as he was getting hit, he stretched his hand out – but it wasn't enough. He was a foot short. The clock had stopped be-

cause he went out of bounds, and Turners was facing a fourth and less than a yard.

Football is a game of inches, and on Friday, Turners needed twelve. Blue pounded ahead and the entire stadium held their breaths as the officials debated forward progress. The refs called a time out and the measuring sticks came onto the field. When the standard was extended, the spot was just short of the first down marker. The Turners players sadly lined up on defense.

Saturday's game was as close as could be without actually going into overtime. Both teams had 4 completions. Turners had 72 yards in the air to McCann's 77. On the ground, Turners had 157 rushing yards, and McCann had 158.

Quinn Doyle rushed for 74 yards and scored a touchdown. Jack Darling gained 45 and scored one too. Jalen Sanders had 38 yards on the ground, and 19 in the air. Nick Croteau caught 3 passes for 53 yards.

On defense, Will Roberge had 10 solo tackles, Tahner Castine had 8, and Colby Dobias 6. Tionne Brown, Doyle, Sanders, Darling, Croteau, Trevor Mankowsky, Akeva Forcier, John Driscoll and Cullen Wozniak also had tackles for the Tribe. Sanders had 2 sacks, and Darling a pick.

Turners Falls won't be the Western Mass champions this year, but that doesn't mean that the season is over: they have two more games left.

This Saturday, they travel to the school on the other side of Millers Falls Road to play Franklin Tech, and on Turkey Day, they try to extend their winning streak against their main rival, Greenfield.



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**PUBLIC ART** from page A1  
named after its statue.

As anyone knows who has followed the past year of contentiousness around What is Art when it comes to decorating the downtown planters, public art can be a very difficult issue, and people can get quite defensive of their opinions. Throw in generous amounts of sideline cynicism (such as I dished out above), and public consensus might be impossible.

The chance of something truly brilliant showing up in the little park – something that will dazzle everyone who sees it, funnel streams of people into town to use it as their next photo op, and elicit only praise from residents and business owners – is not great. It is impossible to please everyone, and we all don’t get to choose.

The first steps in the process of choosing a public art piece for the Bump Out are to pick a possible location within the park that makes the most sense to install art, and to decide whether the RFP should solicit art on a particular theme.

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto is hoping to pull in some public opinion on these two issues. She called two public meetings. The first was at town hall on Tuesday afternoon, and the second takes place this Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street.

**Choice of Theme**

Only town planner Walter Ramsey, cultural council member John Furbish, Stuff store owner Steve Vogel and this reporter attended the first open meeting with LoManto on Tuesday.

LoManto showed us some great examples of public art, roughly grouped by aesthetic themes, such as playing with scale. Examples of this type of sculpture included some very large sculptures of very small things, such as a giant teaspoon, or a three-story-high bear.

Another theme might be framing space physically with various structures that hold views within openings, such as the Big Red Frame at Easthampton’s Art in the Orchard exhibit, which has become so well-known locally. Such pieces offer the advantage of being ideal photo opportunities, as are installations that create fantasy spaces by the use of reflective surfaces, like the giant chrome “Bean” in Chicago.

Interactive sculpture is another theme. An oversized speaking tube, or unusual shapes to climb into or sit on, could be popular attractions.

How about funny, functional items, like a giant comb that serves as a bike rack? What about art that uses light as a medium – or maybe a more traditional choice, like a statue of a historical figure?

Furbish proposed three themes: evoking the beginning of the industrial era, when the canal was still just a series of locks for river barge traffic; speaking to the agricultural roots of the area; or even addressing the distant era of dinosaurs, which, he joked, might give our Bump Out the memorable title of “Jurassic Park.”

Themes of geology, water, abstraction, color... the possibilities are almost endless, but the town may also choose to issue an RFP that does not specify a particular theme for the art, and leave it to the artists’ imaginations, constrained only by location and budget.

**Location, Location, Location...**

LoManto then moved on to talk about possible placement of an installation within the park space, keeping in mind pedestrian traffic, visibility,

and other factors. She has concluded that there is probably room for about a 2-foot square, by however many feet tall, free-standing artwork at one end of the largest planter.

Alternately, the ends of the benches or planters themselves could be the site of a mosaic, bas-relief piece, or other mostly flat decoration.

The channels forming an “X” in the middle of the plaza, where bricks will soon be placed, could hold a one-foot square “something,” as could the adjoining channels, as long as the work is flush to the concrete. LoManto mused about the idea of solar-powered, blue LED lights embedded there, glowing enticingly during the night.

RiverCulture would rather prepare the RFP with some particular location already specified, to make sure that in judging entries it is more about “comparing apples to apples” than “apples to oranges.” These scheduled meetings are to solicit input about location and theme before releasing the RFP on December 1.

Artists from all over the country will be eligible to apply. The available funding amounts to \$5,000, which has been set aside from the RiverCulture budget, comprised of local and state aid as well as fund-raising monies.

Familiarity with the community will most likely lead to a more appealing proposal, and it is likely that local artists have a better chance of coming up with something that feels appropriate. But, who knows? It is also possible that nothing worthwhile will be proposed, and the RFP reissued at another time.

**Decision Makers**

As Stuff owner Steve Vogel put it, “Ultimately, somebody has to make a decision; it’s hard to reach a consensus. Look what happened in Northampton when they had to pick a new mural for the bridge. It took years. Ten people worked on it, and they couldn’t seem to make decisions about it.”

A nine-person jury will make the decision from among the various proposals received in March. LoManto has researched various ways to approach the decision process, and says that “this is the model that had the fewest problems.”

The panel will be comprised of three officials from the town – LoManto, Ramsey, and a third; three downtown residents or business people; and three “outsiders.”

Their criteria will include the ability of the artist to complete the proposed work within the budget: i.e., is it realistic to cast bronze panels? Has the artist successfully completed similar projects before? Lastly, the selectboard will need to approve any final selection made by the panel.

LoManto said she would like to see the last pieces of the park completed before finalizing the RFP. The top of one of the curved planter walls is to be fitted with wooden slats to sit on, and in some places, bench backs for even more comfortable sitting.

The mini-plaza was identified as a desirable improvement in the 2013 Downtown Livability Plan, prepared by Berkshire Design Group, with public input along with the (slightly delayed) replacement of 33 fancy wrought-iron street lamps with 33 easy-to-snap-off aluminum ones (*grouse, grouse*).

Some will champion the decision of the panel, whatever it may be, and others will have their fun grousing about it, to be sure. I think that kind of art discussion is great – and look forward to hearing all the different opinions.



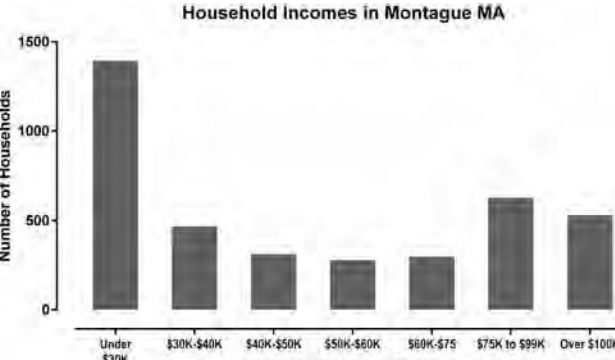
**INEQUALITY** from page A1

towns across the country and compiles them into national statistics which you see quoted as facts in politics and the news. The data for each town and city is available to all, and easily accessible via the internet at [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).

One of the things you can get from looking at “the numbers” is an objective way to compare yourself to other people, and see where you fit into American society – e.g., are you in the 1% or the 99%?

The 1% are surely not middle-class. In order to be in “the 1%” in Massachusetts, your household must have an income greater than about \$532,000. But, studies have shown that Americans are surprised to learn that they either make too much or too little money to consider themselves middle-class.

Furthermore, income is often talked about strictly in terms of personal earnings. If two people each make \$50,000 per year and live together, their household income of \$100,000 would put them in the top 25% by income of households nationally – and in the top 15% in Montague. Is a household in the top 15% “middle-class”?



The *median* income is the income level at which half earn less, and half more. The median income per household in Montague is \$45,342. This means that half of the households in Montague earn less than \$45,342 a year, and half take home more.

If your income is less than or equal to the median, then you are a member of the 50%.

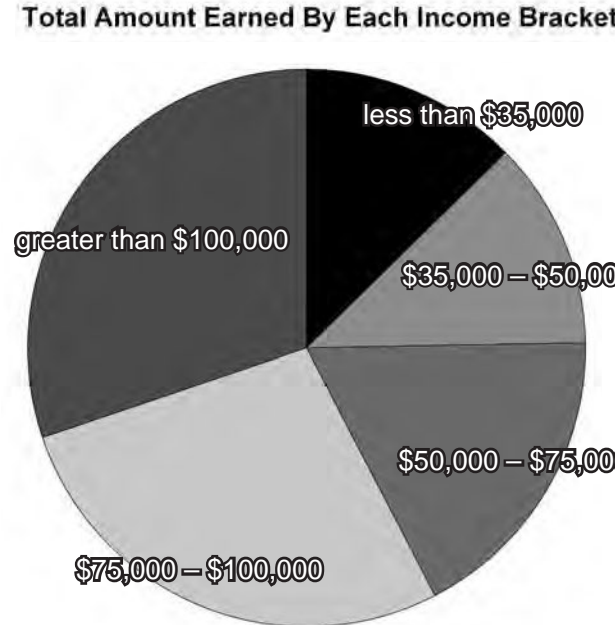
However, the *average* household income is \$60,008. This is the amount each household would earn if the total income of all households was distributed equally. The fact that the average income is so much larger than the median income tells you that there are a number of households with income significantly larger than the median.

In particular, the census estimates that there are between 170 and 340 men – or about 20% of all men working full-time in Montague – with income more than \$75,000 per year. At the same time, the poverty rate for female-headed households is 40%, and the poverty rate for single mothers with children is 60%. The child poverty rate in Montague is 40%.

Taking into account possible errors in the census estimate, it is likely that, of the 2,132 children living in town, between 600 and 1,100 are living in poverty.

If you added up the incomes of all the households in Montague, the sum is \$200,720,000. Were we our own country, this would be about our “gross domestic product”. Households making greater than \$100,000 are about 15% of the population of Montague. If you added up all of their income together it comes to approximately \$83,000,000 per year – about the same as the 70% of households with income less than \$75,000.

Or, to look at it another way, the households making more than the median take home 75% of all the income in Montague, while “the 50%” earn only 25% of the total income:



How does your family fit into the story of household incomes in Montague? The following income facts for Montague are taken from the 5-year estimate of the 2013 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census.

I encourage readers to compare the income of their household to the other households in Montague, and

*Demographic Factors*

- There are 8,276 people in the town of Montague, split up into 3,715 households, which is a group of people sharing a residence.
- There are 2,630 people in Montague who work full-time, evenly split between men and women.
- A family, as defined by the census, is a household consisting of two or more people related by blood or marriage. Of the households in Montague, 2,102 are considered to be families, and 1,505 of these families are made up of a married couple.
- There are 989 families with children: 60% of those families consist of married partners, and 30% are headed by a single mother.
- There are 2,132 children in Montague.

consider these facts in relation to both the town and the country as a whole.

- **Are you in the 50% by income (less than \$50,000), or the 15% (above \$100,000)?**

54.3%	\$0 – \$50,000
32.4%	\$50,000 – \$100,000
14.3%	\$100,000 – \$\$\$

- **How much do the bottom 50% earn?**

31.9%	\$0 – \$15,000
19.9%	\$15,000 – \$25,000
19.1%	\$25,000 – \$35,000
29.1%	\$35,000 – \$50,000

- **What are the incomes of the top 50%?**

33.2%	\$50,000 – \$75,000
36.2%	\$75,000 – \$100,000
28.3%	\$100,000 – \$200,000
2.4%	\$200,000 – \$\$\$

- **Which percentage of households in Montague make less than yours?**

16.3%	\$15,000 – \$25K
27.1%	\$25,000 – \$35K
37.5%	\$35,000 – \$50K
53.3%	\$50,000 – \$75K
68.8%	\$75,000 – \$100K
85.7%	\$100,000 – \$200K
98.9%	\$200,000 – \$\$\$

It is a commonly acknowledged paradox of U.S. politics that everyone sees themselves as being “middle class.” If you take “middle-class” to mean “having an income equal to the median,” then this could only be strictly true if everyone’s income was the same.

Most people’s idea of “middle class” rests on the belief that the distribution of incomes is broad in the middle and narrow at the ends. The very poor and the very rich attain their relative positions by special circumstances: extreme ability or disability, fortune or misfortune. If so, it must be that most people’s fortunes are only a random walk away from the happy medium.

When Senator Sanders proposes policy such as “free higher education,” the aim is to correct one of those random missteps that leave people away from the median. But, if extremes of poverty and wealth far outweigh the median, then it becomes more difficult to argue that the distribution of incomes is the result of individual missteps.

This can be illustrated by a specific statistic. The median income for women living in Montague and working full-time is \$37,098. The median income for men is \$49,512. Being a woman is not an individual “misstep.”

If you break down men’s and women’s income by job category, categories that generally require higher levels of education exhibit the greatest differences in income between men and women. The jobs that employ the greatest numbers of women, however, show the smallest “gender gap” in wages.

Narrowing the gender gap in wages for a specific job will not change income inequality between men and women by much, because nursing assistants would still be paid very little compared to, say, doctors or hospital administrators: ensuring more women become hospital executives is a very different policy from proposing pay equity for nursing assistants.

Taking everyone into account, making it easier for a given person to obtain a higher education (i.e. to become a doctor) is not likely to change inequality overall, unless being eligible for a job makes more of those jobs exist.

The explanation for income inequality in general for Montague is likely as plain as the physical differences between Turners Falls and Montague Center. It is the result of the fact that certain work is rewarded far in excess of other work.

If politicians truly seek to address inequality in our society, they must address this basic fact.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Animal Control Officer Withdraws Her Resignation; Board Talks Heat Pumps

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their November 4 meeting the members of Wendell's selectboard were relieved to learn from town coordinator Nancy Aldrich that dog officer, now the animal inspector and control officer, Maggie Houghton, withdrew her resignation. Someone might have been found to fill that office, but a true replacement would never have been found.

The board had three sets of visitors, and the one with the shortest message was Ruth Mazurka from the conservation commission. She reported that the con com lost one member, Becky Finn, who moved out of town, and that member Mary Thomas will need to take a leave in the spring.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said, "We will all start thinking," and suggested putting a notice on the town's listserv. But by the end of the evening a volunteer came forward, Robin Heubel, who was in the building as a member of the finance committee, and the board wasted no time in creating an appointment slip and having her sworn in.

The energy and broadband committees both took more time, and neither left with all their issues resolved.

## Heat Pump Skepticism

Energy committee member Laurie DiDonato and chair Nan Riebschlaeger brought a proposal to use the town's Green Communities grant money to accept Sandri's bid of \$22,800 to install heat pumps in the town hall and police station, or of just \$19,000 for the town hall alone.

The efficiency of a heat pump can be as high as 300%, because it does not create heat from the electricity it uses, but takes heat from the outside air, concentrates it and puts it inside. At any temperature above absolute zero, -459.67 degrees F, all matter including air contains some heat energy, but at temperatures approaching 0 degrees F, real-life heat pumps begin to lose efficiency.

So for outside temperatures near and below 0 degrees, heat pumps will include an ordinary resistance heater, a most expensive way to heat a building.

At the selectboard's October 21 meeting, town facilities engineer Jim Slavas expressed his doubts about the utility of relying on a heat pump to keep the town hall warm, especially because that building gets more use in the winter months than in the summer.

A year ago Slavas examined the

building's current heating system and found it seriously lacking, with no cold air return from the building to the furnace, and leaks in the moldy and uninsulated ducts that bring hot air into the rooms. He estimated that 60% of the heat from the furnace is wasted. The town has an estimate of \$24,400 from David Facey for replacing that ductwork.

At this meeting, selectboard member Dan Keller brought up those same considerations, pointing out that the furnace is already there and that the duct replacement can start with just a little notice for Facey.

Pooser said he thought a heat pump might be installed in the ductwork, and asked the energy committee to look into that possibility instead of having the heat pumps mounted on the walls.

Keller also asked if the energy committee had looked into geothermal heat pumps. The largest expense in a geothermal system is typically in digging a well, but the town already has a 500' deep well on the common, near the corner by the town hall. He also said that if the town is now wasting 60% of the energy produced by the furnace, even if it is only 85% efficient, the savings that would follow replacing the ductwork would be significant. The furnace is relatively new, and should last a long time.

Riebschlaeger said that the town cannot use Green Communities money for both heat pumps and duct replacement.

The next energy committee meeting was Tuesday, November 10, and the selectboard scheduled a meeting later the same evening with the hope of acting on conclusions at that meeting, while avoiding the Veteran's Day holiday. Selectboard chair Christine Heard suggested inviting a member of the finance committee to that session.

## Cable Coop Skepticism

Broadband committee members Robert Heller, Ben Schwartz, and Ray DiDonato met the selectboard to discuss a draft of the agreement that the WiredWest committee wants towns to sign onto.

Keller said that his first reading of the document left him with unanswered questions: what would be the exit strategy for a town that chose to leave the organization, and what would happen if a town chose to leave the organization before the minimum ten years had passed.

He said he felt the town should own the wires, but under the proposal, its ownership would be in the form of its membership in the organization that owns wires: WiredWest, a cooperative limited-

liability corporation made up of its member towns.

Heller said a lot of details seemed to be left out, and that he thought the time frame for accepting the document and forming the new Wired West LLC, by January, is a bit optimistic.

DiDonato said that some of the vagueness was deliberate, to allow room to work out details.

Heller said there would be a workshop on November 6 in Northampton. DiDonato recommended that Wendell send a representative, and Schwartz said he would go.

## Other Business

Aldrich reported that download speeds at the library, where the most use of the town's middle mile internet connection occurs, have been seriously slow for at least six months. The town's internet service provider has not fixed the problem, and Pooser has contacted Crocker about taking over.

He said a change may double the cost, including up to \$1,000 to change the architecture, but that the wires are already in place for the town's central buildings, and any one of them can be connected to the fiber-optic line fairly simply.

At this time, only the police station is connected, and with it the town hall with a short line. A wireless signal is sent to the other town buildings, and to some homes in the center. He said that \$3,000 left in the town meeting authorization to connect buildings should cover the expense for the remainder of fiscal year 2016.

Aldrich said the state has approved \$284,422 in free cash, more than last year, and approved it earlier than last year.

She also mentioned a piece of ransomware, CryptoLocker. This piece of malware can get into a computer and can lie dormant for a while, then encrypts software and makes it unusable until a ransom is paid.

Shutesbury lost the use of one computer to CryptoLocker, and in New Salem, according to Aldrich, "a kid fixed it." But the threat brings emphasis to the need to back up all town work.

Pooser asked, "How do you pay, PayPal?" wondering rhetorically if tracing the flow of money would not lead to the creator.

Board members voted unanimously to join the municipal coalition against the pipeline. That choice costs nothing now, but will require a contribution towards legal expenses from the annual town meeting.

## WATER from page A1

on Friday of one or more television news reporters, interviewing residents there about the boil order.

According to a state website, the Turners Falls Water Department (part of the Turners Falls Water District) serves 7,057 town residents as of 2013, whereas the Montague Center Water District serves about 450 people, or 5% of the town's population.

The valve on the interconnection installed between the two systems was opened on Thursday, filling the Montague Center pipes with putatively safe Turners Falls water while the situation in the smaller district was resolved.

Nancy Holmes, back from retirement to fill in on her old job as clerk/collector at the Turners Falls department, reported that her office had been "inundated" with "extremely numerous" confused calls on the matter.

"I just kept referring them to the Town of Montague's website, which had the boil order on it," she said.

The Montague Police Department sent out a CodeRED notice reassuring townspeople that the boil order only pertained to Montague Center residents, and advising them to check their water bills if they needed to find out which department their water came from, rather than call police with that question.

On Saturday, November 7, the precautionary order was lifted, according to the DEP website.

Versions of Montague's Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan from 2004 and 2011 state that "A single shallow well serves the village of Montague Center and is owned and operated by the Montague Center Water District.... This well is only 12 feet deep and is highly vulnerable to contamination."

The department does not post regular hours, and a call to its listed phone number advises the caller not to leave a message, but instead to call one of three other numbers, which appear to belong to water commissioners.

Phone calls placed Monday and Tuesday to water commissioner Gary Dion, whose phone number was provided on the boil order as the contact for information on the matter, were not returned.

Calls to the other two numbers were also unanswered and unreturned as of press time, as was a message left for John Rittall, identified in the town's 2014 Permitting and Development Guidebook as an engineer with the department.

At one point, Montague boasted no fewer than four water departments. The Millers Falls Fire and Water District was annexed by the Turners Falls Fire District in 1994, and the Lake Pleasant Water Supply District was merged into it in 2008, though Lake Pleasant receives fire protection under the Montague Center Fire District.

The Montague Center district

is the fourth community water department this year to be issued a "boil order" by the DEP. Residents of Blandford were instructed not to drink their water in February after a water main in that town froze, and one broken main in May prompted precaution in both Brockton and neighboring Whitman.

As of this week, the DEP lists fourteen active public water system warnings, mostly at restaurants, campgrounds and apartment buildings.

Twelve of these are in western Massachusetts, and two are nearby: one at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, and one at Erving's Rail Yard Diner restaurant, where water also tested positive for *E. coli* last weekend. The Rail Yard's Facebook page states that the diner is "closed due to water testing again."



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ADVICE WITH PURPOSE





MIKE JACKSON PHOTO  
CHRIS BOUTWELL PHOTO



*Above: Mark Stevens and Dan Boyer operate Montague's leaf vacuum at Peskeomskut Park on Tuesday.*

*Left: The town's leaf pile, near the transfer station, last week..*

The Montague Reporter  
is now soliciting  
**POEMS, including KIDS' POEMS,**  
for our DECEMBER Poetry Page.

Send your work to  
**POETRY@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG**  
or c/o Poetry Editor, 177 Avenue A,  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

**LEVERETT** from pg A1

In other news, the board bid farewell to treasurer/collector Dee Ann Civello, retiring after 35 years, with a small gathering and ice cream social during the meeting.

"We might just start all the meetings now with cookies and ice cream," said d'Errico.

There was a brief discussion on moving forward with the Community Preservation Coalition grant for rehabilitating the old town garage. At older than 50 years, the building should qualify as historic.

There remains the question of showing that the garage was not intentionally left in disrepair.

The board renewed the Leverett Coop's beer and wine license, for which it pays \$250 annually.

An anonymous letter to the building inspector was passed on to the selectboard. D'Errico defaulted to the policy he had practiced when

on the zoning board of appeals, to ignore anonymous letters.


Olivia Bernard reached out to the conservation commission, said member David Powicki, regarding her Leverett Pond property, which abuts town conservation land, and her wish to maintain her view of the pond by pruning foliage. In fact the town has an agreement which would allow maintenance for vista's sake, and the commission has the board's approval to notify Bernard of such.

The selectboard had formed an IT Committee to inventory the town's assets. D'Errico asked town administrator Marjorie McGinnis to get an update on that report.

According to Shively, it was recommended to the personnel committee that sick hours that can be accumulated by town employees be dropped from 700 hours, or 18 weeks, to a more standard 480 hours, or 12 weeks.



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## Identity the Theme at Arts Bank Show



Arts Bank Gallery owner Jane Trigere in front of several paintings, part of the curated group show “Portraits: Revealing and Concealing,” scheduled to open this Sunday, November 15.

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – This has been a busy week for Deerfield Arts Bank proprietor Jane Trigere as she prepares for Sunday’s “soft opening” of the latest exhibit entitled “Portraits: Revealing and Concealing.”

The gallery, located at 3 Sugarloaf Street in the town center (formerly the Bank of America), will hold a gala reception Thursday, November 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. The show will run through Thursday, January 14.

The thematic exhibit’s hours are scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. each Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday and from 2 to 8 p.m. every Thursday. The talent of 38 artists, a wide majority of them from the area, will be on display.

“Ninety-nine per cent of the time,” said Trigere, “I prefer art exhibits that are thematic, for many reasons. A one-person show can be

good, highlighting the development of the artist over, let us say, 20 years. However, I really enjoy reaching out to the viewer and promoting a dialogue.”

Thus, Jane’s primary focus in a thematic exhibit is to create a conversation between the artists and their viewers.

“Thematic exhibits give the viewer the opportunity to explore many artists’ interpretations. If one piece says nothing to you, perhaps the next one will.



“King of America,” acrylic by Ed Kaplan.

“The other thing is how the art is hung: what is placed next to what, and why. I, too, am part of the conversation with the artist and the viewer. I contribute by the placement of the art. Placement can destroy or enhance the experience. Finding the right neighbor for a painting – that’s a fun challenge! That’s the way I would hang it in my home.”

In addition, Trigere believes a bit of a mysterious title for an exhibit can be quite enticing. “It’s more effective,” she said, “to a prospective attendee to do a show that is more quizzical. So titling a show is most important. It’s part of the overall dialogue with the public.”

Following this idea is the current show, “Portraits: Revealing and Concealing.” All portraits we view reveal something about the individual but also are not revealing something.

Back in the 17th and 18th centuries, the subject of the portrait authorized the work. The viewer could see their castle and property in the background of the portrait. Their clothes and jewelry reflected their wealth, while their position behind a desk demonstrated their intelligence or profession.

“What are we saying about ourselves in a self-portrait?” asked Trigere. “When we paint a portrait, what are we trying to reveal and what is left hidden?”

“These are the things I want to explore with our talented local artists. And these are the things I hope will intrigue the viewers.”

### Portrait Sketch Session

There are more events connected to the exhibit, such as a Portrait Sketch Session with local artist Elizabeth Stone. This event will

see **ARTS BANK** page B8

## Entwined Lives in “Steel Magnolias”



By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – Set in a small southern town, the play “Steel Magnolias,” by Robert Harling, offers a glimpse into the lives of six women who gather weekly to get their hair done while sharing stories and secrets at the local beauty shop. Presented by the Arena Civic Theater (ACT) at the Sloan Theater on the Greenfield Community College campus, the play opened this past weekend and will have three

more performances on the coming weekend.

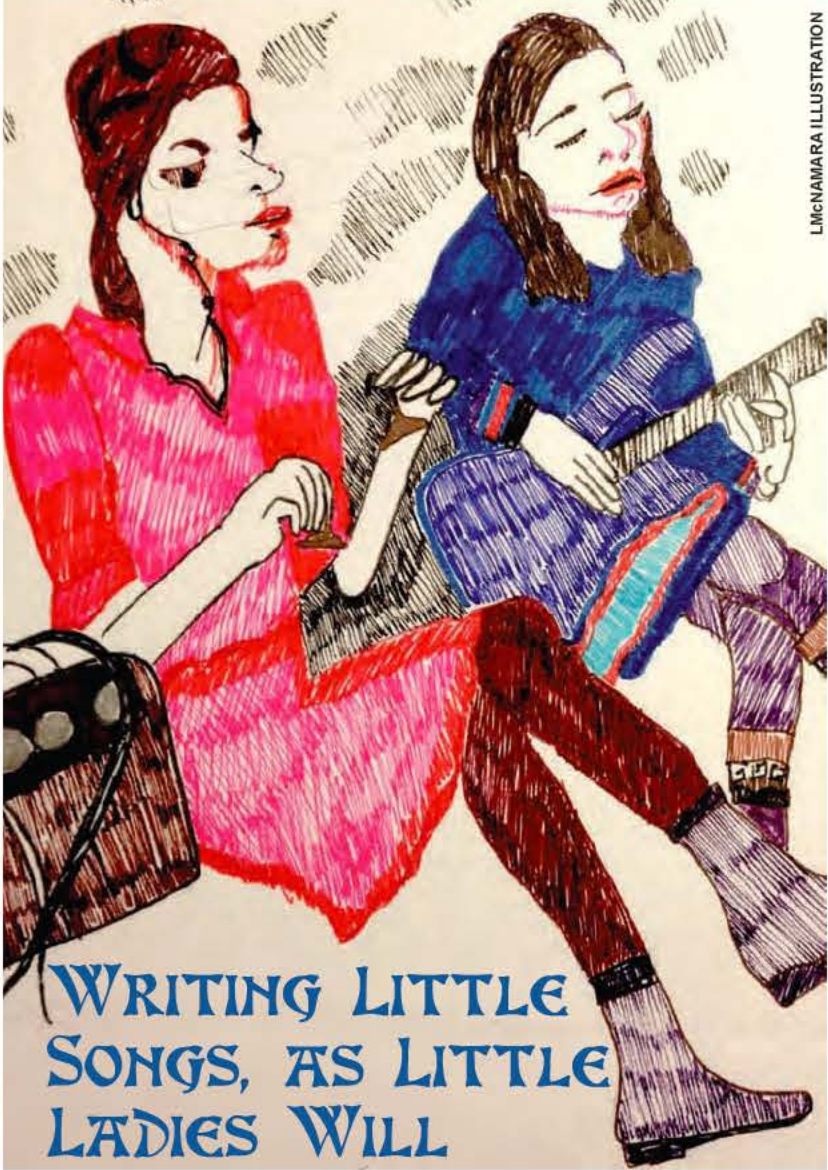
An enjoyable few hours spent with an excellent ensemble of local actors who give the audience a gift of stepping back in time, in a way, to old fashioned beauty parlors where women came every week to get their hair done and spend time together apart from their husbands and children. These women are all unique, of different ages and experience, with distinctive characters. They are introduced to us as each steps into the beauty parlor and the conversation ensues.

Truvy Jones, played by Dawn Mayo, is the owner of the beauty parlor, central to the story. She is charming, generally kind, keeps the atmosphere light. She explains the fundamental concept of her success this way, “There is no such thing as natural beauty.”

As the first scene opens, Truvy is having her hair done by a young woman she’s auditioning for a job.

see **MAGNOLIAS** page B5

### CONCERT REVIEW:



LMcNAMARA ILLUSTRATION

## WRITING LITTLE SONGS, AS LITTLE LADIES WILL

Julia Tadlock and Ruth Garbus.

By LMcNAMARA

**MONTAGUE** – Last night there was a great concert at the Montague Bookmill, which featured two sets of music. The first was by Ruth Garbus and Julia Tadlock, and then Myriam Gendron played songs from her album, *Not So Deep as a Well*, which is on Feeding Tube Records. Ruth Garbus played songs from her own Feeding Tube record, *Rendezvous with Rama*.

David Russell said about Ruth and Julia’s set, “That music was so intense, it made me feel f\*cked up,” and he was right.

There was no point during their 8-song set that my mind wandered away. Ruth played guitar with a light finger touch that took us all through the songs without hesitation or question.

On top of her sweet tune, she and Julia sang curious lyrics that I strained to catch, and when that task

seemed too burdensome, I enjoyed the instrumentation of their harmonies and voices.

There was a point when my mind’s comparison between them and the Roches seemed too base, too obvious, but then when they sounded like Giles, Giles and Fripp during the song “Slusher,” I was more amused with that comparison. Not that I don’t love the Roches, but comparing one group of ladies harmonizing to another? I find that a dull comparison, although I love to hear those sounds.

After “Slusher,” Ruth introduced the next song, “Grey Sweatshirt,” and Julia pulled out some zils for accent while Ruth sang alone. I heard her sound a little like Nico during this slower, more reflective song.

“I shall play my song / And wonder if it should exist.” She allowed herself a short piece of gentle scat singing, which may have been

see **LITTLE SONGS** page B5

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: REMEMBERING THE OLD LIBERATORS

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – It’s on these chill and austere days of a gray late autumn, on the eve of the 11th of November and with Thanksgiving just around the corner, that my mind wanders back to the war that ended



COURTESY DAVID BRULE

the year before I was born.

And on rare occasions, on days like this, I by myself, or with my younger sister, decide to take a look into our father’s time capsule down in the cellar, the Old Sailor’s sea chest. He’s been gone more than ten years now, our Old Man, but inside that footlocker resides his youth and wartime mementos, that bring it all back, going back to 1939.

Poet Robert Hedin coined the phrase: “It’s the Old Liberators that I like best, those veterans who are going fast

Each day a little more of their memory goes out...”

We open that trunk and take our time looking over the old paperwork, trying to get a feel for the 17-year-old who joined the Civilian Conservation Corps back in ’39, before enlisting in the Navy in 1942.

He signed up for one of many of FDR’s public works programs, and that got this street-wise smart Alec off the tough streets of Lowell and Boston. He had barely stayed a year or so in his new hometown of Turners Falls before joining up. He loved to talk about those days when he was Way Out West where he met up with horses, rattlesnakes, the Cheyenne and the Sioux, building roads and fighting forest fires.

He made a small wage that got sent back home to help the family out. He spent two years assigned to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, then back to Fort Devens and later the CCC camp at Baldwinsville, closer to home. He always said those were some of the best days in his life, when he was a cowboy out on the edge of the Great Plains.

Like others of his generation, by 1942 he was up to his ears in the war, and by the end of it, he had served three years as a tail-gunner and navigator on torpedo planes based on the USS Ticonderoga, and the USS Hancock in the Pacific Ocean.

Like many veterans of WWII, he never spoke much about what happened or what he did. But just the other day, as we went through his Aviator’s Flight Log

see **WEST ALONG** page B5

Left to right: Clayton “Barney” Whiteman and Arthur Brule, USN, in 1942.



# Pets of the Week



## JECKYL & HECKEL

We budgerigars, like humans are the only member of our genus, *Melopsittacus*, which roughly translates to “Wavy little parrot with a beautiful singing voice.” Undulatus, the

species name may either refer to our wavy stripes or the sinuous flight of our great flocks in the wilds of Australia. Budgerigars are extremely social, so please adopt us together! We just do better with good friends, plenty of sunlight and gentle attention and conversation. Budgies can even learn to speak human languages! We’re best suited to bright, airy homes with lots of space and some pleasant company around.

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

## Senior Center Activities November 16 to 20

**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**  
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8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 11/17**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday 11/18**  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consults by Appt.  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 11/19**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans’ Outreach  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Card Games & Scrabble  
**Friday 11/20**  
Reflexology by Appointment  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**Saturday 11/21 Holiday Bazaar**

**ERVING**  
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.  
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.  
For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.  
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.  
**Monday 11/16**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
**Tuesday 11/17**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 C.O.A. Meeting  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12:30 Painting, Friends Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Jewelry Workshop  
**Wednesday 11/18**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 11/19**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10 to 1 SHINE (call for appt.)  
Noon Card Games  
**Friday 11/20**  
9 a.m. Quilting Class  
9:30 a.m. Bowling at French King  
11:30 a.m. Pizza & More

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

**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.

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Leaves are truly covering the ground now, folks are bringing out their rakes and last week’s warm days have given way to some more seasonal weather. This Wednesday, November 11 is Veterans’ Day; a ceremony will be held at Veterans Memorial Park from 10:30 am to noon. On Saturday, November 14 there will be an Energy Commission home energy workshop at Gill Elementary School from 9 a.m. to noon, which will highlight easy ways to make your home more affordable (for pre-registration, email [jmasucci@msn.com](mailto:jmasucci@msn.com) or call 863-8694). Here at MCTV, we’ve been keeping up with local events and recording them for a TV (or computer) near you. Now available for online streaming or download: **Gill selectboard meeting, 11/2:** Peter and Patricia Heed came to announce that the USCA Nationals (flatwater paddling competition) will be hosted by the New England Canoe and Kayak Association, to be held at the Northfield Environmental Recreation Center on August 12-14, 2016. They advertised it as a fun, family oriented event where viewers can picnic and enjoy the competition. They hope to involve the surrounding towns, and are looking for local food trucks for when the paddlers complete the marathon in the early afternoon. Other agenda items at this week’s meeting included a discussion of the costs of getting a new smartboard projector for the Fire Department versus getting the current one repaired, a lighting update, and the announcement of a 10% increase in sewer rates. **Montague selectboard meeting, 11/2 (in two parts):** This week’s Montague selectboard meeting had a very full agenda and was alive with public comment. Among other items, this meet-

ing addressed: the appointment of Ann Cenzano to the Board of Assessors to fill a vacancy until the next election on 5/16/16; the appointment of Ariel Elan as Montague Pipeline liaison; the discussion of possible town comment to the Legislature on bills pertaining to the NED pipeline; planning motions looking toward PumpkinFest 2016; a discussion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services leaving the Great Falls Discovery Center while the National Park Service may be coming in; a request for funds for the restoration of the Lake Pleasant Bell and Structure. 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! Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Up In Smoke: Part II

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

[This is the second in a three-part series on smoking.]

If you smoke, you owe it to yourself to quit. And I believe you have an obligation to try to help others to quit. I’m doing my part by offering this unusual series of columns. No scolding or exaggerated scare tactics. I’m giving you just the facts in a chain of bulletins. You can stick these columns on bulletin boards and refrigerators. I recommend giving them to a smoker you love. Here are more: Cigarette smoke contains 4,000 chemicals, including more than 60 known to cause cancer. Some of the chemicals cause heart and lung diseases. Included in the list of chemicals are cyanide, benzene, formaldehyde, methanol, acetylene, ammonia, nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide. Any amount of smoke is dangerous. Even smoking as few as 1 to 4 cigarettes a day can increase the risk of dying sooner. Smoking cigarettes with lower tar and nicotine provides no clear health

benefit. Smokers who buy these cigarettes often inhale more deeply, inhale more often and smoke them down to their fingers to compensate for the lower tar and nicotine. Menthol cigarettes are more dangerous than other types because they diminish the cough reflex and mask a dry throat. This enables smokers to inhale these cigarettes deeper and more often, too. People who smoke menthol cigarettes are less successful quitting. Hand-rolled cigarettes are not safer than commercial brands. Cigarettes billed as “all natural” have not been proven to be safer than any other cigarettes. Herbal cigarettes produce tar and carbon monoxide and are dangerous to your health. Clove cigarettes, also called “kreteks,” contain about 65 percent tobacco and about 35 percent ground cloves, clove oil, and other additives. They are a tobacco product with the same health risks as regular cigarettes. “Bidis” are hand-rolled, flavored cigarettes imported mainly from India. Bidis appear to have all of the same health risks of conventional cigarettes. Nicotine, the addictive ingredient in tobacco, constricts arteries and plays an important role in increasing smokers’ risk of heart disease and stroke. However, other ingredients in tobacco cause cancers. Anyone who starts smoking is at risk of becoming addicted to nicotine.

With regular use of tobacco – smoked or chewed – nicotine accumulates in the body. Daily consumers are exposed to nicotine effects 24/7. Nicotine, like cocaine, increases the level of the neurotransmitter dopamine, which affects the brain pathways that control reward and pleasure. Smoking cigars and pipes causes cancers of the lung, oral cavity (lip, tongue, mouth, throat), larynx (voice box) and esophagus. Pipe and cigar smokers, who often don’t inhale, are still breathing the second-hand smoke that surrounds them. Smokeless tobacco can cause cancer of the gums, mouth, pharynx, larynx, and esophagus. People who dip or chew smokeless tobacco get about the same amount of nicotine as regular smokers. Hookah smoking involves burning flavored tobacco in a water pipe and inhaling the smoke through a long hose. Hookah smoke contains varying amounts of nicotine, carbon monoxide, and other hazardous substances. Several types of cancer have been linked to hookah smoking. When smoke contacts live cells, it hurts them. There is no safe way to use tobacco. In the last part of this series, I’ll give you some statistics and information about quitting. If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com).

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WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Sunday, November 15:

Dog Safety for Kids & Families

Half of all children will be bitten by a dog by age 12. The majority of these bites are by the family dog or other dog known to the child. This risk increases during the holidays.

This Sunday, November 15, from 3 to 4 p.m., Sharon Wachslar of At Your Service Dog Training will offer a presentation and Doggone Safe tips at the Wendell Free Library to keep kids and dogs safe over the holidays.

Her fun, interactive, innovative one-hour program, “Be A Tree: Holiday Dog Safety Program for Kids and Families,” is geared toward school-age kids and their parents, but anyone interested in learning safer ways to interact with dogs are welcome to attend.

The program, which is free and open to the public, includes poster-size pictures and games from Doggone Safe, a non-profit corporation whose mandate includes dog bite prevention education and dog bite victim support.

“I’ve added my own assistants, too,” Wachslar says. “‘Rudy,’ a dog sock puppet, and ‘Jack,’ a stuffed Jack Russell Terrier. They’re very well trained,” she jokes.

Wachslar uses the toys, along with games, prizes, and group participation to make sure the kids stay engaged.

“There’s lots of practice to get it

in muscle memory,” she says. “Parents and grandparents tell me that the kids use the techniques later, and that they [parents] use them, too— and they work!”

Family gatherings at a relative’s house are the source of fun for many, but the relatives’ dog may not enjoy these events. Noise, confusion and changes in routine are stressful for dogs.

Even a normally calm, docile pet may become agitated enough to bite at a boisterous family celebration. Supervision may be lax if each adult thinks that another is watching the children. Children are the most likely dog bite victims. Doggone Safe offers these tips:

Wachslar has provided Wendell librarian Rosie Heidkamp with dog-safety tips which Heidkamp will provide at the circulation desk throughout the holiday season.

For more information, contact Sharon of At Your Service Dog Training at (978) 544-8674, email her at [Sharon@aysdt.co](mailto:Sharon@aysdt.co), or visit [atyour servicedogtraining.com](http://atyour servicedogtraining.com).

You can also contact Rosie at the Wendell Free Library at (978) 544-3559.

For general information, please visit the Doggone Safe website at [www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com), call 1-877-350-3232, or email [doggonesafeinfo@doggonesafe.com](mailto:doggonesafeinfo@doggonesafe.com).

What is the Miraculous?

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Some people believe miracles are real, that they do exist. Some do not believe that.

I remember watching television reports about the Chilean miners who were trapped in the gold mine they worked in for 69 days, the event the movie *The 33* is based on.

Their story is called miraculous, and I agree with that thought when it comes to this event: I believe them surviving in that mine, for that length of time, can be considered miraculous.

Speaking of true-life events that got made into movies, I also watched the movie *The Impossible*, which is about a tourist family in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in theaters in 2012.

If the father really did manage to grab two of his three sons and dive into a pool as the wave hit, I would consider it to be very lucky, and miraculous as well, because I believe it helped them survive the wave. If he hadn’t been able to do that, how would it have turned out? The ending probably wouldn’t have been that the whole family survived.

The line may be very thin between what is considered very lucky and what is considered miraculous.

It seems to be case with the “Cokeville Miracle,” which is what many call the outcome of the Cokeville Elementary School hostage crisis:

On May 16, 1986, in Cokeville, Wymoing, a man named David Young and his wife entered the school with a gasoline-filled device that appeared to be a bomb, and took many children and adults hostage. He threatened to blow them up at any moment. After a long period of time, the children grew restless, so teach-

ers started to pray. Someone even put tape around the bomb in the shape of a square, so as not to inadvertently make the guy set off the bomb. The windows got out due to kids being sick from the smell of gas.

Young got upset and left the room, but not before taping the bomb to his wife’s wrist. Neither was left standing at the end of the crisis, and nor was one of the teachers. But all the kids survived, as well as the rest of the adults.

Some of the kids could tell you that they saw an angel or angels that day: that a “beautiful lady” told them to sit near the window. This sighting could have just been due to the stress of the whole standoff, or the imagination of kids.

Some of the things were incredibly lucky: the windows being opened, that tape being used, and I believe not too many people being very near the bomb when it went off, which allowed them to survive. The open windows also helped adults evacuate the children immediately after the blast.

But here is what I would call miraculous: the bomb had five blasting caps to it, but only one of them went off. A website about the event said that, according to investigators, “if it had worked properly, the bomb would have blown off the side of the building, and many more would have been injured or killed.”

I can see why the incident has been called the Cokeville Miracle, and why that is the name of a book and movie about it.

What is lucky, and what is miraculous, depends on a people’s view of things. Whether you think these events I have mentioned are simply incredible strokes of luck, or miracles, is up to you.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Loud Bang, Green Laser, Thrown Pumpkin, Missing Smokes, Sound of Burp Gun, and Errant Coke Truck Threaten a Fragile Peace

**Monday, 11/2**  
7:32 a.m. Caller from Turnpike Road reports that she heard a loud bang and immediately after she saw a cloud of gray smoke. Same sound was heard followed by a brief power surge at the MPD/TFFD station. TFFD advised. WMECO notified and responding.  
11:57 a.m. Caller reports finding 2 empty steel boxes at Third Street and Avenue A. Boxes were labeled “Teller 1” and “Teller 2.” Officers retrieved boxes, will bring them to the station to be entered into evidence.  
3:55 p.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School reports that the rear license plate missing from her vehicle when she left work today. Plate entered into NCIC.  
8:24 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.  
9:59 p.m. Report of a disturbance on the second floor of a Second Street building, possibly 3-4 people. Caller can hear yelling and screaming and thinks that they may be intoxicated. Found to be verbal argument. Female has left for evening. All quiet.  
**Tuesday, 11/3**  
9:49 a.m. DPW reports that a male party is illegally dumping building materials in the park by the old Montague Center School; ongoing issue. Subjects assumed it was OK because they were putting the items in the burn pile. Subjects advised they cannot dump materials there and will be picking everything up before the end of the day.  
10:12 a.m. Report of an injured squirrel on N Street. Caller is concerned that if the animal is still alive when the kids get out of school, they will play with it. Officer moved squirrel to swamp area across the street, where it will be put down. Two 22 rounds were discharged.  
1:22 p.m. Request to remove 2 unwanted people from a Third Street apartment. MedCare on scene.  
[REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.  
2:47 p.m. Officer contacted by Sheffield Elementary School requesting that he pick up a small amount of illegal drugs for disposal. Services rendered.  
4:07 p.m. Report of a refrigerator in front of a house on Dell Street that still has its door on; caller concerned for small children who may be playing in the area. Services rendered.  
6:16 p.m. Caller from

Third Street reports that a female has just smashed a window to an apartment on the second floor. Caller believes the female may reside here. Officers spoke to female, who admitted to breaking window as she did not have the keys nor a cell phone to call anyone. She stated she would contact Housing tomorrow to report the damage. Spoke with Tracy from Housing, who is aware of the issue and will be sending maintenance out. Report taken.  
9:25 p.m. Party from Federal Street into lobby to advise that he has been allowing two parties to stay in his house and they have caused damage to the house. Officers escorted parties downtown; they will be staying on Avenue A.  
11 p.m. Caller reporting some sort of green laser light aimed toward traffic on Montague City Road in the area of Greenfield Road. Caller states that it is bright enough to temporarily blind vision of oncoming motorists as it did to her and her husband. Responding officer reports light not pointed toward road; it is pointed up in a tree. Officer drove by light several times and vision was not affected.  
**Wednesday, 11/4**  
9:03 a.m. Caller from Turner Street reports it appears that a pumpkin was thrown through her fence overnight causing a large hole in the fence. Investigated.  
10:44 a.m. Caller from Central Street reports her cigarettes missing and a plant pulled out of the pot. She believes someone is breaking into her apartment. Report taken.  
2:49 p.m. Caller from Wrightson Avenue reports that on Sunday, November 1 at 4 a.m., a female known to her came into her bedroom through an open window and she was awoken when this party “injected me with heroin.” Party “struck me three times, the first two

missed but she got me on the third try.” Referred to an officer.  
10:17 p.m. Caller from Highland School Apartments reports hearing what he called a “burp gun,” a gun he is familiar with from Vietnam, after a car drove by. Caller states they shoot of approximately 50 rounds per second. Referred to an officer.  
10:30 pm. Caller reports that she and her husband were driving home on Route 2 and struck a deer in Athol. Referred to Athol PD.  
**Thursday, 11/5**  
8:26 a.m. Officer picking up needles on Avenue A.  
8:48 a.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School requesting an officer to stand by as they were expecting a parent to come in who may be upset and possibly cause an issue.  
1:11 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on probable cause for an outside agency (Greenfield PD).  
1:41 p.m. Caller reports receiving a phone call from his ex-wife, which is a violation of their divorce decree. Caller stated he has a heart condition and these calls upset him. Advised of options.  
2:07 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports missing \$100 in cash and 60 Klonopin pills. Report taken.  
2:27 p.m. Caller from Warner Street reports a possible injured hawk. Animal control officer checked area; nothing found.  
2:28 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that she noticed one of her car tires has a nail in it and she believes it came from the construction going on near her house. Advised of options.  
6:28 p.m. 911 caller requesting info on his water in Montague Center; he heard there was E. coli in the water. Spoke with TFFD, who advised there was bacteria in the water supply and that only Montague Center is on a

boil water order. All other villages are OK. TFFD advised.  
**Friday, 11/6**  
10:43 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering at 15 Fifth Street. Glass broken on the front door. Report taken.  
11:07 a.m. Officer observed a Coca-Cola delivery truck back into a utility pole in the alley between Third and Fourth Streets. No visible damage, but pole shook when hit. Eversource advised.  
6 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts advising that a male party was harassing customers, being extremely rude and loud and asking people for money. Male is reportedly walking in the area with an open container. Officer located party on Avenue A; advise party does not appear to be that bad. He did have one beverage on him, but it was closed. Party had some food and was heading in for the night.  
11:42 p.m. Two vehicles reported broken into on H Street. Small amount of money missing. Report taken.  
**Saturday, 11/7**  
1:39 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle on East Main Street. Parties were lost and arguing in their vehicle. Parties sent on their way with directions.  
8:40 a.m. Report of vehicle breaking and entering overnight on G Street. Report taken.  
8:54 a.m. Report of a male assaulting a female in front of Aubuchon Hardware. Unable to locate.  
11:58 a.m. Bag of syringes reported near Eleventh Street and Avenue A. Items disposed of.  
2:11 p.m. iPhone and toolbox containing \$1000 worth of tools reported stolen on Taylor Hill Road. Advised of options.  
**Sunday, 11/8**  
2:03 p.m. Caller reports that on Friday at 5 p.m. he was assaulted in the alley beside Between the Uprights. Referred to an officer.

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BY MADELINE LAPORTE

## Meanwhile, in Wendell...

**WENDELL** – This Saturday, November 14, The LA WOOD BEACH PARTY is arriving at Wendell's Town Hall with its original and groovy seaside vibes, including original tunes by LA WOOD, winner of the 2013 Malibu Music Award, Best Female Pop Artist!

Savor tropical and sweet feelgood tunes you love. We are turning up the heat on the dance floor, so get out your beach chairs, towels and sunglasses!

LA WOOD was an integral part of the music community in this area for many years before moving to Florida. She made some of her earlier recordings at the Wendell Recording Studios, and performed extensively in the valley, as well as nationally as a top percussionist and singer-songwriter.

The cast of characters includes Wendell's own Karen "kc" Coconut Copeland on percussion, "Rasta" Ray Grigonis on bass, "SeaShell"ey Hines on vocals, and featuring LA Wood on Vocals, Guitar, Percussion and Harmonica!

This fund-raising event supports LA's upcoming EP Recording, taking place in November. Admission is \$10, but no one will be turned away for lack of enough funds.

At the Beach Party you will enjoy incredible music, salty and sweet treats, and "tropical virgin, non-GMO" beverages. The raffle will include many amazing items,



including shiatsu massage, handmade jewelry, coconut cosmetics, Myron's sauces, and so much more!

Come to this night to remember! Suntan lotion optional... You will leave the beach happy and hot... and it is November! Contact Karen Coconut at (978) 544-7352 or [kckeepthebeat@yahoo.com](mailto:kckeepthebeat@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## ... and at the Brick House...

**TURNERS FALLS** – It's Fall, leaves are falling, and it's as fine a time as any to witness The Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth incinerate those leaves in mid-air.

Featuring Danny Monster Cruz (below) and a revolving cast of musicians, FDOM plays music described as "Mudlightning Metal" and "Electric Danny Cruz Music," equally influenced by GG Allin as by FDOM's general manager Lady Gaga.

They will be joined by NJ/NYC songwriter/artiste Adam Finchler (above right), who recently released "What's Up, Grim?": *Haunted Hay-*



*riders In Their Own Words*, a book of quotations collected by the actual Grim Reaper at a haunted hayride in New Jersey.

Adam will play songs from his most recent album, "Hair Gimmicks of Apathy" (Bear Records).

Opening the show will be local psychotic garage cadets Holy Vex (right). Not to be missed.

This Saturday, November 14 at the Brick House, located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. The Brick House is an all ages, substance free space. Doors at 8 p.m., music at 8:30 sharp. Donations suggested.



## LOOKING BACK

### 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was November 10, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

#### Heat's Almost on at Fire Station #2

The new heating system should be installed this week at the Erving Fire Hall #2. Bill Bembury noticed a delivery truck parked in front of the Erving Center fire station earlier in the week, with the driver waiting in the cab.

On inquiry, Bembury, who is married to selectboard member Linda Downs-Bembury, found the driver was attempting to deliver the new furnace to the wrong fire station. He directed him further west along Route 2.

#### Montague Board Faces Citizen Initiatives

Residents of Montague made it clear on Monday evening's meeting with the selectboard they expect swifter action, and a greater voice, in regard to certain issues facing the town.

First, the Precinct 2 Awareness Group, a caucus of town meeting members for Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant, was back before the board seeking straight answers about the status of the Powers Block building and the Dry Hill Cemetery. The group was respectful, but reiterated its frustration at the slow progress of these long-standing problem areas.

Art Gilmore, who coordinates the ad-hoc group, let the room know, "I have a file a foot thick," asking why there had been no visible progress on renovation of the Powers building, owned by Richard Conley. After 8 years of code violations, permit problems, obstruction of public sidewalks and a great deal of foot dragging, Gilmore said, residents have had enough. However, they will have to wait longer for answers.

Carol Flandreau presented the selectboard with two proposed articles for the special town meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 7. The first article asks the town to put together a document containing historical background and factual summary about the

proposed landfill project off Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. "Town meeting still doesn't have a good idea of what this project is about," said Flandreau.

The second article sought a town-wide referendum for final approval of the landfill contract, in addition to a majority vote of town meeting members. "The only way to bear is to have a town-wide vote," said Jeanne Golrick, who spoke in support of the proposal.

#### Women Arrested at VY Headquarters

Monday, November 7, was not a typical morning outside the Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee offices in Brattleboro... but it was not completely foreign either. Armed Vermont state troopers stood in front of the Entergy headquarters with a handful of Entergy staff, while the Brattleboro police directed a crowd of mostly mothers and grandmothers around yellow crime scene tape sectioning off a parking area across from the office's front lawn. Letters were passed between the two groups by Brattleboro's chief of police, acting as a messenger.

This was an anti-nuclear power protest organized by Nina Keller of Wendell and Sally Shaw of Gill, which included about 50 people from Franklin County and the Brattleboro area. The demonstration was in reaction to a proposed 20% power update at the plant.

Protesters' grievances with the nuclear facility include the possibility of a terrorist threat, the need for clean energy, concern for future generations, and people living close to the plant becoming ill at higher rates.

Seven women were arrested and cited for trespassing before being released, after joining hands and walking over the line toward the Entergy staff.

Asked or his response to the concerns expressed by the demonstrators, Larry Smith, manager of communications for Entergy said nuclear issues are "complex and everyone has the right to their opinions."

## ... and at the Symphony

**GREENFIELD** – Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus Director Jonathan Harvey will conduct the PVS Chorus and members of the orchestra on November 15 at the Second Congregational Church.

The concert features Haydn's *Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo in B-flat major* (Mass No. 7, the "Little Organ Mass"); a selection of a cappella works performed by the PVS Chamber Choir; the Finale of Dvořák's *String Quartet No. 12 in F Major, Op. 96*, performed by Pioneer Valley Symphony concertmaster Janet Van Blerkom, principal second violinist Cecilia Berger, principal violist Mandi Jo Hanneke, and cellist Jennifer Allen; and two selections for piano solo, performed by Jesse Johnson.

The concert starts at 3 p.m. on

Sunday, November 15. The Second Congregational Church is located in Court Square in Greenfield.

Advance tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$6 for children and students \$6. They are available at [pvsoc.org/single-tickets](http://pvsoc.org/single-tickets), by calling (413) 773-3664, or at the door, though prices will be slightly higher at the door.

Students who sing in choruses and choirs in the Pioneer Valley are invited to attend the concert free of charge.

For additional information, please call Susanne Dunlap at (413) 210-2480, or email [susanne@pvsoc.org](mailto:susanne@pvsoc.org).

The Pioneer Valley Symphony receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency.

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**WEST ALONG** from page B1  
Book, the entries carried even more meaning and poignancy for us in this changed world than ever before.

According to the log, after months of Stateside practice runs over places like Boca Chica, Trinidad and Cuba, glide bombing practice and carrier landings, before long his torpedo squadron was raiding and bombing the Philippines, Formosa, French Indochina, Tokyo, and Iwo Jima.

Day after day in 1945, he and his crew were on bombing and strafing runs, often twice a day, hitting Japanese cruisers, aircraft carriers, shipping ports. But by September 1945, the entries slowed a bit, and then stopped. We know why.

Among the souvenirs we came across was the 1944 Thanksgiving Day Dinner menu from the USS Ticonderoga. Everything you'd expect was there: roast young tom turkey, gravy, sweet potatoes, mince and pumpkin pie, cigars and coffee. That menu would have been quite a treat for men who had so far survived three years of war, and like my father, had not set foot on dry land for more than two of those years.

We also had a look at the "Pointee Talkee" handbook of handy Chinese phrases to use in case your plane got shot down over China, then a passive ally of the US against the Japanese.

If a crew member needed to communicate with Chinese rescuers, he could pick out the right English phrase for the situation, and next to the English was the translation in Chinese characters. The book does note, however, that many Chinese in the countryside did not then know how to read, so the "Pointee Talkee" book wouldn't be much help in that case.

Topics included courtesy phrases, getting help to repair the plane, phrases about injuries and first aid, and the handy "If the enemy or puppet troops come, please help conceal me".

**LITTLE SONGS** from page B1  
improv'd, or may have been done before, but tonight when I heard it for the first time, I thought appreciatively, "Wow, what did she just do?"

Julia pulled out a guitar and they played together while she sang a cover of Neil Young's "Motion Pictures," and then they sang three other Ruth originals.

The song in the middle I thought was called "Doritos," or "Doritos

My Old Man never needed these phrases, lucky for me.

He only mentioned the loss of shipmates and dear friends on rare occasions. Like a lot of WWII vets, he didn't like to talk about it much, except maybe on New Year's Eve, when after a toast and a few drinks, the pent-up tears would flow.

One of his best friends was a Turners boy, Clayton Whiteman, but as I was growing up, all we called him was Barney. He and my father joined up in '42, went through training together and were part of a torpedo squadron, although assigned to different carriers: my father was on the Big "T", and Barney on the USS Bunker Hill.

My father made it back, but Barney didn't. The yellowed newspaper clipping my father saved says that Barney had made 27 combat missions, and had volunteered for the 28<sup>th</sup>.

His plane was shot down over Tokyo, resulting in the death of the entire crew on April 7, 1945.

Barney Whiteman died a year before I was born, during the last months of the Pacific war, but it seems like I knew him. His photo in full flight gear still hangs in the living room, seventy years later.

Now those who survived the War are almost all gone, taking with them the names of their shipmates and the names of the bombing runs.

But some of us can still remember the parades of the '50s, with all the Old Liberators marching down Second Street on the Fourth of July, on the way to Unity Park. They're the Old Guys and Women from WWII, crammed into their old uniforms, heading down the street, and into the fading light of passing time.

Hats off guys! And hats off to the women!

*All they did back then, was to go out and save the world.*



*The cast of "Steel Magnolias" in rehearsal, left to right: Louise Krieger as M'Lynn (seated), Cristen Rosinski as Annelle, Terry Adams as Clairee, Dawn Mayo as Truvy and Kai Pabon as Shelby. Not seen, Claudia Eitnier as Ouiser.*

**MAGNOLIAS** from page B1

Annelle Dupuy DeSoto, played by Cristen Rosinski, is new in town and Truvy is interested in her story.

Just the idea of being in a new town excites Truvy because she has always lived in this small town of Chinquapin, Louisiana. Annelle is an interesting character who grows more complex as the story proceeds, but in the beginning she is very quiet, an important presence in the room but with more action than talk.

Rosinski does an excellent job of being this quiet mystery, while being as real as can be as a beautician, actually rolling up hair in neat lines of rollers, washing hair in a real sink with all the correct attachments, so at least two of the actors have their hair washed (was that actual shampoo?) on stage during the performance. The attempt to recreate a beauty salon is quite successful.

The only thing that isn't there are mirrors. The mirrors exist on the fourth wall; that is, the wall the actors imagine when they face the audience. These actors make it so real, the audience can easily accept it when the women examine their hairdo in the "mirror" in front of them.

When Shelby Eatenton-Latchrie, the youngest of the women, played by Kaineeca Pabon, looks in the "mirror" and makes a face, the other women rush to assure her that it's fine. Shelby has just had her hair cut short and she is not sure about it. Shelby is a central character throughout, although there is no one who could be considered the lead in this play that depends on all of the actors working well together.

No one upstages or tries to get the most attention to outshine the others. A true ensemble, their comic timing makes the jokes work, and each takes a turn being the center of attention in individual scenes, always supported by the others.

Shelby is young and cute, a bride on her wedding day in the opening scene, but her story follows a line that has both joy and sadness in it, and her decisions affect all of the other women in the play. Their lives are tied together in many ways, living in this small town.

M'Lynn Eatenton, played by Louise Krieger, is Shelby's mother. She is married to a man who, for unexplained reasons, is shooting off a shotgun in the opening scene. This is one of the ways the men are a presence without being seen.

Montreal's Myriam Gendron played a few songs off her album, which is full of songs she wrote the music for, and using Dorothy Parker's poetry for the lyrics.

I dig Dorothy Parker, and I loved Myriam's guitar playing, but during the set, I am one of those numbskulls who wishes for a lyric sheet as a guide. I don't know enough Dorothy poetry to be able to hear and glean the meaning of the poem as Myriam delivered it vocally.

Although, if I had the poetry guide, I might find myself paying attention to that and pondering the poetry instead of listening as closely to Myriam's guitar playing as it deserved to be heard.

That is a nice situation to find oneself in, I expect.

I was able to catch some phrases, like in the poem shared here: I remember hearing her sing, "but I am writing little songs as little ladies do," and that stayed with me, and became a theme for the night. I was very eager to attend to these women's little songs, just as I am eager to go home and write little songs of my own.

I've watched shows and gone to hear music for most of my life, and the powerful women musicians who I see more and more surrounding me in this community are exciting.

M'Lynn is a prominent businesswoman but is also a worried mother. She fusses over Shelby and, as any daughter about to be married would do, Shelby resists. That tension between them makes their scenes together very interesting.

Terry Adams plays Clairee Belcher, a woman in her sixties and the widow of the former mayor. She cares about how she looks and takes seriously her position in town as a representative of her husband's legacy. Adams is lovely and gracious in her portrayal of Clairee.

Claudia Eitnier plays Ouiser (pronounced "weezer") Boudreaux, who is also a woman in her sixties but with a gruff attitude that gets laughs from her first moment on stage. A real character, with great comic timing, Eitnier enjoys exaggerating her casual look and careless attitude. The audience loved her. Ouiser was also able, in spite of her curmudgeonly nature, to show herself to be deeply caring and emotional when it came to her friends.

What was interesting, as the play ended, was the role the men played. As written, the men in this play are so strong, they don't need to be seen or even heard to be considered as characters. The husbands, alive and dead, the sons, brothers, boyfriends, they are there in the conversation, in many of the sounds outside, beyond the bounds of the beauty shop, and in the ways they influence the lives of these women.

An excellent play, a great performance, an opportunity to spend a little time together with others laughing and remembering simpler times. A lot will seem familiar to those living in our small towns, and much will perhaps be nostalgic too.

I encourage readers to take the time to see this play while it's still here.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for general admission, \$13 for seniors and students, and \$10 for children 12 years old and younger.

Some of the subject matter may not be suitable for young children.

Tickets can be purchased at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, at the door or on the website: [www.arenacivictheatre.org](http://www.arenacivictheatre.org). You may call to make a reservation at (413) 233-4368.

The Lady Killigrew was hopping, and the Bookmill was full of people who were eager to sit on the floor and hear these women's music. It was great music and everyone seemed satisfied as they filed out of the room or milled about afterwards, talking or not talking.

*Oh, I should like to dance and laugh  
And pose and preen and sway,  
And rip the hearts of men in half,  
And toss the bits away.  
I'd like to view the reeling years  
Through unastonished eyes,  
And dip my finger-tips in tears,  
And give my smiles for sighs.*

*I'd stroll beyond the ancient bounds,  
And tap at fastened gates,  
And hear the prettiest of sound-  
The clink of shattered fates.  
My slaves I'd like to bind with thongs  
That cut and burn and chill....  
But I am writing little songs,  
As little ladies will.*

Thanks, Dorothy Parker, for everything.



LMC/NAMARA ILLUSTRATION



Myriam Gendron

The title of this article is a quote from this poem:

**Song of Perfect Propriety**  
by Dorothy Parker

*Oh, I should like to ride the seas,  
A roaring buccaneer;  
A cutlass banging at my knees,  
A dirk behind my ear.  
And when my captives' chains would clank  
I'd howl with glee and drink,  
And then fling out the quivering plank  
And watch the beggars sink.*

*I'd like to straddle gory decks,  
And dig in laden sands,  
And know the feel of throbbing necks  
Between my knotted hands.  
Oh, I should like to strut and curse  
Among my blackguard crew....  
But I am writing little verse,  
As little ladies do.*

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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt  
Readers are invited to send  
poems to the Montague Reporter  
at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# November’s Featured Artist: William Allen Miller

## My Friend Said

They had Polaroids. “If they photograph you three times you are targeted by death squads”, an organizer said changing his clothes quickly. I had sold Christmas trees in Manhattan to raise money to join a Walk for Peace. They closed the border an hour after we entered. Romero, the Jesuits, Nuns dead, young labor organizers their hands tied behind their backs a bullet hole behind the ear. The Mothers of the Disappeared lighting candles in the gravel around victims. Shoes missing. A value for shoes? I wondered if I had come because my father abused us. Those young organizers thought they were the body of Christ. An embassy employee said the military wants to kill you. The young priest Estavan came to me and said, “You have to trust us, and get in the trunk of the car”. We finished our wine and looked over the other’s shoulder and into the night.

## David

I don’t remember clouds or the color of the sky,  
the sound of birds.  
Who his father might have been, the significant trees in his  
life as a child,  
the way he ran to go home at the end of a day.  
The things  
he passed that told him who and where he was, or if he had known  
the loyalties of a dog.  
When I think of him I say David, though I never  
heard his name.  
When we found him you couldn’t tell if he was Asian, Anglo, or African  
not as if anything was equal.  
I don’t know if he had ever known the unity of a ball game. I think he might have been  
Chinese American from California.  
I wonder if his grandfather had ever taken him fishing. We wrapped him in a poncho  
that would protect him from the rain,  
tied the poncho to a bamboo pole, carried him as if we were all  
going home that night in a pilgrimage of the bewildered.  
I regret the way we dropped him to the ground near morning,  
brushing one palm against the other as though we were finished.

## In the First Days after Dying

I miss a breeze on my skin.	The way air will move
through a window at night,	The way a whisper is
your hand on my back, the way water runs down.	Now I prefer vision
from a sphere	adjusting to radiance,
the story of connection in the face of sentient fear.	Cyphpering for the arch of things
ever in motion. So much I missed believing	That silence was empty born in filling my hands. coming back to me now from lilies and stone.
and the endless hunger Answers to my questions	

## The Way to Church

Sunday morning dad’s forty nine Olds  
Driving past the bars on Dunlap Street.  
Three guys are in an alley next to the bar.  
One is holding the arms of another  
Behind his back. The third one is throwing  
His fists into the held man’s body.  
That one’s face is down at the potholed  
Dust and crumbling asphalt alley way.  
Mom and dads’ faces out the wind shield  
Their eyes bricked forward. I looked,  
Wrote it down, no good reason why I am  
Standing by the way I remember town.

## A Vision

He had held visions of  
soldiers in t-shirts  
Lucky Strikes rolled up  
in their sleeves,  
their eyes at a distant  
horizon. The myth of  
significant wonder and truth  
residing at a distance,  
the James Dean allure  
of masculine silence.  
While remaining naïve  
to battle plan  
contingencies that would  
have to include the  
celebratory death of  
the infantry. Exposing  
his skin and beer personal perceptions  
of justice. A Vietnamese girl near  
Tam-ke called him honcho.  
a green towel over his head  
an “x” cut in its middle  
with a bayonet like a  
Mexican serape. The image  
of personal importance lasting  
in his mental movies  
until he saw himself  
as others did. No one  
could see the desire  
for acceptance, that serving  
his country implied.  
No longer simply poor boys  
from desolate perceptions.  
Called Jones, Gonzales,  
Freeman, or Yaki choosing  
for themselves Cassius,  
Odysseus, Geronimo  
The Green Hornet  
peace signs inked  
on their helmets desolation  
in their flesh. He could feel  
the license in his gut  
of weapons. The pistol grip  
of an M-16 slung near  
the natural fall of his hand.  
Understanding in the knot  
of emotion tucked in  
the shallows of his gut  
acceptance of the death  
of the point man  
while he walked there.  
Believing they chose him  
as if he were special.  
Understanding when indignation  
could serve him.  
When to move toward the firing.  
Startled that the buttons  
Of jungle fatigues  
seemed to lift him  
too high in the air  
hugging the earth for comfort.  
Surely the only things  
he could smell  
would change in time.  
Practicing his hands  
Stuffed in  
fatigue pockets.  
A cigarette dangling  
from the corner of his mouth.  
Smoke burning his eyes  
making tears. They took turns  
with machine gun ammo  
over their shoulders  
crossed in front of their hearts  
in pictures they sent home  
before they had carried bodies.  
Starting the dead they knew  
and didn’t know by name  
on their journeys to  
where they had come from.  
Masturbating in the bottom  
of fox holes imagining  
beauty and love  
lasting as long as release, drinking  
warm bottles of Schlitz,  
the taste confounding  
the memory of warm bread  
how dark the night  
how small the sound of twigs  
breaking. The difficulty  
of a quiet breath, ignoring  
the curvature of the earth  
and human bodies  
firing weapons.

William Allen Miller of Montague Center is November’s featured poet. A veteran of the Vietnam War, his poems often draw on his experiences as a soldier. His poem *David* recently won the Amherst Writers and Artists Poetry Contest for 2015. The *Montague Reporter* is proud to feature Al Miller’s work.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



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## ONGOING EVENTS:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH

Montague Center Library: *Outside the Lines!* 1st Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m..

People's Pint, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

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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



*Peggy Hart demonstrates how wool is spun on an historic spinning wheel in front of her show, "Wool Gathering." She wove these linsey-woolsey blankets on antique industrial looms. Linsey-woolsey is a combination of wool and linen which is what the early settlers in New England used to weave. Hart's show is at the Salmon Falls Artisan Gallery in Shelburne Falls through December 31.*

men incarcerated in the Franklin County House of Correction. Exhibit through 11/20.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *Portraits: Revealing & Concealing*. 36 local artists explore the puzzle of the portrait. Opens 11/15 through 1/14. Reception 11/19, 6-8 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 have been expanded (yey!) to Wednesday-Sunday for the winter, 10-4 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Barnes Gallery, Leverett: *LCA Residents Group Show*.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne: *The Erection*. Ongoing 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: *Silvia's Exotic Fashions*. A lifetime of world travel as represented in fashions from Silvia's closet: vintage dresses, jewelry, accessories and clothes of impeccable taste. 11/13-12/1.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Peggy Hart: Wool Gathering*. Collection of local wool and linsey woolsey blankets woven on antique industrial looms. Exhibit runs through 12/31.

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

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Follow the Thread*. A group show by fiber artists who are members of the cooperative. Show runs through 11/23.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

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

## EVENTS

## THURSDAY, NOV 12

The Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Ceremony and Ritual*. Community conversations with Phyllis Labanowski. Artist presents slideshow of Bali and leads discussion re: the role of ceremony in our lives. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lexi Weege*. Solo chanteuse. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All-Stars*. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Village Hall*. Jam/global/jazz/rock/funk/improv. 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Outbreak of Peace Trio* - Sarah Pirtle and friends Gloria De, Layne Matlock, and Michael Nix. Donations help the Friends of the Discovery

Center provide free nature programming for the public.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m. free. *A.T. & the Birds of Paradise* - *Digital Manure* - *Point Breezy Country Club*. 9:30 p.m. \$

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

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie night, *Zardoz*, part of the Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series. Future earth, plagues, barbarians. It's got them all. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Mark Mandeville and Raienne Richards*. Americana and old-time country accompanied by ukulele, clarinet, guitar and banjo. Mandeville and Richards have also founded an organization called The Massachusetts Walking Tour which functions as a non-profit to support arts and culture in the small towns of their home state. 8 p.m. \$

Also at the Bookmill in the History Room: Michael Metivier (Oweihops), with "beautiful, intricate finger picking and soft, ethereal harmonies." \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Lied To's with special guest Austin & Elliot*. Folk rock. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Holy Vex, Finchler, Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Wendell Town Hall, Wendell: *LA Wood Beach Party Band*. Fund-raiser to record an EP by "Best Female Pop Artist 2013 Malibu Music Awards". \$

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Community Smokes*. Rock n' Roll cover band. 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dana (Osterling) + Band* - *Women Songwriter Collective*. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*. Indie rock. 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *French & Breton Dance*. Dancing, instruction, live music, French Café ambience. 3-6 p.m. \$

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

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Taste of Theater Tuesday*. Play reading of 1953 *Tea and Sympathy*. Will Tom find any sympathy in the closed world of the private high school in the 1950's? Read on... Donations.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

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

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Mark Nomad*. Blues. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Howlie - Silver Lake*. Acoustic/indie/ '60s vibe. 9:30 p.m.

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Digital Manure  
Point Breeze Country Club

**SAT. 11/14 9:30 FREE**  
*Dana & Band* - Woman  
Singer-Songwriter Collective

**SUN 11/15 9pm FREE**  
**TNT KARAOKE**

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**FCCDC  
Annual  
Meeting**

**Tues Nov 17  
4:30 – 7 pm  
The Arts Block  
289 Main St  
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**EVERYONE  
WELCOME!**

**ARTS BANK** from page B1

take place Thursday, December 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.  
Attendees are invited to either sketch along with Stone, or simply watch. Questions may be asked at the break, including hints for improving their own drawings. Attendees are asked to please bring a sketchbook and simple materials like charcoal, eraser, pen, and pencil.

**Photo Booth**

“We’re also inviting people to visit us,” said Jane, “every day the gallery is open we have a photo booth for selfies and portraits. We want your face in the exhibit, too. We’ll add your



“Jennifer” by Linda Devine

**Our subscriber Gail Hornstein writes:**

“I am a Mount Holyoke College psychology professor, currently researching and writing a book about mental health, and I went to visit a pioneering program in Falcarragh, in the northwest corner of Ireland, in County Donegal, called Solas. Solas means “light” in the Irish language, which is spoken in that region, but is pronounced “solace,” thus conveying also the English meaning of that word.  
“The participants in the program are all people with a history of psychiatric problems, who are reshaping their lives through this empowering program, focused on ‘walking, talking, listening’ in the wild and magnificent landscape in which they live. They built the ‘sofa with a view’ on which I am sitting in the attached photo on a nearby beach, and it is now a permanent and much-loved part of the local landscape for anyone passing by to sit on.  
“The wood came from a tree on the grounds of a former mental asylum in that area – thus symbolizing the powerful reshaping of their own lives – and the stones are from the beach, on which they now walk free. The Solas participants learned to solder the metal frame at a local workshop, and constructed the entire seat themselves. You can read more about it at this link: [solasdonegal.org/solas-sofa/](http://solasdonegal.org/solas-sofa/).  
“It was an amazing experience for me to have the privilege of spending a week with them....”

**MONTAGUE REPORTER**

**ON  
THE  
ROAD**

Thanks to Gail for bringing us along for the journey, and for sharing about the Solas program. (To find out about a local organization that also seeks to foster participant-led mental health support, see the Letter to the Editor on Page A2 of this issue.)  
Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).



Photo by Eric Broudy

portrait to our ‘Face Book.’”  
Another offering is close to the heart of Jane Trigere. The back room will be the site of portraits of her family. Naturally, none of these portraits will be for sale.

**Artists**

The list of artists whose work appears in the new Deerfield Arts Bank exhibit and the mediums they use in this display follow:  
Edith Bingham (egg tempera), David Bogia (photography), Linn Bower (oil), Eric Broudy (photography), Martha Brouwer (mixed media), James Burrill (photography), Ron Chirico (drawing), Guillermo Cuellar (sculpture), Laurie DeVault (photography), Colin Devine (acrylic), Linda Devine (monoprint, photography), Olivia Devine (photography), Karen Evans (drawing), Rachael Hankinson (3-D, photography), Gillian Haven (oil), Diana Henry (photography), Margaret Humbert-Droz (digital collage), Edith Hunsberger (acrylic),

Ed Kaplan (acrylic), Ann Knickerbocker (3-D collage), Marjorie Kramer (oil), Jack Laforte (photography), Meryl Mandell (3-D assemblage), Ann McDonald (oil), Nancy Meagher (assemblage, giclee print), Catherine Richotte (oil), Ruth Ri-nard (pastel), Nina Rossi (ceramic), John Schoenwaller (photography), Gary Smith (mixed media), Randi Stein (pastel), Elizabeth Stone (oil, pastel), Rhea Sutter (painting, drawing), Sam Thurston (painting, sculpture), Lilin Tseng (3-D assemblage), Cecilia Tusinski (oil), Miriam Wells (oil), and Janet Winston (oil).  
If you have questions about the upcoming exhibit, please visit Jane at [www.deerfieldartsbank.com](http://www.deerfieldartsbank.com). The gallery may be reached by calling (413) 665-0123.



Arts Bank Gallery owner Jane Trigere with one of the sculptures in the curated group show “Portraits: Revealing and Concealing” scheduled to open this Sunday, November 15.

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