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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 40

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 14, 2014

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Protestors Don't Disrupt Meeting; Prest On Payroll Until December

By KATIE NOLAN

People arriving for the August 4 Erving selectboard meeting were greeted by approximately 30 people on the lawn at 14 East Main Street, across from Town Hall, holding signs saying "Take Back Our Town" and similar sentiments.

People on the lawn waved and smiled at people passing by. At times, passing cars responded by honking their horns.

Inside town hall, the selectboard, consisting of William Bembury and Margaret Sullivan, officially accepted the resignation of selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo effective July 23, and elected Bembury as the new chair.

Several of the protestors, including William Pease, attended most of the meeting, observing, but without making comments.

As the board approached the end of the agenda, Bembury asked Pease if he wanted to speak. Pease said that the protestors had asked him to talk to the board; he asked that questions from citizens be put on the agenda for the next selectboard meeting.

"We have a lot of questions," Pease told the board. The board agreed to schedule time for citizen

see **ERVING** page A5

## A World Traveler Brings Yoga To The Common Hall

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – On September 11, 2001, Nadya Tkachenko emerged from a rescheduled dentist appointment in uptown Manhattan, heard sirens everywhere, and looked downtown to see that now-familiar image of smoke billowing from the Twin Towers.

Had her dentist not rescheduled her appointment, Nadya would have been at her desk in a building on Wall Street, where she worked for an educational non-profit organization.

She walked home to her apartment in Queens that day, and could not return to work for a week. During that week, Nadya listened to the sound of military planes, and when she returned to her office dust covered everything.

She stayed in the city for a year after that, with her boyfriend Misha Coggeshall-Burr, who is now her husband. During that time, she began to explore yoga as a means to alleviate the stress of the city.

This sounds like the beginning of the story that eventually led her to Montague, where she now teaches two popular yoga classes at the Common Hall, formerly the Montague Grange, but that's not quite right.



COURTESY NADYA TKACHENKO

*Nadya hits the street with publicists Maya, 7, Tychon, 9, and Tara, 13 months, with flyers for her yoga classes.*

Her tale of fate, luck and coincidence begins in Kazakhstan where she was born. At the age of sixteen, she finished high school and began to work as a translator while she went to university.

Successful, earning money of her own, she thought there wasn't much reason to pursue higher education. Her boss thought differently, and encouraged her to continue her education in the United States.

Nadya ended up at Middlebury College where she majored in International Relations and Chinese.

see **YOGA** page A4

## Tech Research Firm's Purchase Of Industrial Park Lot Blocked Granola Expansion

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

**MONTAGUE** – Mountain Research, LLC, the company that operates Yankee Environmental Systems at 101 Industrial Boulevard has indicated they will act on their "right of first refusal" (RFR) to purchase 2.2 acres of a 7.3-acre lot in the Montague Industrial Park adjoining their property.

This purchase effectively blocked the proposed sale of the entire lot to New England Natural Bakers, currently headquartered in Greenfield but with a warehouse in the Montague Industrial Park.

New England Natural Bakers, a rapidly-expanding 12-year-old granola company that employs more than 50 people, had hoped to be able to relocate their entire operation to Montague.

General Manager John Broucek

said that the company had gotten "very close" to purchasing the lot where they hoped to build a 60,000 to 65,000 square foot building. They then learned about the RFR held by Yankee Environmental.

Although 5.1 acres would still remain in the parcel, at least seven of those acres are not developable due to a steep slope and other encumbrances. And according to Broucek, they needed between seven and eight acres for their business.

Mark Beaubien, owner of Yankee Environmental, said he had signed an agreement with the town of Montague in 2001 giving him the RFR for 2.2 acres on the adjacent property.

According to Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, that agreement effectively allowed Yankee Environmental the opportunity to buy the property should it come up for sale to another buyer.

see **INDUSTRY** page A7



## Demand from Local Gas Distributors May Fund Pipeline, Even Without Tariff

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – A proposal to subsidize the construction of new energy transmission infrastructure with a New England-wide tariff on electricity has slowed amid criticism and scrutiny, but in the event that it is not adopted, pipeline giant Kinder Morgan appears to be establishing the case for its Northeast Energy Direct project the old-fashioned way.

Local gas distribution companies (LDCs) have so far made commitments to purchase a total 500 million cubic feet per day of natural gas if the pipeline, which would stretch 300 miles from Pennsylvania to Dracut, MA, is built.

"LDCs in Massachusetts are required by regulation to secure the most reliable, least-cost, natural gas supplies available to our customers," said Chris Farrell, a spokesperson for Berkshire Gas, which provides gas for residential and commercial customers in Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire counties.

Berkshire and its sister companies, Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas, are among the publicly announced "anchor shippers" for the Kinder Morgan



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

*The pipeline's projected route would follow these high-tension lines, pictured looking westward from Route 63 in Montague.*

gan project, which Farrell said "would eliminate current deliverability constraints."

"The lateral pipeline serving our customers in Hampshire and Franklin Counties," explained Farrell, "... is nearing capacity."

If the project does not progress, he said, Berkshire Gas "will likely have to evoke a moratorium on any new natural gas service in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, as soon as the end of the current calendar year."

### Power Plants

Residential gas consumers have legal priority over other customers, and the main evidence that demand may be approaching the limits of the region's system design – or

market design – has been in short but steep price spikes during cold winter days, when gas-fired power plants compete for scant supply on the spot market.

The operators of these plants sell electricity at regulated rates and are not in a position to invest in long-term deals for pipeline capacity. But the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), tasked with approving interstate gas pipelines, requires these advance commitments.

The New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE), a nonprofit funded by a tariff on electricity and tasked by the executive branches of the New England states to advance their

see **PIPELINE** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Moruzzi Resigns as Fire Chief

By DAVID DETMOLD

Following a heated discussion about the future of the fire department at the last board meeting in July, long-time Leverett fire chief John Moruzzi has resigned, effective January 31.

Moruzzi's resignation follows hard on the heels of that of deputy fire chief Stewart Olson last month, amid a dispute about liability for the town and the advisability of firefighters over the age of 65 remaining on active duty.

The departure of the department's two senior officers – coupled with the resignation of one of the younger firefighters, Ursula Humphrey, announced Tuesday – left the selectboard in a subdued mood Tuesday, as board members grappled with the future of the largely volunteer force.

Presently, other than a small salary for the part time chief, firefighters are paid on the basis of calls responded to, and no money has yet been allocated to implement the major recommendation reported out of the recent fire department study committee: to hire a fulltime firefighter to staff the fire station during the day, when most members of the call force are working out of town.

Olson turned 65 last year, and remained on the force as training officer after being reappointed by the selectboard in March of last year.

Captain Marty Moore, with 20 years of service, turns 65 at the end of this month. Moruzzi turns 65 in January, and, after 40 years on the force, has now made clear he intends to resign permanently at that time.

**"Why not buy fire services the way we buy ambulance services?"**

**Peter D'Errico**

**"Because it's expensive."**  
**Julie Shively**

Last month, the selectboard sharply criticized Moruzzi's administrative abilities in planning for the department's transition as senior staff reach retirement age.

For his part, Moruzzi had been vague about his own plans for retirement in previous meetings, citing nearby departments like Montague and Wendell where fire chiefs have remained in their posi-

tions well past the age of 65.

But by Tuesday night's meeting, that debate was rendered moot, and the selectboard faced the uncertain future of a well equipped fire department with two stations and a new \$350,000 Rosenbauer fire truck, which no one can say with certainty will have firefighters remaining on the force who are trained to drive.

Plus, as the fire department study committee has pointed out, the demographics in Leverett are skewing toward more senior citizens – and more emergency medical calls – and fewer potential young volunteers able to take on the onerous duties of training to fight structure fires and respond to other emergencies while being on call 24/7 for scant remuneration.

"Why not buy fire services the way we buy ambulance services?" asked selectboard member Peter d'Errico.

"Because it's expensive," responded Julie Shively.

"What does it cost, for two structure fires and 40 car accidents a year?" asked d'Errico.

"We'll still have medical calls," said Shively, who noted that local firefighters have traditionally been the first to respond to such calls – which

see **LEVERETT** page A5

# The Montague Reporter

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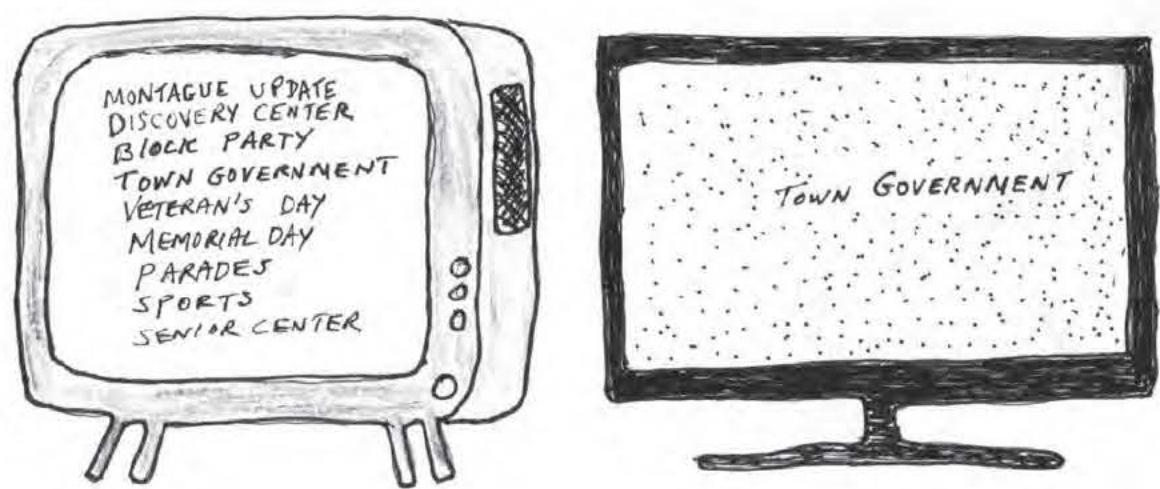
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## Letters to the Editors



### Finding My Peace

The drug war became personal to me when my nephew died of an overdose of heroin. Like many others who have fallen in this war, he was innocent. It was his death that gave me the courage to speak out by standing on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street holding a sign, “No Drug Dealing.”

Thank you to all the drivers who tooted their horns and gave thumbs’ up at the sight of my sign. The responses were heartening and I felt overwhelmingly supported.

I had to be willing to face the dealers and their camera phones. I faced them with a smile. Friends said I was brave, and other friends said I should be careful.

I came to realize that what I was doing was very personal. In the end I realized that standing on a street corner was taking a toll on my well being, and I had to stop. But first I had to come to terms with the root of my passion -- the death of my nephew.

I reacted with anger and wanted to avenge his death. But I understand that he is not coming back, and I don’t need to do this.

As a result of getting out there as a visible presence, I have realized that drug dealers are people too. Troubled and confused like the rest of us, they belong to a community of life. Deal on, brothers and sisters! I will rise above the fray and ride the wind to the place of my soul’s tranquility.

We think we have stewardship of the world, or this corner of it, but we don’t. We are being shaped in it and with it. The local drug problem may be a lot bigger than it appears, but it’s still small compared to the giant web of the community of life.

I live in a war zone of the drug war, but I am finding my peace.

**Quickchange  
Turners Falls**  
*(The above is a composite of two letters submitted to the editors.)*

### Abatement

I spoke at the July 28 Montague selectboard meeting on the topic of graffiti. What can be done to stop, clean or prevent (abate) it from spreading in the village of Turners Falls, Town of Montague?

I was told to speak to our community police officer, Michael Sevene.

When he and I did speak, I was astonished to learn there are presently no by-laws pertaining to the abatement of graffiti in Montague.

Therefore, I am currently researching graffiti abatement by-laws of other towns about our size that I can learn from.

Last year, the City of Los Angeles spent \$140 million on the abatement of graffiti alone.

Therefore, I feel this is a problem no one should turn their backs on.

**Alice Johnson  
Captain, Turners  
Falls Clean Team**

## Corporate Disobedience

We’ve been following the family-owned Market Basket dispute with great interest over the last month.

For those who haven’t, Market Basket, which has a store in Swansea, NH, came apart at the corporate seam when the majority shareholders voted in mid-July to oust the CEO, Arthur T. Demoulas, grandson of the grocery store’s founder.

CEOs lose their jobs all the time, and with the exception of stockholders, most don’t care. But with Market Basket it’s different. In this case it’s cousin against cousin, majority shareholders against employees and customers.

On the surface, it’s a family squabble. Arthur S. Demoulas, Arthur T.’s cousin, holds 50.5 percent of the company with other like-minded shareholders. By all accounts, there has been no love lost between the cousins for more than a decade. It was therefore probably not a great surprise to Arthur T. that Arthur S. decided to fire him as CEO and replace him with two interim CEOs, with the idea that they would sell the multi-billion dollar company to outside investors.

But it did come as a shock to the thousands of employees (associates) and to Market Basket’s customers. Within days of the announcement these employees, from managers to cashiers to warehouse workers to stock boys and girls, began to protest the dismissal of Arthur T.

Suppliers, also loyal to Arthur T. and his team, followed suit. Pickets went up, word spread on social media, and customers voted with their hard-earned dollars to back Arthur T. and his former employees by taking their shopping dollars elsewhere.

The result has been the loss of several million dollars a day.

Rather than cave to the sole demand of the protesters – that Arthur T. be reinstated – the new CEOs issued an ultimatum this week to the absentee employees: if they do not return to work by Friday, August 15, they will lose their jobs.

As of press time, there was no indication that anybody was heading back to work. Nor was there any word from the Arthur S. posse that they were willing to accept Arthur T.’s offer to buy them out.

What fascinates us about this struggle is that it is a rare instance of “corporate disobedience.” Labor strikes are as American as burritos, but to witness employees, suppliers and customers rebel against a corporate decision is unique.

But, then, apparently so was Market Basket under the leadership of Arthur T. According to the extensive reports in The Boston Globe, Arthur T. has created strong relationships with generations of associates.

The company paid them decently, included them in a profit-sharing plan, and consistently promoted from within. The CEO was also a visible presence on the floors of his stores.

But even this doesn’t fully account for what is happening. What we’re really seeing here is employees identifying themselves as stakeholders (if not shareholders) in the company for which they work.

It’s no longer a case of management against workers; it’s management, workers and their allies against a group of shareholders whom this alliance perceives as acting not only against their best interests but those of the company in general.

Images of these employees on the picket line are revealing of the underlying attitude. Common signs held aloft by picketers read: “This is our f---ing company!” and “Artie T. is our CEO.”

Is it their company? In the 1930s, and again in the 1960s and 70s, the idea of worker cooperatives was a much ballyhooed notion. It caught on somewhat, then declined, and has actively revived in the past decade. Indeed, the co-op movement and co-op stores are alive and well.

But Market Basket is not a co-op. Which makes this all the more interesting for what we’re seeing here is that even within a typical hierarchical structure, teamwork and cooperation can still be a central value, one that many are willing to take risks for.

Market Basket employees obviously believe that workers and management can work cooperatively, can benefit cooperatively and provide for customers at a high level. In other words, they are disputing the notion that maximizing returns to shareholders should be every company’s highest priority.

In this age of corporate greed, where wage disparity between workers and management has become astronomical, it’s a very refreshing idea.

We admire Market Basket employees’ corporate disobedience. We hope it spreads, and spreads widely.

## GUEST EDITORIAL Pipeline Must Be Proven Unnecessary

By STAN ROSENBERG

**BOSTON** – The Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal that has dominated local media recently is just that - a *proposal*. Unfortunately, the energy crisis our Commonwealth will face in the coming years is real.

Over the past several months I have participated in many lengthy and thoughtful discussions with a range of energy experts from the private and public sectors, including senior members of environmental organizations and the Patrick administration, in an attempt to understand all of the proposals on the table, including the pipeline and transmission lines from Canada and Maine, and how they might or might not fit into our future energy needs.

The goal of these ongoing discussions is to craft viable policies to help our Commonwealth create an energy future that utilizes green and renewable technologies and indigenous sources to the greatest extent possible.

I am an unabashed policy wonk. For those of you who know me personally, that should come as no surprise. One of the things that I have learned is that the state is likely in a position to prevent the Kinder Mor-

gan pipeline from crossing state-owned land in the event that the pipeline proposal is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. All of the members of the Franklin County legislative delegation are united on this.

I don’t have complete answers yet.

What I do know is that the situation is complex and fluid, and unless we take appropriate steps in the near term, especially as approximately 8,300 megawatts of power from fossil and nuclear sources will have gone off-line in the New England region in the next six years, representing approximately 25 percent of all our region’s electric power, our residents, our businesses, our schools, our hospitals, our Commonwealth, could see a tripling of energy costs in the foreseeable future.

Experts agree that brownouts and blackouts at peak usage times are likely across our region if those approximately 8,300 megawatts are not replaced.

I issued a challenge to the energy experts I’ve been consulting: What do we need to do to be energy self-sufficient, meaning no pipelines, no transmission lines bringing hydro energy from Canada, no wind ener-

gy from Maine, utilizing only green and renewable technologies and indigenous sources, and conservation measures? What will it cost and how quickly can it be phased in to meet current and projected usage?

As I said, I don’t have that information yet, but I will share it when I do, and I would like to enlist the commitment of all Massachusetts residents to do their part to make sure that we have the energy we need.

In the meantime, please know this: I do not want a pipeline running through some of the most beautiful areas of Franklin County. Nor do I want our residents and employers to pay exorbitant energy costs because of our failure to act.

But saying “no” to a proposal we don’t want is not enough. We have to show that it is unnecessary.

I want the future to be powered by the greenest, most affordable, most sustainable energy possible. That’s what I’m working for.

Please make no mistake about that.

*Stan Rosenberg is the Massachusetts senate majority leader, and represents the Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District.*

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **55th Montague Old Home Days** celebration starts at 7:30 a.m. this Saturday, August 16, with the Mug Race registration with events through 7:30 p.m.

There will be performances of the Traveling Rhubarb Circus, Celtic Heels and much more. Visit [www.montaguechurch.org](http://www.montaguechurch.org) for a complete listing of events.

Old Home Days concludes August 17 with a Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

Dr. Joseph Viadero will talk about “**Ticked off about Ticks**” from 10:30 to 11:30 on Saturday, August 16, at the GSB branch in Turners Falls. This is a terrible tick season in our area, and this free seminar will be very helpful. Free refreshments.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center will hold a **Cardiac Risk Cholesterol Screening** on Wednesday, August 20, from 8:30 to 9:30 am in Conference Room A.

Participants must fast for 12 hours prior to being screened. Test results will be forwarded to participants and their primary care providers.

The cost for the screening is \$10; pre-registration is required. To register, please call Baystate Health Link at (413) 773-2454, or (800) 377-4325.

A public forum concerning the **proposed Kinder Morgan/TGP – Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project** will be held on Tuesday, August 19, at 7 p.m. at the Community Church of North Orange and Tully. This talk is free and open to the public.

Special guest speakers will include Attorney Tom Lesser from the firm of Lesser, Newman and Nasser, and Leigh Youngblood, executive director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

The focus of the forum will be on land issues and legal issues concerning the proposed pipeline which could be built on land in area towns including Orange, Athol, Erving, Warwick, Royalston and Winchendon.

Ivan Ussach from North Quabbin Pipeline Action will give an update on statewide activities planned in the coming weeks to oppose the pipeline.

Background information about the proposed 30” to 36” natural gas pipeline running from Richmond to Dracut in Massachusetts will also be available. A question and answer period will follow the formal presentations.

NQ Pipeline Action joined with other regional groups recently to support MassPLAN (Mass Pipeline Awareness Network) in forming a statewide coalition of people and groups to oppose the pipeline.

Recently many people from towns in this region participated in a Rolling March across the state and a rally in Boston attended by more than 500 people on July 30.

Rev. Don Erickson and the Community Church of North Orange and Tully are hosting the event. The church abuts land along the proposed pipeline route. It is located at the intersection of Main St. and Creamery Hill Road in North Orange.

Contact Pat Larson at [plarson@montaguereporter.org](mailto:plarson@montaguereporter.org)

[son24@hotmail.com](mailto:son24@hotmail.com) or (978) 575-1226 for more information.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony announces auditions** for the fall semester of the PVA Youth Orchestra. Auditions for new instrumentalists ages 18 or younger will take place on August 21 and 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. on both days, at the Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield.

The **American Red Cross Blood Drive** is Friday, August 22, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Turners Falls Fire Department, 180 Turners Pike Road. Blood is always in great need during the summer months.

Northfield Mountain will host the 30th Annual **Connecticut River Valley Astronomer’s Conjunction** on August 22 and 23. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain.

Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend will be jam-packed full of slide presentations, talks, and Friday and Saturday night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes. Check out the website at: [www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction](http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction).

Registration forms are available from Richard Sanderson at [rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org) or by writing Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118.

On Saturday, August 23, starting at 10 am, it’s **The Traveling Rhubarb Circus**, back by popular demand at the GSB Branch in Turners Falls.

Step right up and get your ring-side seats and witness new acts for your viewing pleasure. Be both thrilled and entertained with the versatility and talent of these young folks as they work in unison to complete their feats.

This is sure to be a perfect family event. No reservations required; light refreshments will be provided by GSB.

All are welcome to the **Federal Street Neighborhood Block Party**,

Saturday August 23, between noon and 4 p.m. at the corner of Federal and Church Streets on the beautiful campus of St James Church in Greenfield.

This is a free family event with food, games, music; lots of fun. Hosted by St. James Church to benefit the social services agencies on Federal Street.

Join the Gill/Montague Senior Center for an **Ice Cream Social** with special musical performance by Steve Ciechomski on Tuesday, August 26 starting at 1 p.m.

Lastly, save the date for two fundraisers for Turners Falls’ Brick House Community Resource Center.

On Wednesday, September 10, **Quartermania** is back at St. Kaz, 197 Avenue A. Vendors & crafters set up at 5 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m., and this popular event kicks off promptly at 7 p.m.

Come and place quarter bids on items provided by artists and vendors. If you place a bid and your paddle is in the air, your number is chosen, and you win.

The \$5 entry fee includes one paddle. Additional paddles are \$1. All proceeds go to the Brick House—come and show your support and don’t forget your quarters.

And on Saturday, September 13, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church invites you to **recycle your electronic waste** (computers, LCD screens, DVD players, and the like) in the parking lot of the Montague Town Hall.

Recycling will be collected from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The suggested donation of \$10 will also go to the Brick House.

The next edition of the *Montague Reporter* will hit news stands on August 28, at which point we will resume our **regular weekly print schedule**. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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



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## GUEST EDITORIAL Lost Opportunities, and Misplaced Anger

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE** – I remember lines at gas stations in the 70’s, the first small cars, fascination with geodesic domes that were easy to heat, window quilts, a rush to buy wood stoves, and the fear that we were running out of oil. My best friends bought land in Nova Scotia, sold all their electrical appliances and went to live off the land.

In the summer of 1974, my then husband and I found forty acres in New York State. There were woods for a lifetime supply of firewood, fields for gardens and animals, and best of all it was more than a tankful of gas from any major city.

We thought desperate urban dwellers might steal our vegetables when everything fell apart. We didn’t give up our jobs, but we built a small homestead to be ready when the economy collapsed.

Well, the marriage collapsed instead, but the economy roared back to life, oil became available in abundance, and for most people thoughts of conservation vanished. Cars got bigger again and morphed into SUVs.

Family homes puffed up into mansions without much thought about the cost of heating them. In countless ways the American people, myself included, demonstrated a gluttonous appetite for gas and oil. We want it cheap and available

24/7 through cold spells and heat waves.

Our nation has gone to war over it. The world is waging a war on the environment to ensure its constant supply, and now, in beautiful Western Massachusetts, one consequence of our collective greed is the proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline.

Like most people, I’ve been focusing my anger on Kinder Morgan, the company that wants to build the pipeline. At the FRCOG-sponsored forum at Greenfield Community College last month, representatives from Kinder Morgan answered questions from a mostly angry audience.

They were professional and very slick and easy to dislike. Though landowners should continue to deny Kinder Morgan the right to survey their land and put other stumbling blocks in the way of the pipeline, I now think it’s time to focus our frustration on Governor Patrick.

Recently Public Radio International’s environmental show, “Living on the Earth,” interviewed Shanna Cleveland from the Conservation Law Foundation.

Cleveland said, “What [the New England governors] are proposing is something that’s never been proposed in the history of United States, and that is for electric customers to subsidize the costs of a natural gas pipeline. So the electric customers would be paying for the construc-

tion of this pipeline even though it’s really the power generators who need the natural gas that would be transported along this pipeline.”

There sits Kinder Morgan ready to heed the call. The Kinder Morgan teams are foxes in the henhouse, doing what foxes do – and they were invited. When they began knocking on doors asking to survey properties, they were doing what pipeline companies do: trying to create a viable project.

Meanwhile, communication from the Governor to local officials about this pipeline did not happen. At a rally at Clarkdale Orchards, Steve Kulik said the first he heard about the pipeline was from people in his district who had been approached by Kinder Morgan and subtly threatened with eminent domain if they did not agree to a survey.

On the radio last week, Governor Patrick told Jim Braude that at this point the pipeline is “just an idea.”

At the forum at GCC, Kinder Morgan communications director Allen Fore reported that he and his team have given presentations in 23 towns across the state and they are not done. That sounds like more than an idea to me. They are organized. They have sophisticated materials and PowerPoint presentations, and a strategy for moving the project forward.

I share the objections to this proj-

ect that others have raised. I am also afraid that if the pipeline is built we will simply use more gas and the electricity it produces. Gas will become the “new oil,” and the will to change our ways and seek alternatives will vanish as it did after the energy crisis of the 1970s.

Had our policy makers developed strategies back then to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, we would have forty years of proactive alternative energy production behind us. We might be as advanced as Germany, a country now producing 80 percent of its power through renewable energy.

If we fail to turn off the lights when we leave a room, unplug energy-consuming electronics when they are not in use, turn the thermostat down, insulate, carpool when possible, build smaller homes, drive hybrids, and more, we cannot take out our anger on the pipeline company when it comes to call.

We do have the right to insist that our Governor look more critically at this project and take responsibility for his part in a potential disaster.

It is not too late for Governor Patrick to change his mind, to say that he has learned more since he signed that letter from the New England Governors, to refuse a tariff on ratepayers that would pay for the pipeline. He has the greatest power to change the course of this

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## Cable Advisory Committee Votes to Recommend New Contract for MCTV

By DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague cable advisory committee voted 4-1 on Wednesday, August 6, to recommend that the town offer Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI) a new, short term contract, with stipulations for improved service. MCCI has been the local cable access provider for the towns of Erving, Gill and Montague since 2006.

At a hearing at the end of June, the cable advisory committee (CAC) appeared to be edging close to recommending that the town put the cable access contract out to bid in a formal request for proposals, similar to the one the town issued in 2005, when MCCI regained control of Montague's cable access station after four years in the wilderness, while Greenfield Community Television provided cable access for the town.

The provision of Montague's local cable programming by GCTV never sat well with Montague town meeting, which was called into special session in 2001 by a rare citizen initiated petition in an attempt to persuade the Montague selectboard to reconsider the issuance of the cable access assignment.

Despite an overwhelming vote favoring MCTV by special town meeting in December of 2001, selectboard members Sam Lovejoy and Ed Voudren outvoted Pat Allen to hand GCTV the cable access contract, which was expected to run concurrently with the town's contract with Comcast to provide cable service to the town until 2013.

But town meeting again stepped in, in 2005, after Montague first issued an RFP to identify the best cable access provider for the town.

Although the selectboard again voted 2-1 to keep the cable access contract with GCTV, town meeting reversed that decision on December 7, 2005, by a vote of 80-21, and MCTV assumed the reins of the town's cable access station shortly thereafter, amid considerable optimism and excitement.

Speaking for the majority position at that town meeting, Precinct 4's Anne Jemas said, "MCCI has a passion, the passion for something you own. It's the difference between

renting a home and owning a home. Yes, there is a difference. MCCI will go out to the community and get things done."

After that vote, former MCCI board president Michael Muller said, "Our first step is to quickly get into a studio, and then get back into the business of bringing cable access to the people of Montague, and bringing the people of Montague into cable access."

Muller added, "We are going to make the technology available to the community for a new kind of civic interaction, and to facilitate a new kind of life-long learning."

In their review of MCTV's performance over the eight years since, it was evident members of the cable advisory commission felt the reality of Montague's cable access station had failed to measure up to Muller's expectations.

"There is a dearth of local programming," said the CAC's Gerry Earles. "It's almost non-existent. There are a number of town events that don't get filmed."

Earles mentioned Christmas in July, Montague Old Home Days and the reopening of the Gill-Montague Bridge and Unity Park as examples.

"When you compare their proposal [from 2005] to what's happening now, it's clear they've slipped a bit," said John Reynolds. "They need to pick it up. They need to be more alert to how they can use new technology."

"And local programming – how can we include the villages more often? We seem to have lost contact with the local school systems."

But Bob Mahler said the difficulty in keeping cable TV tuned into the events at the Gill-Montague or Erving school systems is not entirely MCTV's fault.

"Personnel and leadership [in the schools] has changed over and over again," said Mahler, former principal of the Montague Center School, now superintendent of Erving School Union 28. "MCTV is trying to hit a moving target."

Mahler wondered if "a lack of monitoring" on the part of the cable advisory committee was partly to blame for any failure by MCTV to provide adequate local coverage of community and school events.

Eileen Dowd spoke against issuing an RFP at this time, and in favor of fine tuning the contract with MCTV to insure the town receives the kind of cable access programming it wants.

"The contract – that's where we get specific about what we want. The RFP is a broad brush approach. Maybe there is a middle ground: renew the contract with MCCI with structure that supports both MCCI and MCTV."

Perhaps recalling the turbulence that surrounded the selectboard's

YOGA from page A1

After Middlebury, she went to New York, but she says, "I had a young and restless spirit. I wanted to see more of the world, especially India where I hoped to work in a school for underprivileged children."

About a year after the Twin Tower bombings, she and Misha began a journey that started in Ukraine, where Nadya has relatives. They traveled overland to Russia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, China and Tibet, and walked from Tibet to Nepal.

During this trip, Nadya's passport and remaining cash disappeared. She is too kind to say they were stolen. It was almost three months before she and Misha could resume their travels.

Residing at The Hotel California in Nepal, Nadya sought out something to study and decided to take an Ashtanga Yoga intensive where she received a solid foundation for her teaching.

She says, "It was fate. It turned out to be a one-on-one class with a master." Later Nadya earned additional yoga teaching certifications from schools in London and in Amherst.

Next stop was London. After Nepal, Nadya earned a Masters degree in anthropology, while Misha worked at the Tate Galleries.

In London the couple married and had two children, and then it was time to go home.

As Nadya says, "As a couple, it was fun to travel; after the children, we wanted to feel more grounded. Also, Misha is from New Hampshire and wanted to be closer to family."

They knew they would locate in New England, someplace rural but also sophisticated. Nadya describes herself as a city girl at heart. Many people asked if they'd checked out Montague, and when they finally did, they fell in love.

They moved to town in 2010. Since then they have had a third child, they've planted a big vegetable garden, an orchard, and ornamental trees and grasses are taking root on their corner lot.

Like many young families these days, Nadya and Misha have more than one job each. Nadya teaches yoga at Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst, at Amherst College, and now in Montague. Until this spring, she also had a day job helping non-

profits with marketing and fundraising.

Misha, who has dual degrees in painting and physics, works at Amherst College and paints in his barn studio at home. (He has a show every October – look for the sign on Main Street.)

Nadya's yoga classes are thoughtful. They can be challenging, but she constantly reminds people to breathe and work at the level that feels right. The connection between mind and spirit and community runs strong within her.

When asked why she has chosen body-centered work, given her strong academic background, she said, "I feel that I have always been on a quest to bring positive change into people's lives – and it was this quest that brought me to my inquiry into International Relations and Social Anthropology, then to my non-profit work, to teaching in an inner-city high school, to doing relief work in Africa, and finally, to teaching Yoga."

"Out of all these ways of bringing change, teaching Yoga allows me to engage with people in the most direct way, and to help guide them into bringing change into their own lives."

"I find that as I teach Yoga, I am pursuing a life-long path of learning which can be quite 'academic'. My curiosity is taking me beyond what I am teaching, and I am currently pursuing a self-study of Yoga Therapy and Ayurveda, and looking into ways of incorporating those into my teaching."

After investigating a number of locations, she chose the Common Hall because the building is under-used. More than twenty people showed up for Nadya's first class – Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. – and the numbers have not dwindled. In fact she has added a second class, on Sundays at 9 a.m.

She provides mats, blocks, blankets, belts and inspiration, and the people in the class range from absolute beginners to accomplished practitioners. The Common Hall is a great spot for yoga, and Montague appears to be a great place for Nadya and her family. Hopefully her restless spirit remains quiet for a long, long time.

Visit Nadya's website to learn more about her classes: [www.yogawithnadya.com](http://www.yogawithnadya.com)



decision to hand control of the local access station to GCTV back in 2001, Dowd wondered whether an RFP could be structured in such a way to make sure that any organization that responded had to be based in Montague, but other committee members cast doubt on whether such an approach would be legal.

Jason Burbank noted that a town would only issue a request for proposals if it wanted to open up the bidding process to whatever entities might want to apply.

But it seems the majority of the committee prefers to continue to

work with the current cable access provider, to support the development of their board of directors, along with fine-tuning job descriptions, personnel reviews, and other contractual obligations that may in the end provide improved cable access for the towns and villages of Montague, Gill and Erving.

The CAC plans to provide a final review of MCTV's performance, along with a recommendation to the Montague selectboard for the future of local cable access, by the end of September.



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**ERVING** from page A1

concerns at the next meeting on August 25.

Bembury began his chairmanship by saying it was the responsibility of the chair to set the direction of the board. He said he wanted to increase openness and transparency of the board’s work, and to that end, would look into broadcasting selectboard and other town meetings on cable.

The board signed an exit contract with former highway/water/wastewater director Paul Prest, whose position was terminated by the board at its June 16 meeting.

According to the agreement, Prest is on paid administrative leave from June 29 until December 28, 2014, at his base pay rate, with no sick leave, vacation leave or other benefits.

As part of the agreement, Prest is unable to file any complaints or claims on the town as a result of the termination of his employment.

The contract includes a provision that “The parties agree that they will not in any way disparage or harm the name of the other party.”

**Other Business**

Highway foreman Glenn McCorry told the board that the highway department had repaired the leaking pump at the Arch Street wastewater pump station.


He reported that the department’s Ford F550 truck, which is essential for winter plowing, would need to be replaced because it has a cracked frame.

McCorry said that the road work on Church Street and North Street had come in over budget. The board considered how to fund the extra costs.

The finance committee approved the insurance payment (over \$6,000) for the former International Paper/Millers Falls Paper property.

Bembury said when he toured the property the buildings were wide open and anything of value, including wiring and plumbing, had been stripped out. Since then, the highway department has installed fencing around the property.

Terry Underwood was hired for the part-time cleaning position for town buildings.



**Montague:  
Voter Registration**

Wednesday, August 20 is the last day to register to vote or to change your party affiliation for the upcoming September 9 State Primary.

Registration will be held at the Town Clerk’s Office for all Montague residents who will be 18 years old on or before September 9, 2014. Office hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Registered voters who belong to any one of the two parties (Republican or Democrat), must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the two party ballots.

The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information, call 863-3200, x. 203.

**Montague:  
Absentee Ballots Available**

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office for the September 9 State Primary.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, September 8. To vote absentee, you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls, or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls.

All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of polls on September 9. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Registered voters who belong to one of the two parties (Republican or Democrat) must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the two party ballots.

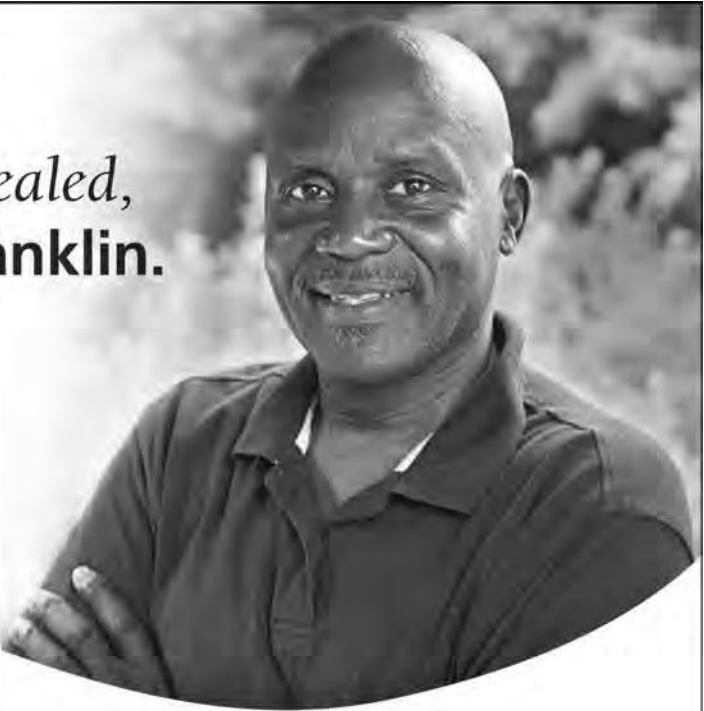
The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. Town Hall is open Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:30 to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. For more information, call 863-3200, x. 203.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG		
Shots Fired; Trash Dumped		
<b>Wednesday, 7/30</b> 12:10 p.m. Welfare check at Northfield Road residence. OK. 5:30 p.m. Assisted with lockout at Old State Road residence. 11:50 p.m. Suspicious person sleeping at DCF headquarters. Moved along.	at Maple Avenue residence. Spoke with parents. <b>Saturday, 8/2</b> 5:45 p.m. Noise complaint at High Street residence. 11:30 p.m. Parked vehicles blocking traffic on Strachen Street. Advised owners.	rival. <b>Tuesday, 8/5</b> 9 a.m. Investigated illegal dumping on Papermill Road. 11:10 a.m. Medical emergency on Warner Street. 8:45 p.m. Tree down on Forest Street. Advised highway department.
<b>Thursday, 7/31</b> 1:45 a.m. Trash left on roadside of Dorsey Road. Removed. Under investigation. 1:35 p.m. Mediated disturbance at Moore Street residence. 5:30 p.m. Medical emergency on Warner Street.	<b>Sunday, 8/3</b> 2:48 a.m. Suspicious vehicle at Freight House Antiques. Driver had hit a large animal and was checking his car. State police advised of possible animal in roadway in Athol.	<b>Wednesday, 8/6</b> 6:30 p.m. Investigated report of harrassing phone calls at Lillians Way residence. 8:45 p.m. Disturbance on Pratt Street. Was a verbal argument.
<b>Friday, 8/1</b> 9:15 a.m. Property dispute. Confiscated property to return to owner. 11:15 a.m. Report of three people on rail of French King Bridge. Found to be taking pictures. Advised of danger; moved along. 5 p.m. Suspicious persons at River Street residence. Found to be friends of homeowner. 7 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at Laurel Lake. Spoke with parties involved. 7:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Prospect Heights Lane. 8 p.m. Report of possible underage party	<b>Monday, 8/4</b> 8:55 a.m. Medical emergency on West Main Street. 11 a.m. Investigated illegal dumping on Papermill Road. 11:08 a.m. Report of fight on Route 2 near French King Entertainment Center. Subjects gone on arrival. 1:15 p.m. Report of two shots fired behind Old State Road residence. Subjects gone on arrival. 4:30 p.m. Took report of telephone scam on Mountain Road. 8:30 p.m. Medical emergency at Renovators Supply. 10:30 p.m. Report of subject attempting to jump off Millers Falls Bridge. Gone on ar-	<b>Thursday, 8/7</b> 2:36 a.m. Alarm at Weatherheads convenience store. Secure. 7:10 a.m. Loose dog found on Route 2. Returned to owner. 3:45 p.m. Took report of larceny from French King Restaurant. 4 p.m. Report of domestic dispute at French King Bridge. Subjects found enjoying the scenery; no dispute. <b>Friday, 8/8</b> 11:15 a.m. Medical emergency on Forest Street. 2:20 p.m. Met with victim of possible past assault and took report. <b>Saturday, 8/9</b> 1:15 p.m. Disabled U-Haul truck waiting for a tow at the Route 2 bypass. Not a hazard.

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several letters mentioned between Morris, the complainant, the town and the police available at a reporter’s request.

Members of the selectboard characterized the nature of the original complaint as a concern that Morris herself was being rude to the children of the complainant.

Morris in her description of the incident, said, “Some little child told me I needed to be more polite,” when she told him the transfer station was about to close and it was time to leave.

“His father stood in the doorway and told me I was being rude to his child, exuding white privilege.”

Morris said attitudes in Leverett appear to have gotten more unfriendly toward the volunteers and employees who keep various aspects of the town running, and on this the selectboard agreed with her.

D’Errico said it may feel to the part time staff at the transfer station that everyone who shows up to drop off their garbage is their boss, as taxpayers. He and Shively mentioned several incidents of rude behavior or illegal dumping there they had witnessed or heard about.

In the meeting, she said, “The ‘take it or leave it’ is a perfect example of class privilege in this town. It’s people leaving their garbage in the belief that poor people will want it.”

She added, “I love this town. Everybody volunteers, and the employees work very hard. I understand that. But the town needs to back up the volunteers. White men don’t like to be challenged. I have no shame. I have no obligation to treat people like that nicely.”

After the meeting, Morris had this to say: “When entitled people are challenged, they turn themselves into victims by tone policing: ‘I don’t like the way you’re talking to me’.”

**Solar Credits**

The meeting began with a presentation by Robert McLaughlin, of the Colorado based Clean Energy Collective, before members of the energy committee and the select-board.

McLaughlin, whose company has nearly completed the construction of a one-megawatt photovoltaic array in North Hadley, is seeking “off-takers” to purchase the credits for the solar electricity the panels will provide from Western Mass Electric Company.

If Leverett becomes an off-taker, under this scheme, it would pay McLaughlin’s company back for 85% of the credited power, retaining the credits for the final 15%, at a rate set by WMECo, for the next 20 years.


McLaughlin said the town should realize about \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year from this arrangement, which he said would require no risk to the town, and no upfront investment.

The board seemed interested, and asked for a copy of the proposed contract, with references from McLaughlin’s company. The Hadley array should be on line by the end of September.

**Pilots More Grounded**

The board will send a thank you letter to Congressman Jim McGovern for brokering an intervention from the Federal Aviation Administration to stop stunt flying over the gravel pit near Bull Hill Road, a longstanding irritant to the neighborhood.

“All known aerobatic pilots have been contacted by FAA inspectors and informed that the airspace above Warner Brothers gravel bank and the surrounding area does not meet the regulatory requirements to conduct aerobatic flight and to immediately cease use,” wrote Amy Corbett, on behalf of the FAA in a letter forwarded by McGovern’s office to the town.





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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Green Energy Goal Surpassed;  
More Solar Coming?

By KATIE NOLAN

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger told the Wendell selectboard that, considering town energy use over the past three fiscal years, the town has already met the 20% energy use reduction goal for the Green Communities program.

At Riebschlaeger’s request, the board approved two expenditures from Green Community grant funds: \$2,600 for 8 bicycle racks to be installed at various locations in town and \$6,345 to hire door-to-door canvassers to encourage residents to take advantage of Mass Save home energy audits.

The board asked the energy committee to be sensitive to the concerns of homeowners who distrust canvassers and suggested that canvassers contact police chief Ed Chase before starting work.

The board approved \$659 from the Internet Connection Account for purchase of a SonicWall TZ-205W router from Left Click for the town office building. This will enable both hardwired internet and a wireless “guest” system in the building.

They also approved \$699 for a new computer for town administrator Nancy Aldrich, and \$229 for Microsoft Office 2013 for Aldrich’s new computer.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he is still looking for a way to raise \$7,500 as a retirement bonus for retired fire chief Everett Ricketts. Although the bonus idea was supported at town meeting, it is against Massachusetts law to use public funds this way.

Fundraising ideas were discussed, including a town-wide mailing asking for contributions, asking for contributions from the Firefighters Association, or a “boot” fundraiser at a busy intersection. Keller will contact town counsel to see if the town can support this effort.

The board reviewed the bid document and specifications for re-roofing the Senior and Community Center and the town common gazebo and approved sending them out to roofing contractors.

The submissions for a Wendell town flag will be displayed at Old Home Day (August 16) and residents will have a chance to vote for their favorite design.

Contract with Seaboard Solar

At their meeting on July 30, the selectboard signed a revised contract with Seaboard Solar, which builds and maintains solar energy projects. The original contract, signed in 2012, required Seaboard to start payments to the town soon after signing. However, Seaboard’s energy generating systems are not online yet, due to permitting issues, according to Seaboard.

Wendell has received no payments. The revised contract specifies that Seaboard will make payments once the project is actually generating electricity.

In 2012, Seaboard’s representative Dave Thomas explained the agreement this way: “We build the system, but the meter says Wendell.”

Wendell is allocated a certain amount of electricity, such as 200 kilowatt hours, at a reduced rate for its own use. For the rest of the electricity generated, Seaboard pays Wendell “rent” and sells it to some-

one else. Thomas estimated that the net advantage to the town, between reduced electricity costs and “rent” would be approximately \$70,000 per year.

Seaboard’s project is potentially profitable, because the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) requires each regulated electricity supplier/provider serving retail customers in the state to include 15% qualifying renewables in the electricity it sells by December 31, 2020.

The regulated electricity suppliers/providers show compliance by buying solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) at auction. According to Seaboard’s website, “Our revenue comes from the power companies in the form of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs).” The “rent” paid to Wendell is a small portion of the money Seaboard realizes from selling SRECs.

However, the “rent” has not been paid, and the new contract recognizes that. Aldrich said that Seaboard estimated that payments would start in one or two months. In March 2012, Seaboard had estimated that they would be generating electricity and making payments “in six to nine months.”

Meeting With Borrego Requested

Town administrator Nancy Aldrich told the board that Borrego Solar contacted the town to discuss leasing a 6.2-acre property on West Street. The company has headquarters in San Diego and an office in Boston.

According to its website, Borrego “offers a complete range of solar energy services to commercial and public service customers.”

Aldrich said that the town would need to issue a request for proposal (RFP) and solicit bids before leasing town land.

The board asked Aldrich to invite the company to a meeting to find out more about their plans, including the address of the property, and to inform Borrego about the RFP process.

Potential Borrego plans for a project on Lockes Hill Road were discussed at the August 6 conservation commission meeting, reported in a separate article.

Wendell Center Post Office

The board approved a finance committee request that the town consult with town counsel to find out if there is any legal recourse for the town if the US Postal Service closes the Wendell Center post office or replaces current staff with incompetent or poorly-performing staff.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said, “Sounds like it’s worth a shot,” and selectboard member Jeoff Pooser called it “a great idea.”

Pooser commented, “The trajectory is not looking good for Wendell post office in the future.” He said he would be meeting soon with other citizens in planning “the next phase” for keeping the post office open: “The fight is not over.”

Pooser said town officials and state representative Denise Andrews might meet with the Postmaster-General in Washington, D.C., and that there might be a fundraising effort to cover travel costs.

Wendell Conservation Commission  
Sends Wetlands Violation to DEP

By KATIE NOLAN

At their August 6 meeting, The Wendell conservation commission voted unanimously to turn over to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection “the matter of the wetlands violations at 37 West Street and the property owner’s failure to comply with the Wendell commission’s enforcement order dated May 17, 2014.”

ConComm members noted that they have communicated with landowner Craig Townsend since October 2013 about road and greenhouse construction at the property.

The specific violations noted in the May 2014 enforcement order include building a road on the property that crosses a wetland in three locations. That order required Townsend to submit by a plan for restoration of wetlands damaged by the construction by June 4.

ConComm member Mary Thomas and associate member Melinda Godfrey reported that they had visited the property on July 26 and observed ongoing construction work. They said that Townsend refused to stop work on the project.

ConComm members were reluctant to move enforcement from the town to state level, but Mazurka said, “He doesn’t have a restora-

tion plan, and he is still active at the site.” She told the other members, “I think we’re in over our heads.”

Member Beckie Finn said, “Let’s give this to someone with some teeth.”

The ConComm will contact MassDEP’s Springfield office to request enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act at the property.

Mazurka said she would call Townsend to inform him about the ConComm’s decision to ask Mass-DEP to step in.

Borrego Solar

Judy Baumann of Locke Hill Road informed the ConComm that Borrego Solar was considering purchase of two lots totaling 17 acres directly across from her property, for the purpose of installing a solar farm.

According to its website, Borrego “offers a complete range of solar energy services to commercial and public service customers.”

Borrego has also approached the town about leasing a 6.2-acre town property on West Street, as reported in the Wendell selectboard article.

Baumann said that she had concerns about “cutting down forest to put in a solar project.”

She said that solar installations have a limited lifespan and are

made of toxic materials. “At some point the whole project is going to come down,” she pointed out, and the town could be liable for cleaning up the site after the developer leaves.

She commented that “box stores with flat roofs would be perfect” for large solar installations, rather than woodland wildlife habitat. Building solar farms “on capped landfills makes sense, not cutting down the forest.”

Thomas said she had recently attended a workshop presented by Mark Stinson of MassDEP, and learned that poorly constructed solar farms can result in massive erosion. She said Stinson indicated that some solar farm developers “come in, do it badly, leave and pay a fine for wetlands violations as a business expense.”

The ConComm members told Baumann that they only enforce the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Wendell’s more stringent wetlands bylaws. If there are no wetlands on the property, then the ConComm has no authority to put restrictions on proposed projects.

However, if a solar project is proposed, the ConComm would be given a chance to review the site and determine whether any wetlands were present.

Montague, Wendell To Celebrate Old Home Days



Judging from these 2012 file photos, Wendell’s Old Home Day is more like juggling, whereas Montague’s is more like riding on a lawnmower with a chihuabua.

By REPORTER STAFF

This weekend Old Home Days will again be celebrated in both Montague and Wendell. Both offer friends and families from near and far to come together to celebrate these very special events.

As it has for 55 years, the Montague Center First Congregational Church is once again the sponsor for this annual summer event. Parades, raffles, food, crafts, road races and continuous family entertainment will again take center stage on the common in Montague Center.

Saturday’s activities begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 8 p.m. On Sunday morning at 10, the Congregational church will feature a very special speaker along with plenty of music.

On Saturday August 16 Wendell Old Home Day continues its tradition of celebrating another year of being a creative, unique and exciting community.

The day begins with the famous tag sale at 9:30 and

not a minute before. Nothing will be sold in advance.

The Kids Parade kicks off at 11:30 with Kevin Skorupa leading the music for the Wendell parade band. And of course there will be plenty of kids, bikes, kazooos and fun.

The Wendell Common will be hopping with a huge tag sale, kids games, the famous Mushroom Museum (if Mother Nature cooperates), as well as the farmers market, local art, crafts, drumming, yoga, and lots of food...including food from the famous Diemand Egg Farm, home made fries, ice cream, Bar B Q. and more.

This year local musicians will be performing song written especially for and about the town’s beloved postmaster, Charlie O’Dowd at around 1 p.m. Composers and others will perform these new and to-the-point songs. These will be followed by a host of other musicians who will regale the Old Home Dayers with songs of love, fun and even some blues.

All activities happen on the Wendell Common, rain or shine.

FRCOG Offers Disaster Training

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) will be running trainings for medical and non-medical personnel who want to volunteer in times of disaster.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assist in medical emergencies such as disasters, catastrophic incidents, mass vaccinations and prophylaxis for potential epidemics.

The next MRC 101 training dates are Wednesday, August 20 6 to 9:30 p.m.; Tuesday, September 16 from 11 to 3:30 p.m.; and Monday, October 13 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The choice of date to attend is up to the individual. The trainings will be held at the FRCOG offices at the John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street in Greenfield, in the first floor conference room.

For further information contact Robert Quinn-O’Connor, Citizen Corps Coordinator, at 413-774-3167 x137 or by email at [citizencorps@frcog.org](mailto:citizencorps@frcog.org)

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Energy Issues Top Agenda

By DAVID DETMOLD

Although the proposed 250 mile Northeast Energy Direct extension of Kinder Morgan’s Tennessee Gas pipeline system would not – according to the company’s current plan – travel through town borders, nevertheless the Gill selectboard agreed Monday, August 11 to oppose the plan, and to instruct local legislators and state officials to oppose it as well.

One of those legislators, State Senate Majority Leader Stan Rosenberg, (D-Amherst), issued his own declaration about the pipeline plan, in the form of an open letter to western Massachusetts residents, on July 30 (see page A2).

In it, he said, “The state is likely in a position to prevent the Kinder Morgan pipeline from crossing publicly-owned protected land in the event the pipeline proposal is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.”

Also in his letter, Rosenberg said, “I do not want a pipeline running through some of the most beautiful areas of Franklin County. Nor do I want our residents and employers to pay exorbitant energy costs or face brownouts or blackouts because of our failure to act. But saying “no” to a proposal we don’t want is not enough. We have to show that it is unnecessary. I want the future to be powered by the greenest, most affordable, most sustainable energy possible.”

Selectboard chair Randy Crochier could have been echoing Rosenberg on this point as he pushed for the town energy commission to speed up a plan to bring a little more renewable energy on line locally, by retiring the aging oil-fired boiler at the Riverside Municipal Building and replacing it with air source heat pumps before this winter’s heating season approaches.

As the selectboard looked over a sample resolution from Montague opposing Kinder Morgan’s “Fracked-Gas Pipeline,” as the document referred to the planned extension of the 13,900 mile Tennessee pipeline, which already supplies New York City and Boston with natural gas from fields as far as Louisiana and Texas, the Gill energy commission was meeting downstairs in town hall to discuss plans for retrofitting the heating system at the Riverside Building.

Commission member Claire Chang said air source heat pumps would be the only source of heat for that building.

Air source heat pumps, sometimes called reverse-cycle air conditioners, do require electricity to operate, but otherwise rely on the latent heat in outdoor air even on the coldest winter days to heat the interior of a building, functioning like an air conditioner in reverse.

Chang said the town is anticipating spending about \$65,000 on heat pumps for that building, which would also receive at least \$15,000 in new insulation for the walls and attic.

That money would all come from funds the town received when it qualified for a Green Communities grant from the state Department of Energy Resources.

Chang said air source heat pumps are four to five times as energy-efficient as electric resistance space heaters, except on the coldest winter

days when their efficiency drops.

The energy commission also discussed using remaining Green Energy grant funds to purchase town street lights from WMECo and retrofit them with LED bulbs, to gain annual savings in electricity. Chang estimated it would equal about half of the town’s current municipal usage.

Upstairs, the selectboard reviewed and approved the wording of the Montague resolution opposing the pipeline, simply substituting the name of Gill for Montague.

Despite the fact Kinder Morgan claims as many as 3,000 short-term jobs would be created by the planned \$4 billion pipeline expansion, during the peak of construction in 2017, the resolution includes among its clauses the statement, “We the Selectmen, speaking for the citizens of (Gill) Massachusetts, choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, economic stability, and general well being to our neighbors in New York and elsewhere, wherever hydraulic fracturing is occurring and the pressurized pipeline is running.”

“I like the whole thing,” said Crochier, after reviewing the wording of the resolution. The board agreed with him, unanimously.

Other Business

In other news, the board approved the hiring of Steve Connell as the town’s new part time custodian for town hall; pondered the need for more clerical help for the town administrative assistant, Ray Purington, who due to his heavy work load has not been able to produce annual reports; received an update (it’s moving forward) on plans to merge the Central Franklin Veterans Services District with the Greenfield Department of Veterans Services (which also serves Leyden veterans); and signed on to a letter of support for Montague’s application to MassWorks for \$1.5 million in grant funding to fast-track the building of a new industrial park off Turnpike Road.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey said that if approved, that project would be constructed next year, creating a 45-acre industrial park that could hold up to six industrial parcels capable of producing 300 jobs.

Ramsey said the new park would allow existing companies to expand without leaving the county. “The regional need for industrial space is abundantly clear. If we build it, they will definitely come.”

But, wondered Crochier, what will happen to the regional dog kennel, operated by the county sheriff’s department off Sandy Lane?

“We would still need to come up with a relocation for it,” said Ramsey, who added it might be possible to relocate the kennel somewhere in the new industrial park.

Everyone is welcome at the last Gill Common People’s Concert of the season, on August 19, at the town common at 7 p.m. No admission is charged. The Friends of Gill sell refreshments.

The last show features “local barbershop music at its best” with the ROMEOs (which Purington claimed stands for “Retired Old Musicians Entertaining Others”). The selectboard thanked Steve Damon and the Gill Cultural Council for coordinating the series.

INDUSTRY from page A1

“I simply exercised my right,” said Beaubien. “It was never a secret that if someone wanted to purchase that lot, I’d pull the trigger.”

Beaubien said he wants to maintain a buffer around the lot in which Yankee conducts atmospheric device testing. “When we test, we make a lot of noise: 175 decibels. It’s really loud. Nobody should be my neighbor.”

“The town did its best to work out a deal,” Broucek said. “I also tried contacting Beaubien a number of times by email and by phone, but he never responded. I did finally hear from his lawyer, who said ... he’d get back to me, but he never did.”

Broucek said that if his company continued to grow they way it had, he had expected to eventually add another 40,000 square feet on to the initial facility. “We needed the entire lot,” he said.

He said he had done all he could to “make it happen”: “I even offered to put up a visual barrier between what would have been my building and theirs.”

He also stressed that he would

have been willing to buy out Yankee Environmental’s RFR for the 2.2 acres. “I left messages [for Beaubien], saying ‘what’s it going to take to do this? Name a price.’ But I never heard a word.”

Beaubien said he had never been contacted by anyone about the impending sale. “I only heard about it two hours before the selectboard meeting. No one ever talked to me.”

Beaubien said he didn’t feel he was the “bad guy.” “I felt broadsided,” he said. “The town never told me.”

He said Mark Abramson, real estate agent who brokered the deal for Montague, “never told me. And the terms of the RFR stipulate that I only have 30 days to survey and come up with the cash to close.

“I’ve already surveyed, and I’ll be closing soon.”

Beaubien noted that “you can’t sell an RFR.” “I was warned by the town after I signed the RFR that I couldn’t talk to anyone about some sort of deal, or it would be collusion. I could only do what I did, and what I always said I would do.”

He also commented that his com-

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

They’re Back!: State Awards Greenfield Road Job To Baltazar Contractors

By JEFF SINGLETON

“So who is doing the work?” asked a voice from the audience at the Montague Selectboard meeting on August 11, 2014. “The work” in question was the long awaited reconstruction of Greenfield Road, a project that has been in the planning stage for nearly a generation.

Town planner Walter Ramsey, very slowly and with understated drama, turned to the crowd and replied: “Baltazar.”

A collective gasp filled the room. The construction company Baltazar Contractors, Inc. had played a key role in the recent industrial park sewer reconstruction project, widely viewed as an expensive fiasco. At its last meeting the board had approved an additional \$35,000 to repave Millers Falls Road because the work had not been done properly.

And at this meeting the board had withheld nearly \$180,000 in payments for sewer reconstruction, on the advice of town counsel, due to potential litigation.

Now it appears that Baltazar will be in charge of Greenfield Road, a project that has taken so long, many newer residents view it as myth or local legend from the days when Montague was primarily an agricultural town.

Ramsey explained that the choice of contractor was made by the state, not the town, and that Baltazar was the lowest bidder. This did not exactly satisfy the audience, particularly since the “lowest bidder concept” had justified the company’s sewer work. “After the work is done, we own it.” noted Robert Adams, whose property abuts the project. Ramsey argued that all construction work will be monitored and approved by the state.

“Any way we can talk to the state about our experiences with Baltazar?” asked Jeanne Golrick, a Millers Falls resident who has frequently urged the town to stop doing business with the company. This idea seemed to be supported by several members of the board, particularly by Chair Chris Boutwell who nodded vigorously.

The board did approve a “110%

agreement” with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for work on the portion of the road from Sherman Avenue in Montague City to Hatchery Road. This is a standard agreement that guarantees the state will pay 110% of the cost of the lowest bid, while the town agrees to maintain the road once work is completed.

In other developments, the board approved a request by Ramsey and Donna Francis, the chair of the Agricultural Commission, to establish an account so EBT/SNAP cards, the modern form of food stamps, can be used at the farmers market.

The request was approved by a vote of two to one, with member Mark Fairbrother voting in the negative, due to a lack of information on the accounting process to be followed.

The board authorized the grant agreement with the National Park Service for \$60,000 to study the “Battle of Turners Falls,” the 1676 colonial attack on a Native American encampment that proved to be a turning point in King Phillips’ war.

David Brule, the project coordinator, emphasized the goal of identifying specific locations on the seventeenth century battlefield.

The request was approved by a vote of 2 – 1, with member Mark Fairbrother voting in the negative.

The board also unanimously authorized a Green Communities grant of \$84,935 to construct a new HVAC system on the roof of the Shea Theater. There was much discussion of the relationship between the new system and the need to repair or reconstruct the roof. The general consensus appeared to be that the HVAC system would not impede roof work.

Ramsey also requested that the board submit an application to the Planning Board allowing the town to sell 2.2 acres of land in the industrial park to Mountain Research LLC. The land was potentially going to be used for construction of a granola bakery, but Mountain Research, the owner of Yankee Environmental Systems, has exercised its “right of first refusal” to purchase the parcel instead. (See page A1 for story.)

pany has been a resident in the Industrial Park for 23 years. “I bought my land. I pay my taxes.”

Broucek acknowledged Beaubien’s rights: “He certainly had the right to do what he did. ... It’s just very unfortunate for the town that we couldn’t find a place. We would have added more than 50 employees to the park, and within a couple of years, 70 to 80. Not to mention the taxes we’d be paying.”

Ramsey agreed: “It’s the last large, developable parcel in the industrial park, and we really had hoped to work out a sale to New England Bakers.”

He said the town has offered them the first lot in what will be the new Montague Energy Industrial Park, located on the former landfill site in Turners Falls.

“The problem was that they need a place sooner. The earliest, if all goes well, that a site will be available there would be in late 2015.”

Broucek said his company is still looking for a new place to call home. “Our employees want to stay in the county, and so do we.”



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**PIPELINE** from page A1

interests regarding the region's electrical grid, has proposed a special mechanism be adopted to break this impasse and spur new pipeline construction.

"After lengthy and robust regional discussions of potential solutions," a June NESCOE report reads, "no other comprehensive long-term solution has emerged to move New England beyond the status quo."

At the core of NESCOE's proposal, which it is calling the "Governors' Infrastructure Initiative," is a tariff on electricity generators, which would be passed on to customers, in order to create a fund to subsidize the construction of both new natural gas pipeline and new transmission lines to hydropower plants in Quebec.

**Tariff Panned**

This concept has been criticized for two basic reasons: first, that it interferes with the functioning of markets and could artificially crowd out other solutions; and second, that the discussions leading to the conclusion that a pipeline is needed have been too exclusive, and have failed to take a wider range of alternatives into account.

According to Francis Katulak, president of GDF Suez, the idea "not only creates an unlevel playing field, but explicitly picks winners and losers... [A] mandated solution

stultifies the development of competitive solutions, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy of the market not solving the problem."

GDF Suez owns Distrigas, which has proposed that the apparent winter shortfall could be solved in part by "backfilling" into the system more liquefied natural gas from tankers landing at its Everett, MA facility.

And environmental groups, including Environment Northeast and the Conservation Law Foundation, have argued that adding major pipeline capacity to the region is an unnecessarily large-scale solution to a limited problem that could be addressed with a bundle of more closely targeted solutions, ranging from market reforms to repairing gas leaks, investing in efficiency and renewable energy, and aiming for a "low-demand scenario" of the region's energy future.

**Off Track**

By July 30, when a statewide relay march by the opponents of the Kinder Morgan pipeline along its proposed route culminated in a rally on Boston Common, the unpopular tariff proposal had become a key talking point among activists.

The next day, the Massachusetts legislature adjourned for the year without having passed H.3968, a "clean energy" bill championed by state governor Deval Patrick, which

would have required utilities to purchase hydropower.

NESCOE's tariff proposal had apparently anticipated this additional demand, and the organization's executive director, Heather Hunt, told the Boston Business Journal that it had not planned to split the hydropower and natural gas tariffs.

So on August 1, the group announced a delay in the process, asking the New England Power Pool to hold off on voting on the idea.

"A brief extension of the process provides Massachusetts state officials time to evaluate options associated with moving forward with other states on regional solutions," it explained in a written statement.

**But Regardless**

In a July 8 public presentation before the Erving selectboard, Kinder Morgan director of public affairs Allen Fore indicated that the company's plan does not necessarily rely on the implementation of a tariff by the states.

Company spokesperson Richard Wheatley also confirmed that this week. "We continue project planning, stakeholder outreach and the land survey process," he said, declining to comment on the delays in NESCOE's process.

The capacity of the proposed line would be flexible, and its range has grown: from initial reports in January, 600 million to 1.2 billion cf/d,

it is now described as 800 million to 2.2 billion cf/d.

If the FERC issues a "certificate of public necessity and convenience," which could occur in late 2016, it would do so on the basis of recognizing a demand for the lower figure.

In addition to Berkshire Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas, six other LDCs have made commitments to purchase gas: Columbia Gas, which serves customers in the Springfield, Brockton and Lawrence areas; Liberty Gas, based in Fall River; National Grid, distributing in Boston, Cape Cod, and New Hampshire; and three others that have not yet been publicly named.

"Discussions with potential customers and shippers continue," said Wheatley, adding that the company intends to pre-file for the project next month and does not need additional commitments to do so.

"We have seen this as a possibility all along," said Katy Eiseman, director of the Massachusetts Pipeline Awareness Network, a statewide coalition formed in opposition to Kinder Morgan's proposal.

"We are in a continuing conversation with the Patrick administration, both on the tariff and the Kinder Morgan proposal. The tariff issue has not gone away."


Eiseman said that Patrick committed to "a new, public 'Clean

Energy Future' study" at a July 30 meeting, and that on August 5, "representatives from over a dozen environmental and conservation organizations" met with Energy and Environmental Affairs officials to discuss "the shape that a new study would take."

"NESCOE," Eiseman explained, "is waiting for Massachusetts to decide what it's going to do."


**A Lucrative Business**

A corporate restructuring at Kinder Morgan this week, in which parent company Kinder Morgan, Incorporated fully absorbed the three entities it had operated under a "master limited partnership" structure, sent the company's stock up 11%.

According to various calculations, the value of the wealth held by company founder and CEO Richard Kinder grew by somewhere between \$600 and \$800 million on Monday. 

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## First Northern Routes Festival Presents Challenges, and Rewards

By MATTHEW DESPRES

**TURNERS FALLS and NEW SALEM** – “Patrick and I realized we had common interests, musical-ly, and began planting seeds around some of the other programming,” says Adam Frost, co-organizer of the Northern Routes New Music Festival, and board member, along with Patrick Borezo, at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem.

The two first joined together as Northern Routes in 2012, organizing shows and, as Frost puts it, “reaping the benefits” of relationships Borezo had forged over the years, booking under the banner of the Autonomous Battleship Collective.

The first Northern Routes Festival, which took place from July 31 to August 2 in Turners Falls and New Salem, was conceived of a year ago on the strength of this partnership. Frost smiles as dusk ushers in an eager crowd to opening night at The Brick House in Turners Falls. “We definitely have an agenda.”

That agenda, which operates under the mission of bringing “challenging and adventurous music that might otherwise go unheard” to the region, seems to slowly be taking hold in what Borezo refers to as the “various nodes of the music scene that exist all around us here.” While the area is no stranger to community and musical experimentation, upending the notions of what a co-

hesive lineup can be and what a curious audience might want, poses a risk the pair seems willing to take.

Despite a wildly exciting and genre-bending roster across three days, with marquee names like Glenn Jones, Marissa Nadler, and Peter Stampfel and a generous help-



*Boston-based guitarist Glenn Jones closed out the festival’s Saturday night roster.*

ing of local talent anchoring the bottom end of the bill, the New Salem shows were lightly attended.

“The challenge is to introduce the music we are presenting to people who have never heard any of it,” says Frost, nodding to venues “like The Rendezvous, [that] may have customers who come for dinner or a drink and discover that they really like the act they’re hearing, and then come to another show.”

“As often as not, the audience for these kinds of shows is made up of fellow artists and creative people,”

see **NORTHERN** page B5

## LINDA BAKER-CIMINI: RECEPTION AT NINA’S NOOK, AUGUST 16



By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

**TURNERS FALLS** – The newest show at the ever-interesting Nina’s Nook is the pen and ink drawings of artist and humorist Linda Baker-Cimini.

Baker-Cimini’s drawings evoke a whimsical world of beasts that aren’t quite beasts, of people who aren’t quite people, of impossible pairings that suddenly seem highly possible.

There’s a bit of snarkiness too, but this should not be confused with dismissiveness. There’s a deeper resonance in these images that consistently draws the viewer inward to laugh, wonder, examine, and always enjoy.

According to her on-line bio, “Linda wishes she was born with a prehensile tail. She loves coffee. She’s allergic to wool (nasty rash is what happens), her favorite color is Safety Green. She believes that having large feet increases one’s stability. She presently resides in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

with her pet caterpillar, Hugo.”

Commenting, in a more serious vein, on her own work, Baker-Cimini said: “The inhabitants of my drawings wear expressions borrowed from thousands of faces.... Emotion and gesture inform the lines that draw us into a shared narrative. Everyone has an ongoing inner dialogue – I am simply compelled to illustrate mine.”

Accompanying the drawings is sculpture by N.S. Koenings and Nina Rossi, inspired by Baker-Cimini’s two books, *From Here to There* and *Peculiar to the Region: A Field Guide to the Alphabet*.

A reception with the artists will take place on Saturday, August 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. The show runs through September 10. Nina’s Nook is next to the Black Cow Burger Bar at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 834-8800. See [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com) for more information.



## THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

## Time Away

By LESLIE BROWN

The light comes earlier on the coast and leaves more abruptly. I wake an hour sooner than usual with the sun in the window. The day warms up quickly but is tamed by an ocean breeze.

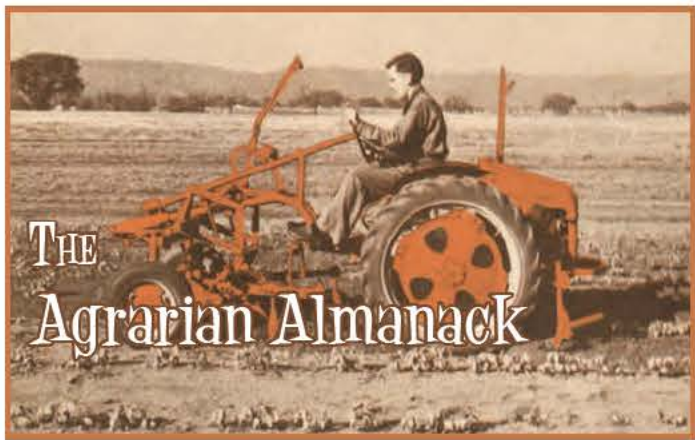
It is Sunday and unnaturally quiet. Even the birds are subdued. One raucous crow complains; a single jay responds. The gulls float silently waiting for a passing boat to stir the water.

For this second week we are on the rocky coast, but we began our travels at the sandy beach. It is a picture postcard life: families with beach umbrellas, chairs, coolers, beach toys such as shovels and buckets, boogie boards, bocce balls, kites and more.

It is several minutes’ work to hoist all that and the stroller full of towels, snacks, drinks and maybe the baby to walk to the beach and select the one perfect spot to pitch tent out of the line of fire of the high tide but close enough to the water to keep an eye on the kids.

We walk what seems like miles of sand, veering into the water to refresh feet and legs and finally at some point, the full body plunge into the surf. We look at the expanse

see **TIME AWAY** page B4



By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – It seems like the story unfolds the same way each year. In the beginning, things are perfect.

Everything from the previous year is finished, buttoned-up, returned to a neutral, blank slate. You have your seed order in hand, containing a universe of potential energy.

A Golden Period holds sway, where you try to ride this tenuous equilibrium of perfection like a surfer at the beginning of a storm.

But this phase of flawlessness can only last so long.

Maybe someone reads a seeding spreadsheet incorrectly and seeds enough leeks for 1’ spacing instead of 6”. Now you only have half as many as you need.

Maybe it rains a lot, and things get put off. Day by day headway is lost and one gets behind.

Most importantly, there are certain pillars, mile-markers of adversity and disaster, within each season. You know if and when they are likely to emerge, but questions like *how bad will it be?* flap through your mind.

These include things like the corn earworm, spring and fall flooding, seven-year locusts: cataclysms outside of all human control that can affect your farm like the Joplin tornado.

There’s one horticultural catastrophe that I would characterize as the Hindenberg of



## The Hindenberg of Horticultural Catastrophes

these funereal pillars, a life-ruining problem that makes farmers want to quit the way the disaster at Lakehurst, NJ prematurely ended the age of air ships.

Negative thoughts on the subject begin to enter unwillingly into one’s mind shortly after the planting of field tomatoes. Every time it rains in July the farmer’s mind spasms uncontrollably, probably obsessively, to this Ebola of tomatoes, the fungus no one wants to talk about.

If you were to ask a grower what disease is most likely to turn a farmer into a superstitious, born-again Seventh Day Adventist, they would certainly say that it is the disease under discussion: late blight.

It hasn’t always been like this. Prior to 2009, the shadowy pall of late blight had not fallen across New England, and farmers grew tomatoes with joy and gusto. They grew them all – cherries, heirlooms, slicers and paste tomatoes, all for good reason.

Tomatoes are perhaps the definitive garden vegetable (grown to maximize mind-blowing taste and flavor, not high-caloric sustenance value). They are suited in a marriageable soul-mate way to the small organic farmer.

A Hungarian Heart, Green Zebra, German Johnson, Cosmonaut Volkov, or basically any heirloom tomato tastes approximately 100 times better than the impoverished simulacra that can be bought at the store.

see **AGRARIAN** page B5

## Center for New Americans Helps Immigrants Become Citizens

By TATJANA MILESKE

**GREENFIELD** – Anna and Vladimir moved from Moldova to the United States five and a half years ago. They decided to build a career and new life in America. Anna has attended Greenfield Community College and considered applying to become a citizen.

Anna and Vladimir took English classes at the Center for New Americans in Greenfield. Along with their 19-year-old son, Oleg, they asked the organization to help them fill out forms and prepare for their citizenship tests.

They passed the test in February 2014, and were all naturalized in Lowell, MA on March 25. 785 people attended the Naturalization Oath Ceremony. After the ceremony, Anna and Vladimir sent a

picture of themselves to the Center for New Americans because they were very proud of their achievement.

Anna and Vladimir have been married 20 years, and have two other children. They have a 17-year-old son, who will be able to become a citizen because his parents became citizens before he turned 18. And they have a four-year-old daughter, who is a citizen because she was born in the United States.

Anna and Vladimir, bursting with enthusiasm, registered to vote, but will not vote until they understand all the law issues.

They are expecting to travel to Europe, especially Paris, France.

I received my own certificate for the successful completion of a citizenship course at the Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts in



COURTESY TATJANA MILESKE

*The author became a US citizen in 2012.*

June 2011. A widow of Russian-Ukrainian nationality, I became an American citizen six days after my husband’s passing in May 2012.

When I became an American citizen, I received a gift of liberty. My husband, Carroll Mileski, responded to the call for freedom and served during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. An Army man of justice and peace, he served his country with bravery and courage.

He would be very proud of me now, because I am capable of reaching my goals and expectations after 17 years of living in America. I passed the 100-question test on the country’s history, and I understand the laws, rights, and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States.

Federal and state grants offer generous financial support, helping the Center for New Americans and the Jewish Family Service in Springfield train many immigrants for their citizenship tests, and help them submit citizenship applications. Study groups and one-on-one coaching sessions with tutors help immigrants achieve their goals of becoming U.S. citizens.

These organizations serve individuals from fifty countries each year, who together

see **CNAM** page B8

# Pet of the Week



## BIG BOY

Hiya! I'm Big Boy and I'm kind of a big deal. I love to be petted but please don't hold me like a baby (remember, I'm a BIG boy). I am smart and will learn tricks for treats. My favorite toy is a laser pointer and sometimes I sleepwalk and play in the middle of the night. I enjoy living with other cats, and although I was originally found as a

stray, I am quite happy to stay inside and just look out the windows. I can be shy at first but come by and say hi--you don't want to miss this big lovemuffin!

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

# FACES

Jordan Welsb, a Great Falls Middle School 7th grader and Turners Falls resident, recently donated his hair he had been growing for 4 years to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love uses donated hair to make hair pieces for young cancer patients.

See [locksoflove.org](http://locksoflove.org) for more information!



JEAN HEBDEN PHOTOS

# & PLACES

## Senior Center Activities August 18 through 29

### 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.

**Mondays – 8/18 & 8/25**  
8/18: 9 a.m. Foot clinic  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

**Tuesdays – 8/19 & 8/26**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Lunch  
8/19: 1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
8/26: 1 p.m. Ice Cream Social

**Wednesdays – 8/20 & 8/27**  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
8/20: 10 a.m. Exercise Picnic  
8/27: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
8/27: 10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Thursdays – 8/21 & 8/28**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

**Fridays – 8/22 & 8/29**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Aerobics

### WENDELL

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

### ERVING

**Erving Senior Center**, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations.

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

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

**Mondays – 8/18 & 8/25**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
8/18: 12:30 p.m. Movie  
8/25: Noon Quilting

**Tuesdays – 8/19 & 8/26**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
8/19: 10 a.m. "Name That Tune"  
12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesdays – 8/20 & 8/27**  
8/20: 8:45 a.m.: Aerobics  
8/27: 8:45 a.m.: Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo

**Thursdays – 8/21 & 8/28**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
8/28: 10 a.m. Posture Perfect  
Noon Cards

**Fridays – 8/22 & 8/29**  
9 a.m. Bowling

### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

## Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Horror and Monster Movie Series Continues

*I Bury the Living* will be screened at the Wendell Free Library, Saturday August 30, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Through a series of macabre "coincidences," the newly-elected director of a cemetery (Richard Boone) begins to believe that he can cause the deaths of living owners of burial plots by merely changing the push-pin color from white (living) to black (dead) on a large wall map of the cemetery that notes those plots.

There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: Episode 8 of *The Phantom Empire: Jaws of Jeopardy*.

This is the next in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell, MA. Free Admission. For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit its web page at [www.wendellfreelibrary.org](http://www.wendellfreelibrary.org) or call (978) 544-3559.

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## More Heartburn



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. Do you get more heartburn when you are older?*

More than 60 million Americans experience heartburn at least once a month and more than 15 million Americans experience heartburn daily. Heartburn is more common among the elderly.

Heartburn two or more times weekly may be caused by gastro-esophageal reflux disease or GERD. See a doctor if you have heartburn too often. The doctor can test for GERD.

In the upper GI series, you swallow a liquid barium mixture. Then a radiologist watches the barium as it travels down your esophagus and into the stomach.

Another test is an endoscopy, in which a small lighted flexible tube is inserted into the esophagus and stomach. And there are other tests.

GERD makes stomach acid flow up into your esophagus. There is a valve at the lower end of the esophagus that is designed to keep acid in the stomach. In GERD, the valve relaxes too frequently, which allows acid to reflux, or flow backward.

A hiatal hernia may contribute to GERD. A hiatal hernia occurs when the upper part of the stomach is above the diaphragm, which is the muscle wall separating the stomach from the chest. The diaphragm helps the valve keep acid from coming up into the esophagus.

When GERD is not treated, you can suffer from severe chest pain, narrowing or obstruction of the esophagus, bleeding, or a pre-malignant change in the lining of the esophagus.

One study showed that patients with chronic, untreated heartburn were at substantially greater risk of developing esophageal cancer.

The following are some symptoms that may mean there has been damage to your esophagus: difficulty swallowing, a feeling that food is trapped behind the breast bone, bleeding, black bowel movements, choking, shortness of breath, coughing, hoarseness, weight loss.

You can control infrequent heartburn by changing your habits and using over-the-counter medicines.

For example, you should avoid heartburn-producers such as chocolate, coffee, peppermint, tomato products, alcoholic beverages, greasy or spicy dishes.

Quit smoking, because tobacco inhibits saliva that helps with digestion. Tobacco may also stimulate acid production and relax the esophageal valve.

Lose weight. And, don't eat two hours before you go to sleep.

For infrequent episodes of heartburn, take over-the-counter

antacids, such as Alka-Seltzer and Rolaids.

Or, you can take an H2 blocker. H2 blockers are available in both over-the-counter and prescription forms. For example, Pepcid and Zantac are over-the-counter H2 blockers which are available by prescription at higher doses.

Then there are proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), a group of prescription medications that prevent the release of acid in the stomach and intestines.

Doctors prescribe PPIs to treat people with heartburn, ulcers of the stomach or intestine, or excess stomach acid. PPIs include Prilosec and Prevacid.

GERD is a chronic disease that calls for continuous long-term therapy. To decrease the acid in your esophagus, raise the head of your bed or place a foam wedge under the mattress to elevate the head about 6-10 inches. Avoid lying down for two hours after eating. And don't wear tight clothing.

Prescription medications to treat GERD include the H2 blockers and the PPIs, which help to reduce the stomach acid and work to promote healing at prescription strength. In addition, there are agents that help clear acid from the esophagus.

Surgery is an option if other measures fail. A surgeon can improve the natural barrier between the stomach and the esophagus that prevents acid reflux.

*Questions? Send them to [fred@healthygeezer.org](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.org).*

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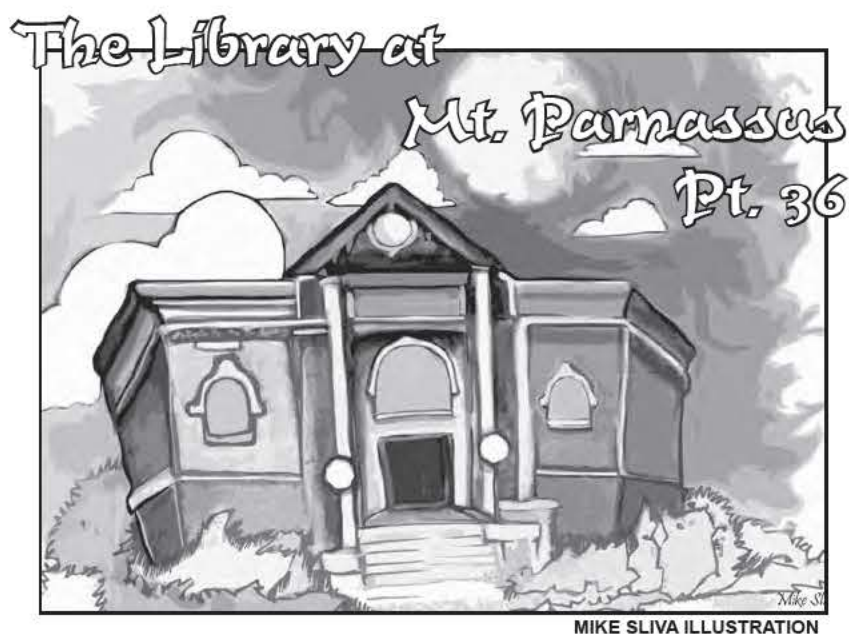
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Snack time in the children's room.

The children's librarian has a captive audience of one.



By DAVID DETMOLD

Penelope leaned over me, and I breathed in her honeyed scent.

My body felt heavy, as if I were drifting on an ocean swell. I felt like an empty barrel, far out of sight of land. My mouth was filled with briny nectar, my wet clothes wrapped about my limbs in molusked ropes of kelp.

"This isn't... this isn't very comfortable," I said, heaving myself up from the little chair.

She laughed, but kept one hand lightly on my shoulder.

"Relax," she said, almost breathing in my ear. She waved her wand above the table, and I took another look at the sweets she had arrayed there.

I found I hadn't taken a full inventory at first glance: now I saw melon balls and halvah, *glaceed* oranges in flaming rum, flesh pink persimmons, ripe and pouting, amid the other delectables.

"Holy moly," I mumbled.

I plucked a purple grape and popped it in my mouth and savored it for a moment. Penelope tapped the tip of her wand lightly on the top of my head. Its touch felt like live wires crossing on wet skin. I spit the grape across the room; it landed on the marble hearth of the unused fireplace.

Embarrassed, I paced across the room, hoping Penelope would overlook my faux pas.

I turned and faced her. "I just stopped by to thank you for your help the other day," I said. "Your prophetic words. I took them to heart. They gave me confidence to go out and look for work. Once I got started, the rest was easy."

I leaned against the mantel and tried to nonchalantly kick the grape under the grate with the toe of my boot.

"I found a job!" I exclaimed with false bonhomie. "I feel I have you to thank for that."

Penelope was pouting. Her hands were clasped behind her. "Found a job?" she sneered. "How lovely."

"You seem put out."

"I? Why should I be? What is it to me?" She brought her wand out from behind her back and tapped it on the table rapidly. "I think it's wonderful you've found something

to keep you busy. I loathe idleness and sloth. The gratification of the senses. Gluttony! It sickens me!" Her voice was shrill and rising.

She swept her hand across the table, sending fruit and sweetmeats flying. I ducked my head, anticipating the crash of crystal and silver plate, but... nothing.

When I looked up, the floor was bare, and Penelope had moved to the window, where she stood calmly with her back to me.

Outside, the snow still swirled, but the day had brightened visibly, and the wrack of clouds revealed the dying sun.

Beneath her satin gown, I could see the curve of her hips, the lyre of her waist.

"Have I offended you?" I asked gently.

"Not at all."

She turned, soft and radiant again, and drifted toward me, her hands raised slightly from her sides. She had put aside her wand. Just where I didn't notice. She drew near. So near I pressed my back against the cold mantel.

"Penelope," I whispered. I took her by the waist and moved her back a step so I could better look at her. I should get progressive lenses.

Yet I could see how easy it would be. In her eyes lay laughter, the flight of care, the forgiveness of all sorrow. To lie marooned in those aqua depths, how easy.

"You're too much," I said.

She shivered.

Her hands toyed with the buttons of my shirt. "What's this?" she asked, amused.

She put her fingers in my breast pocket and fished out the silver earring I'd picked up the other night at the wishing well, the earring shaped like a double axe. I had forgotten all about it.

"An amulet," I said.

"You are a man of hidden talents," she said, wrinkling her nose and smiling. "Wouldn't you like to come over and show them to me sometime?"

"That could take all year," I said.

"Or two."

"Or seven."

*Continued next issue.*

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Bear In the Driveway, Fox On the Golf Course; Thefts of Scooter, Cigarettes; Trail of Blood

Monday, 7/28

7:42 a.m. Several reports of street flooding and downed branches/trees around town.

7:07 p.m. Report of 5+ people (adults and children) assaulting geese at Unity Park. Area search negative.

7:27 p.m. Report that woman on East Main Street was bitten by a pit bull; will be transporting self to ER. Dog determined not to be licensed. Animal control officer following up with Board of Health, who will quarantine the dog.

7:37 p.m. Bear with injured foot reported on Greenfield Road. Environmental Police Dispatch contacted.

Tuesday, 7/29

8:30 a.m. Report of bear, possibly injured, on Swamp Road. Unable to locate.

8:31 a.m. Several items reported stolen from Swift River Hydro Electric overnight. Report taken. Officers following up on suspicious male seen near paper mill last night.

10:10 a.m. Report of sick looking fox on Industrial Boulevard. Animal control officer advised.

4:09 p.m. Caller reports that a party who used to mow a Water Department property in Montague Center is threatening to damage the equipment of the party who is currently doing that work. Advised of options.

4:15 p.m. Caller upset about a party on Avenue A holding a sign and demonstrating against drug dealing in town. Caller is concerned that people will get the wrong impression and take their business elsewhere. Caller informed that party had been spoken to and advised of rules regarding assembly.

Wednesday, 7/30

1:47 a.m. Report of disturbance in alley near Rendezvous. Officer checked on parties walking in alley: no problem, just boisterous while leaving bar after a birthday celebration. Parties advised of complaint and sent on way.

2:16 a.m. F.L. Roberts employee reported that store was robbed just moments ago: a male wearing a dark hoodie and shorts ran into the store, stole cigarettes from behind the counter, and ran out when the cashier saw him. Surveillance video reviewed. Area checked extensively; subject not located.

3:36 a.m. Caller from

Montague City Road reports that dogs have been barking in the area since 9 p.m. and that this has been an ongoing issue. Officer reported two dogs in gated backyard; no contact with residents. Day shift will follow up; copy of call left for animal control officer. Subsequent calls regarding this issue received during week; several previous calls identified dating back to March 2014.

10:50 a.m. Report of sick looking fox on Industrial Boulevard. Animal control officer checked area; unable to locate.

2:01 p.m. Six kids reported playing chicken with traffic on Avenue A. One fell off his bike while trying to do a wheelie in the middle of the road and was almost hit by a car. Youths spoken to and advised not to play in the street.

Thursday, 7/31

1:12 p.m. Multiple reports of a two-vehicle collision near Scotty's. One party treated for injuries; both vehicles damaged. One operator cited for failure to use care at an intersection.

5:45 p.m. DCF into lobby to advise that they are about to take custody of a four year old child. Services rendered.

6:17 p.m. Report of four people "smoking weed" behind a Fourth Street property. Parties found to be cooking chicken; no smoking activity of any kind.

10:09 p.m. Caller from a Central Street apartment building advises that her neighbor is doing laundry and that the laundry facilities are right next to her bedroom. She projects that he has two more loads and that the dryer will be going past 11:30 p.m. Caller advised to contact landlord regarding issue. Caller does not want to bother landlord, as he is elderly. Advised of options.

Friday, 8/1

5:32 a.m. First of several reports of vehicle break-ins throughout town; various items stolen. Affected locations included Dry Hill Road, Emond Avenue, Center Street, Bernardo Drive, and Old Northfield Road. Reports taken; investigated.

7:21 a.m. Report of injured bear walking near Greenfield Road and Randall Road. Unable to locate.

10:47 a.m. Female party reported yelling and swearing on Avenue A; caller advises that this has

happened several days in a row. Investigated; party told officer that she was trying to get a friend's attention.

6:05 p.m. Report that four vehicles are doing donuts on the fields at Franklin County Technical School. Officer spoke to one party who admitted to causing damage on the field. Report taken.

6:39 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road advises that a black bear who is limping badly just went through his yard and is headed in the direction of the dog kennel.

8:12 p.m. Following a fight on Fourth Street,

was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon; disorderly conduct; and larceny under \$250.

10:25 p.m. Caller advises that several people just went into the portable out-house outside her building on Third Street, saying that they were going to "bang heroin." Responding officer located a red bike inside the port-a-potty; bike brought to station and tagged.

Saturday, 8/2

4:45 p.m. Report of dog without collar limping into a garage on Millers Falls Road. Caller spoke with owner of residence. It is their dog. He is 15 years old and limps because he has cancer.

6 p.m. Second call regarding a male on T Street screaming into his cell phone; this has been going on for three weeks. Subject wearing t-shirt that says "Security." Subject taken into protective custody and later released.

6:45 p.m. Party staffing a booth at the Block Party reported being punched in the face by her grandfather's girlfriend, who took off in a black truck. Party had visible injuries to her face, and there were several witnesses. Unable to locate suspect. Report taken.

Sunday, 8/3

10:29 a.m. Party reports that his gas-powered scooter was stolen last night while he was at Between the Uprights. Scooter is stand-up style, silver and black, with a weed wacker motor on it. Report taken.

4:35 p.m. Report of a naked female walking on the backhand side of G Street. Party located and removed to hospital.

5:23 p.m. Syringe found on Fifth Street; retrieved by an officer.

5:58 p.m. Report of a fight between Third Street and Fourth Street; one party may have a knife. Area searched; unable to locate.

6:44 p.m. Caller reports that a fox who seems confused and not afraid of people approached her vehicle on Fairway Avenue.

Officers spoke to a motorist who also reported seeing the fox. One officer got a glimpse of the animal on the sidewalk, but it ran off.

7:38 p.m. Report that a silver car is driving around at a high rate of speed through the Seventh Street/T Street/Fifth Street neighborhood. Unable to locate.

8:40 p.m. Caller advised that there is a man with a gray security shirt in the parking lot of the First Congregational Church on L Street. The man reportedly has a knife in a sheath and is walking in circles, pulling the knife out periodically and looking at it, then putting it back. Officers spoke with the party, who was talking on his cell phone and did have a knife but denied waving it around.

Monday, 8/4

9:02 a.m. Report of an injured bear in a driveway on Federal Street. Contacted Environmental Police Dispatch, who took information. Bear has moved on for now.

6:30 p.m. Syringe found at Bulkeley Street and Willmark Avenue. Item removed by officer.

Tuesday, 8/5

12:14 p.m. Report of a sick looking fox at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Officer spoke with someone at the scene who advised they saw the fox a couple of days ago and it looked fine. Area search negative.

1:46 p.m. Request for increased police presence in response to speeding on Wendell Road.

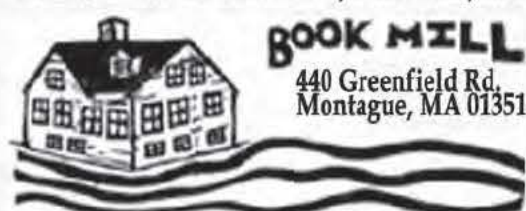
2:17 p.m. Caller (reporting on behalf of his son, who is golfing) reports mangy looking fox near the seventh hole at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Area search negative.

4:17 p.m. Report of shirtless white male on the porch of a Canal Street apartment building growling and jumping up and down. Officers located and spoke with party; advised he is o.k.

see MPD next page

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## LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on August 19, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### Teen Center Relocates to The Brick House

After four and a half years of art, music, workshops, open mic nights, and much more at 177 Avenue A, the Hot Spot Teen Center is moving to a new location on Third Street.

The former firehouse will be brighter and more spacious than the space on the Avenue. The move will consolidate the array of youth and family programs under one roof.

"The goals of the Teen Center are not only to present constructive and fun programming and a referral service for teens, but also to offer a safe drop-in space where they can relax and talk to mentors," said The Brick House's executive director Michael Bosworth.

The renovations currently under way include the creation of a handicapped-accessible doorway, updated electrical system, restrooms, and wiring for networked computers. The space is slated to open in early October.

### Equity Trust Comes to Town

177 Avenue A is in transition, as the Hot Spot Teen Center moves into The Brick House space, and building owners Equity Trust move in. Equity Trust purchased the building in 1998, renting the second and third floors to residential tenants, and the ground floor to the Teen Center.

When the Teen Center gave notice they were relocating, Equity Trust decided to move in. "The sense of community I've gotten every time I have come to visit Montague really drew me here," said executive director Ellie Kastanopolous.

Equity Trust is a charitable non-profit that lends money to community groups in the region and around the country to fund a variety of projects in community development, affordable housing, and agriculture.

According to Kastanopolous, "our favorite kind of lending is for acquisition of land, and for things that change the way people look at property."

### A Zip Code for Gill

On October 1, Gill will have its own zip code, 01354. Formerly the code for the Mount Hermon Post Office, it was abandoned by the school in 1989.

Turners Falls Postmistress Nancy Williams said "if there was one thing I wanted to accomplish, it was to get the town of Gill its own zip code."

Though not official until October, the post office will begin delivering mail addressed with the new zip code starting immediately.

### Remembering Eric Zieba

On August 6, 16-year-old Eric Zieba of Turners Falls was killed in a fight by another young teen. The following day, youth organized and held a candlelight vigil in Unity Park.

### MPD from pg B3

6:42 p.m. Report of mangy looking fox on Walnut Street near the golf course. Fox does not appear to be showing any fear of people or vehicles. Unable to locate.

10:25 p.m. DCF requesting assistance in picking up a two day old child. Services rendered.

### Wednesday, 8/6

8:40 a.m. A female party was arrested on a warrant on Fourth Street.

8:57 a.m. Report of a bag of syringes in front of an L Street residence. Services rendered.

12:34 p.m. Caller who was working in her plot at the Fourth Street community garden reported being

confronted by a woman claiming that the plot was hers. The woman started shoving handfuls of plants into her mouth and asking "if these weren't my plants, would I be eating them?" Caller and her young child left out of concern for their safety; subject took a potted plant and headed toward Avenue A on foot. Area checked; unable to locate.

11:44 p.m. F.L. Roberts employee reported being harassed by a customer earlier in the evening; customer partially exposed himself when asked for his I.D. Security footage reviewed but unable to make positive identification. Advised of options.

### Thursday, 8/7

4:36 p.m. Purse reported stolen from Family Dollar; suspect on video. Suspect positively identified by Franklin County House of Corrections and by anonymous phone call in response to departmental Facebook posting. Investigated.

### Friday, 8/8

9:33 a.m. Caller reports that a fox is lying down at the old tennis courts at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Fox does not look well, very mangy; caller would like officer to check on it. Called back to advise that there is a cub with the fox; cub looks healthy, mother does not. Officer viewed fox and cub; neither appears to be

sick at all. Officer spoke with Environmental Police, who concurred.

11:07 a.m. Warrant of apprehension (Section 35) received for party on Central Street. Party located and removed to hospital.

### Saturday, 8/9

1:08 a.m. Officers responding to the alleyway behind the Pizza House request Medicare and TFFD for a party with a severe arm laceration. Party transported. Blood trail followed to 64 Fourth Street, where officers found a broken window and screen. Investigated.

10:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.



## "Bug" at the Shea This Weekend

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Ghost Light Theater Company's production of "Bug" by Tracy Letts opens this weekend at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, a complex drama of dark impulses with characters living on the edge.

"Bug" tells the story of Agnes, a divorcee living in isolation in a motel room. In her small world of relationships are her violent ex-husband who is threatening her now that he is out of jail, an old friend in a lesbian relationship, and a former soldier who may be AWOL as well as delusional, paranoid and seriously involved with drugs and alcohol.

While this is a drama with serious subject matter, it is also well performed with a fair amount of good humor and sensitivity. Ghost Light Theater once again offers an opportunity for a fascinating night at the

theater.

The cast members are Tiffany Rea Whitfill as Agnes, Colin J. Allen as Peter, Christine Voytko as R.C., Joe Marinello as Goss and Joe Van Allen as Dr. Sweet.

Directed by Kevin Tracy and produced by Kimberly Overtree, "Bug" will be at the Shea theater this weekend on Friday and Saturday, August 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. and

Sunday, August 17 at 2 p.m. plus the following weekend, Friday and Saturday, August 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, August 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for all audience members.

This production has some partial nudity, sexual situations and strong language and is not recommended for young children.

BLANCHETTE PHOTO



Left to right, Tiffany Rae Whitfill and Joe Marinello in rehearsal Tuesday night for the Ghost Light Theater production of "Bug" at the Shea Theater opening on Friday.

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### TIME AWAY from page B1

of bright colors which dot the sand and feel part of the postcard. It is the pleasure of the morning and the evening to watch the tide rise and descend to the near-full moon.

When away, we like to read the news of Maine.

Top of the news is the 99% decline in the codfish catch despite decades of regulations. The 1991 codfish catch was estimated at 21.2 million pounds; by 2013 the numbers were about 286,000. Cod is a ground fish which lives on the ocean bottom and is caught by drag nets.

This sharp decrease is laid to overfishing and the highest sea surface temperatures ever recorded (cod has responded to the rising temperatures with a much slower population growth rate).

Three options exist: reducing the catch quota even more, placing certain fishing areas off limits or imposing a moratorium.

The best option will be wrangled by the North East Fishery Management Council made up of scientists, conservationists, representatives from the fishing industries and state regulators after extensive study of all the current data.

Meanwhile, the average fisherman will catch other species in order to continue to make a living off the ocean.

Now on our rocky coast, regulation is also an issue. Just last week the *Portland Press Herald* sang the praises of an entrepreneurial woman plying the water of Penobscot Bay with her "lobster launch" selling full clambake dinners to sailors

a few miles off of Spruce Head.

Reilly Harvey sells a full lobster bake, the lobster, clams, corn, salad and a freshly made pie to boaters ready for a full course dinner but not anxious to cook nor to clean up and go to a restaurant ashore.

At the height of the summer as many as thirty boats anchor in this area and Mainstay Provisions has served them soup to nuts for fifty dollars for three years.

The day after the article appeared in the newspaper, Harvey received a call from the state health inspector ordering her to cease services immediately until she can meet the same standards set for food trucks including the immediate installation of a three bay sink with hot and cold running water. This effectively put an end to her operation at least for

this season.

But even regulators can have a heart. The inspection office sent an email offering her assistance with the permit application and finally gave her a temporary permit for ninety days providing Harvey equips the Mainstay with a stainless steel washing basin, a five gallon jug of town water and a bucket to drain the water into when she washes her hands.

She must also make sure her coolers stay at 40 degrees or less. Subsequently before next season, the home kitchen where she prepares her pies will need to be approved. Further she will have to pass a food safety course.

What remedies for the codfish conundrum remain to be heard, but we can hope that they will be ap-

plied as humanely for both the fish and for those whose livelihood depends on catching them.

Meanwhile we have left the garden without our regulation or attempts thereof to manage Mother Nature.

We were able to harvest two yellow squash to bring along on vacation and the cat minder has enjoyed at least two big, red tomatoes.

There will be more tomatoes when we return home next week and hopefully not too many squash resembling baseball bats. We do know that the beans will just have begun to bloom when we get home.

Whatever else happens, it is always good therapy to get away and to see a wider world view.

We wish you the same, as well as happy gardening!



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HEY! Yoga for Relaxation

North Quabbin Films To Screen Two Free Movies in Wendell and Warwick

New yoga for relaxation classes in Greenfield will begin on September 10. Students are welcome to come free to their first class. Gentle Yoga for everyone will be held Mondays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Over 50 yoga classes will be held at Green River Yoga, at 158 Main Street in Greenfield.

On Wednesdays, women’s yoga will be offered from 5:45 to 7 p.m. at Community Yoga, at 16 Federal Street in Greenfield.

All classes offer individualized instruction in gentle stretches and yogic breathing. For more information or to receive a brochure of these and other classes, please contact Jean Erlbaum at (413) 773-9744 or [jean.erlbaum@verizon.net](mailto:jean.erlbaum@verizon.net).

On Wednesday, August 20, at 8:30 p.m. *Calendar Girls* (PG-13) will be screened at Deja Brew in Wendell. As this is an outdoor showing bring chairs and blankets.

On Friday, August 22, at 7 p.m. *The Kings Speech* (R) will be shown at town hall in Warwick in conjunction with Old Home Days.

North Quabbin Films believes community gatherings and access to the arts will enhance our vibrant communities. The objectives of NQ Films are to offer *free* summer films in the North Quabbin, to initiate a NQ Film Festival, and to bring a movie theater venue to the area.

**AGRARIAN** from pg B1

They are extremely sensitive. Many will crack when picked, even deteriorate more if driven a few miles to market, and so they should be consumed basically on-site, immediately, as many as possible.

They are edible treatises unto themselves on why one should eat locally. And so the recent loss of our ability to grow tomatoes without fear is really an existential crisis, challenging farmers’ identity and will.

Late blight has been around probably for millennia. It’s the same disease, *phytophthora infestans*, that caused the Great Irish Famine and ruined crops in all potato-growing European countries in the 1840s.

In this historical instance the disease was originally found in 1843 around New York and Philadelphia and then crossed the Atlantic in 1845 in a shipment of seed potatoes bound for Belgium.

The Irish were the worst affected because of their heavy dietary dependence on potatoes, and the widespread use of a single variety, the Irish Lumper.

2009 was a watershed year for the disease in the Northeast. While late blight has been in the fungal background here, basically, forever, it has mostly affected isolated locations late enough in the season to not cause major losses. But in June 2009, it was cool and extremely wet.

I was living in Boston, commuting by bike to the Central Square coffee shop I worked at, and I was soaked almost every day. While just a couple hot, sunny days can kill the disease, the weather conditions were contrary, and by July

pretty much all organic growers in the region knew that most or all of their crop was doomed.

In the 2009 epidemic, late blight was traced to plant starts from Alabama that gardeners all over the Northeast had purchased from Wal-Mart.

We started to first spot some of the early signs of late blight three weeks ago. It wasn’t unexpected, based on how rainy it’s been.

By two weeks ago, we knew we had it *bad* – it was spreading like a Malibu wildfire up and down our long rows, and was too widespread for us to pull out infected individuals.

We felt the pressure of the wolf of failure, and depressive thoughts of quitting floated unspoken in the air. But then we noticed that only some of our tomato varieties had the blight.

You could see it from a distance: a hundred feet of infected plants, yellowing or turning a mushy brown, then a hundred feet of living, growing plants, brazenly oblivious to the fate of their neighbors.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Big Storm; Males Yelling

Saturday, 7/26

1:05 p.m. Reported run-away from West Gill Road residence. Located in Turners Falls.

6:45 p.m. Officer requested at West Gill Road residence for out-of-control subject. Under investigation.

7:30 p.m. Loose calf reported on North Cross Road. Owner located.

9:45 p.m. Traffic complaint on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge during fireworks at Barton Cove. Moved along.

11 p.m. Assisted Ber-

nardston PD with a report of two males yelling on Gill Road.

11:30 p.m. Complaint of loud party along high-tension lines off Mountain Road.

Monday, 7/28

7:10 a.m. House alarm on Grist Mill Road; was due to storm damage.

8:15 a.m. Trees in roadway on Munns Ferry Road.

11 a.m. Deceased calf in Main Road pasture. Owner notified.

4:15 p.m. Trees on power lines on Hoe Shop Road. Assisted DPW and fire

department.

4:35 p.m. Trees in roadway on River Road. Closed road.

Tuesday, 7/29

5:45 p.m. Two subjects reported throwing rocks on catwalk under French King Bridge.

8:50 p.m. Riverside resident complaint of internet scam.

Thursday, 7/31

6:10 a.m. Cows reported in roadway near Northfield Mount Hermon campus.

4:30 p.m. Court process served to three Chappell Drive residents.

7 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with unwanted subjects at Route 10 residence.

Friday, 8/1

11:20 a.m. Report of three unstable female subjects on French King Bridge. Investigation indicated “just fooling around”.

2:55 p.m. Assisted Main Road resident with firearms issue.

Saturday, 8/2

1:50 p.m. Assisted Gill resident with situation in Greenfield the previous day.

**NORTHERN** from page B1

adds Borezo. “It might be nice to increase the size of the audience, but only if it remains primarily comprised of those receptive enough to appreciate what’s going on, and adventurous enough to become a part of it creatively.”

Borezo says that while the future sits in wait in the wake of this festival – “I expect...we’ll do the odd one-off show here and there, when the right opportunity presents itself” – the success of these events will stem from the artists who not only perform but reciprocate that attention.

“I think Western Massachusetts and Vermont have some of the most creatively ambitious, yet completely grounded, individuals I’ve ever met,” he says. “There is far less ego and posturing than in other scenes. The sense of appreciation for the work of other musicians and artists, and cooperation between [them], is very admirable.”

**Festival Highlights:**

Friday night’s headliner **Glenn Jones** works openly in the tradition of the late John Fahey, composing atop a tradition of folk and blues with an ear for the dissonant and unusual. While both are rightly regarded as expert practitioners, though, Jones is the transcendent storyteller.

The instrumental narratives he forges suggest conflict, place, and voice in a way that one typically attributes to prose, though Jones said after the festival that the meanings in those stories are as much the work of the audience as they are his.

“I rarely write with a specific narrative in mind, but there are things I associate with a given piece of music, often having to do with where I was when I wrote it, what I was doing,” he says. “For the listener, my

songs, being instrumentals, could be about anything, or nothing, and still have the associations for me that they do.”

truth that we sometimes need to adopt new voices as we age to better talk about and understand our past and present tense.



Above: Shannon Ketch of Turners Falls-based Bunwinkies, at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem.

Right: Erica Elder and Matt Valentine of Brattleboro’s MV+EE, at the opening night event at the Brick House.

Though he joked that he was in the unenviable position of “breaking the spell” that Nadler had cast, Jones’ set was the ideal threshold between the two days: a volley of guitar and banjo that uniquely fed off of the festival’s subversive spirit, but honored a tradition of structure and composition.

“Across the Tappan Zee,” the opening track of his 2013 album *My Garden State*, carried the weight of his family both past and present, the New York bridge a literal threshold crossed countless times to visit his ailing mother in New Jersey, the song its symbolic counterpart, composed with the sharper perspective of the banjo, as if to highlight the



Jones described the festival as a place of understanding. “I always play better when I feel relaxed, like I’m in sympathetic company, and that the audience is likely to ‘get’ what I’m about,” he says. “For the best of these kinds of events, I feel like I’m part of a greater experience.”

While Nadler was a subtle spectacle, **Matt Weston** was the first of Friday’s performers to really indulge in the physical possibility of the Meetinghouse, starting his set from the lobby by bellowing through a drumhead, a gesture Frost called an “eerie twilight call ...that must have resounded right across

**Marissa Nadler’s** brief set ran from a tap with a direct line to a darker, parallel version of the everyday, one that dwells in unsettling moments and memories, but harness their power from the simple act of expression rather than being bottled up inside.

Words like “ethereal” and “gothic” are widely used, yet empty, descriptors of Nadler’s sound. Her voice is undoubtedly a compelling and powerful one, though the intrigue that has attracted both audience and critical praise to her shores seems equally indebted to the craftsmanship of her songwriting, the sheer force behind her playing, and the pitch-perfect sense to partner with **Janel Leppin**, a cellist whose tendencies swung between maelstrom and lullaby with incredible texture and grit.

Ketch, in particular, is an unassuming and magnetic singer. Dispensing with any trace of theatrics, her voice is seemingly spun to life from the whirl and ramshackle gears of the band churning around her.

Other striking moments across the first two evenings included **Matt Krefting**, who used accordion, tape loops, patience, and the slow, persistent degradation of that organic sound to great effect.

**Village of Spaces** (performing as a duo, minus regular member Amy Moon) indulged pop song tendencies over the quiet unwinding of guitar and keyboards.

And **Glitter Pen**, a wind trio from Vermont, provided the most analogue set of the weekend, tackling intricate early music compositions that left them – and an amused audience – breathless.

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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@monagureporter.org](mailto:poetry@monagureporter.org)

The editors would like to thank the following for  
their generous financial underwriting of this page:  
Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market,  
and Montague Dental Arts

Skelly Street

If you stopped and listened for only a minute you could hear one. They came folded in the wind, from behind curtains around the corner, behind seven foot cinderblock privacy walls, from the row apartments, the little adobe church with salvation in its name, around the corner from children practicing, and women.... Stuck like a mocking bird's repetition, before scratch tickets get thrown in the gutter hope. Around the corner from the faded blue trimmed row apartments, screen doors off the hinges for the summer, diapered children spilling out open doorways chased by voices more given up than empty paper cups of coffee wake ups crushed unfiltered camel cigarette butts snuffed out with the bottom side. The days of high school polishing the chrome on expectations, being someone you wouldn't become, blacks living in colored town, the unplumbed tar paper-sided shacks like you could cage the past provide its dysfunction as proof of your fear and blame and pray the way self-righteousness is confused with religion. Brill Cream, Old Spice, English Leather luster, combs in the back pocket of oiled dreams. Glass packs rumbling, flat head Fords between stoplights that could still drive you temporarily away from your beginning. Twenty five cent packs of cigarettes, girls from across town, the beautiful Mexican girl in the blue pleated skirt and white ruffled spotless blouse running out an apartment doorway, the door hanging by one hinge, followed by a swearing at another's five minute escape. A Hard Day's Night playing across the street from the half-brick ranch behind the chain link where I kissed someone's sister in the back seat of Bobby Sanford's mother's new black Falcon with red leather interior while she worked George's bar and steakhouse for tips. Again and again we searched the delicate pressure of blood-filled lips, skin over the bundled nerves, more plain than ambition. In button down plaid short sleeve shirts hand jammed hard in the pockets of Levis, practicing to be shy while posing white socks in penny loafers. In Hobbs you could smell the methane flame, crude oil, refined gas, and cigarette smoke, the stale smell of labor and force by economy, park your car in the yellow torch light of a refineries' flair in mesquite brush and sand, over discarded rubbers and empty bottles of Jax's beer, your head spinning ordinary miracles. Waiting, while your father said grace in a shot gun row house house he rented for thirty dollars, an open gas heater headache in the morning, running out the door toward any form of away. Unaware, that you had been caught in the mortgage of an unhappy sit-com, a long distance phone service commercial, a rock song thrill, your buddies graduating to a company shirt at the parts store, clean clothes Saturday-night-love and profound belief in Hendrix and Dylan, and then your generation's war.

You could smell it, when you got back to the south side, tired rentals, broken sewer next to Tony's Pawn shop, the new faces holding the blinds wide enough for blinking eyes, their men dying unnamed on the decks of oil rigs pluming the basin in insatiable market place hunger, oil company trucks full of gas you could steal. The greased shirts, cigarette-squared pockets, the too burnt skin, beer bleary-eyed resolve, roustabout jobbers pick up spot, no application forms. The Frey Hotel where you could still buy women, the beer bottles falling into the stream of Saturday night to Sunday morning in time for the separation. If you stopped... I swear you could hear them screaming on Skelly Street.

Al Miller  
Montague

Poetry Contest

A wind of diamonds  
Tears around the hilltop tower.  
The tenth runner-up  
In the Twentieth Annual  
Molotov Tulip Poetry Contest cries out:  
"Oh, to be third, to be second, to be first!"  
"To be great, to be grand, to be on top!"

But the wind has no sympathy:  
"Too many adjectives," it howls,  
"No substance."  
"No content."  
"No suffering."  
"No wisdom."  
"Nothing new."  
"Nothing of interest."  
"Nothing hard or fine."  
"Too many words."  
"Too much poetry."  
"Too many poets."

Emily Goodwin  
Leyden

Clouds

Like snowflakes, no clouds are ever alike  
Not in shape or in size or in motion  
Each bears the magic of waters and airs  
The actions of breezes and calms  
The colors of suns, moons and stars  
The reflections of dawns and dusks  
The impacts of life forms below  
The rainbows of changes above  
Dancing ballets from pressures unknown  
The movements of times and of spaces  
The freedom from sounds, smells and tastes  
Makers of shadows that race across fields  
The exquisite backgrounds for lives here on earth  
Clouds are the flowers only weathers can grow  
Only airs, and waters, and times.

D.W. Peterson  
Leverett

In My Norman Rockwell

There is a Vietnamese woman  
Standing in the open entrance  
To her grass and bamboo home.  
Rice baskets, like her garden, are empty.

A single tear is moving down through  
The red dust on her left cheek.  
Two small children, one on either side,  
Turn their faces up to hers.

Their small fists filled with  
The black cloth of her trousers  
While soldiers level rifles at their mother's belly.  
Zippo cigarette lighters, inscribed


With the Twenty Third Psalm  
"Ye though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death I will fear no evil,"  
Light the corners of her home.

Her nearly inaudible wail surrounds  
Them. For one it becomes the only time  
He has heard the truth spoken.  
Looks down at the space between soldiers  
Aware of the danger of weapons and shame  
Too much time  
In the poverty of weapons.

Al Miller  
Montague

Emily Goodwin reads the Montague Reporter and sent us three poems; this is the final of her initial three. May she send some more!  
Al Miller makes his first contribution to The Poetry Page this month. He raises sheep in Montague.  
D.W. Peterson of Leverett continues to grace our pages when he can.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## ONGOING:

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

## EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 p.m.

## EVERY TUESDAY

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope Tuesday*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children. Story, interactive game and craft with rotating topics. Ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. We welcome new families, 10 a.m.

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

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Free *Texas Hold 'em Poker* tournament, with cash prizes.

## 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.

Great Falls Farmer's Market, Turners Falls, 2 to 6 p.m.

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Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m. to midnight. Free.

## ART SHOWS:

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *The Breathing Landscape*, by Linda Ruel Flynn of Orange. Work on display in the Marion Herrick Room Gallery through 8/31.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Out Of Line*, pen and ink drawings by artist and humorist, Linda Baker-Cimini. Reception with the artist on Saturday, August 16 from 4-6 p.m. Work on display through 9/10.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum, Hadley: *Field Notes 4*:

*Transect* an exhibition of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures created by architects Sigrid Miller Pollin and Stephen Schreiber, and landscape architect Jane Thurber. Through 10/15.

## EVENTS:

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Leverett Library: film club presents *An American Werewolf in London*: 1981 horror comedy written & directed by John Landis, 7:30 p.m.

The Bookmill, Montague: *Katie Sachs, Chris Scanlon and Span of Sunshine*, \$, 8 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater's production of *Bug, A Dark Comedy* by Tracy Letts. Outside Oklahoma City: Late 90's, Agnes, a down on her luck divorcee, has all but shut herself off from the world in her motel room. Peter, a Gulf War vet with a dark past, wanders the midwest. When they meet, sparks...fly? Together they become more isolated, going down a dark path of drugs, paranoia, and delusion, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Acre*, folk/rock, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Montague Center Green: *Montague Old Home Days*. Food, entertainment, road race, children's games, info tables and craft booths, a magician, and parade. 10 to 6 p.m.

Wendell Old Home Day, Wendell Common: Festivities kick off with the Kids Parade at 11 a.m. followed by all day music, food, tag sale, games, vendors and more. Music includes *The Equalites, Mother Turtle, Crow's Rebellion, The Harmaniacs, Danger Boy Experience, Lynne Meryl* and friends, *Annie Hasset* and more.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Poets*

Take a literary look at the Connecticut River watershed. Join



Katie Sachs, singer-songwriter at the Montague Bookmill on Friday, August 15 at 8 p.m.

DCR Park Interpreter and poet Janel Nockleby as we observe our neighbor plants and animals through the eyes of poets who have lived here. Enjoy a lively discussion of poems by poets such as Emily Dickinson, Frederick Goddard Tuckerman, and Wallace Stevens. Bring your own watershed themed poem to share. 2 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Artist Reception for Linda Baker-Cimini*, 4 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater's production of *Bug*, see 8/15, \$, 8 p.m.

Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mariel Berger, Brooke Herr, Ephemeral String Band*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range Cats*, jazz & groove music, 9 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *All Fired Up* - classic rock & roll, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer* with D.J. Just Joan, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater's production of *Bug*, see 8/15 listing, \$, 2

p.m.

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

## MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo!* 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Deja Brew, Wendell: Outdoor Film Night showing *Calendar Girls*, 8:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

COOP Concerts, Energy Park, Greenfield: *Sue Kranz* - singer, songwriter, flutist. *Charlie Conant and Friends* - Traditional and original songs with a twist of bluegrass. *Daniel Hales, and the Frost Heaves*. - eclectic blend of alternative/indie, Americana, folk, 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock with Sturgis Cunningham & Klondike Koehler, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Dead Man*. Edgy, intriguing "psychedelic western" with Johnny Depp, Robert Mitchum, Crispin Glover, Billy Bob Thornton, and Gary Farmer. 1996, b & w. 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at

7 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater's production of *Bug*, see 8/15 listing, \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, Americana, 6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Dead Man*. Edgy, intriguing "psychedelic western" with Johnny Depp, Robert Mitchum, Crispin Glover, Billy Bob Thornton, and Gary Farmer. 1996, b & w. 7:30 p.m. with music before the movie at 7 p.m.

The Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Ghostlight Theater's production of *Bug*, see 8/15 listing, \$, 8 p.m.

The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Pete Donnelly* (of *The Figgs* and of *NRBQ*), Brett Newski and Emily Bourque (from the Lady Killigrew), \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Boo-ty Nights*, hip hop & soul 70's-2000's, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ketch-Fyre*, classic & current hits, \$, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

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

## MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Burries Open Mic*, 8 p.m. with sign-ups at 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

St. Kazimierz, Turners Falls: *Quartermania*. Place quarter bids on items provided by artists and vendors. Doors open at 6 p.m. bidding starts promptly at 7 p.m.

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FRI. 8/15 FREE  
ACRE (folk/rock)

SAT. 8/16 9:30 \$3  
ROCKIT QUEER  
w. DJ Just Joan

SUN. 8/17 FREE  
6pm "Music to eat By" (DJ)  
9pm TNT KARAOKE

MON. 8/18 8pm FREE  
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CNAM from page B1

speak roughly thirty-five different languages, and who had no idea that help was available at no cost to them.

At sites in Northampton, Amherst, and Greenfield, the groups offer free services that include English classes, employment assistance, volunteer tutoring, family literacy activities, basic computer skills training, leadership develop-

ment and citizenship assistance.

"Should I admit that working with my student before her citizenship interview improved my knowledge of civics, too?" said Margaret Groesbeck, who volunteers as a tutor with the Center for New Americans.

On Friday, July 4 at 11 a.m., approximately 50 new Americans took the Oath of Allegiance to become new American citizens on the

grounds of the Hampshire County Superior Courthouse in Northampton. Local musician Evelyn Harris sang the National Anthem during the outdoor ceremony.

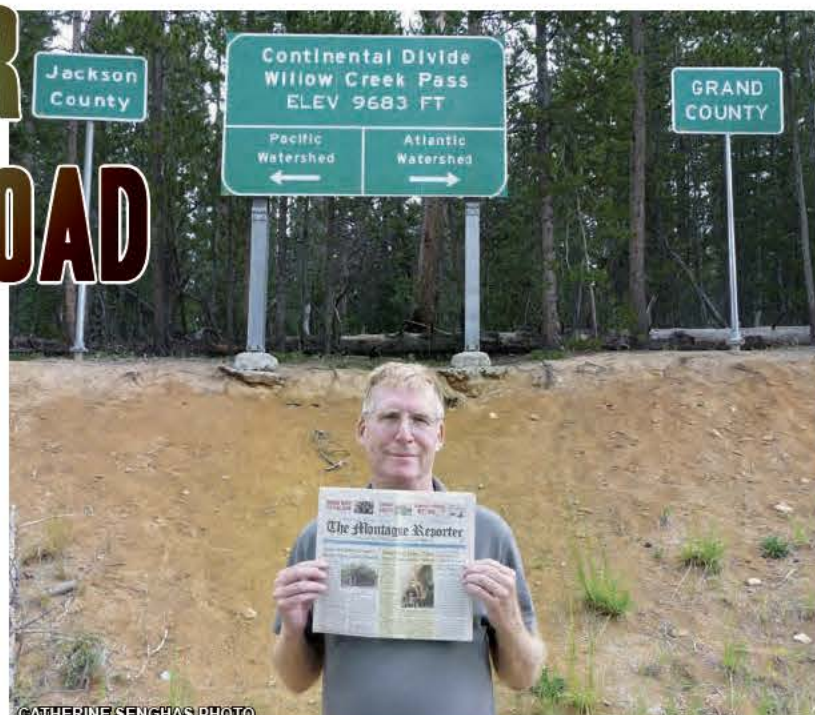
The event, in its sixth year, was also an opportunity for the Center for New Americans to shine a light on the process of applying for citizenship, and welcoming newcomers to America!



LEFT:  
Montague's Nell  
Wright reads the  
news atop Mount  
Zerbian in northern  
Italy.

BELOW:  
Devoted reader  
Steve Jackson of  
Boston crosses the  
continental divide in  
northern Colorado  
carrying his trusty  
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