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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 41

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 20, 2015

Montague's Selectboard Relying on Two Cable Advisors

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – "It's been a long road," said John McNamara at last Monday's selectboard meeting. "Quite frankly, it's been a death march."

McNamara, along with Jason Burbank, is one of only two residents the town's selectboard has appointed to advise it on issues concerning cable access, and to negotiate a contract with the town's cable provider, Comcast.

Selectboard member Rich Kulewicz, playing double duty as a third member of the cable advisory committee (CAC), said the group officially has two vacant seats, and advised against reducing its size from five to three, so as not to create a situation in which two members could make decisions.

The committee's lean size is not the result of a lack of interest, but rather of a rocky year in which its membership, performance and role have all been subject to intense scrutiny and debate within the town.

At the August 10 meeting, former member Mark Fairbrother confirmed he was not seeking reappointment, and the selectboard unanimously declined to reappoint Montague

see CABLE page A5

NEWS ANALYSIS

Who is "FERC?"

PART I

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – And now, "the pipeline" is before FERC.

"The pipeline," which we are urged to STOP by countless lawn signs, is of course the natural gas pipeline being proposed to cut right through Franklin County. The issue has been front and center since the Kinder-Morgan Energy company, its sponsor, began knocking on residents' doors a year and a half ago. They were politely requesting permission to survey property, generally without notifying local officials that a major interstate construction project was in the works.

Since then, there have been many hearings of local selectboards, health departments, and conservation commissions, not to mention the state Department of Public Utilities.

Even obscure agencies like the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) have attracted



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With leaky pipes and clear cut trees

At the FERC's headquarters at 888 First Street, NE, Washington DC, a group of activists calling themselves the "FERCettes" perform "We Know FERC Is A Rubber Stamp Machine."

see FERC page A7

A "Power Team" Looks to Shape Shea's New Era

By JENNY T. ABELES



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

Last week, Montague's representatives at town hall opted to move forward on contract negotiations with Shea Theater Arts Center, a new group that has offered to manage the historic, publicly-owned theater on Avenue A.

TURNERS FALLS – Strollers on Avenue A may begin to notice changes to the Shea Theater facade in coming months, reflecting an inner change in management and vision that occurred on August 10 when the Montague selectboard approved the Shea Theater Arts Center's (STAC) proposal to assume management of the Shea.

The town began a process of seeking new management for the theater after the last group – the Shea Community Theater, Inc. – did not indicate they planned to renew their lease.

At the selectboard meeting, Allen Fowler, chair of the town's newly re-formed civic commission, "enthusiastically endorsed the STAC's proposal," citing what he said were its three main strengths: It preserves

the community aspect of the Shea, simultaneously demonstrates the ability to bring in larger, revenue-producing acts, and employs a 5-person board that addresses a variety of the theater's needs.

One of those board members, Penny Burke, who is currently director of the Northampton Center for the Arts, refers to her fellow STAC members as "a power team."

"I've worked for many years on a variety of boards and committees," she says, "and this is by far the most exciting thing I've done." She describes STAC as "extremely high energy and extremely committed." Burke will volunteer 20 hours a week at the Shea, using what she learned at the Northampton Center for the Arts to build upon and reenvision the theater's mission. "When you have an arts space, you have to

see STAC page A3

Discover the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail

By EMILY BREWSTER

DEERFIELD – A picnic dinner at the top of Mount Sugarloaf on a gorgeous July afternoon. My four-year-old son Theo and I were both excited about the idea. I picked him up from Pine Brook Children's Center around 4:30 and we drove the short distance to the base of the mountain. In the parking lot I strapped on the backpack that contained our little picnic, and we began our ascent.

I'd done some research, of course. First there was the quick assessment of our hiking options: a moderate walk on the paved road to the summit that looked to be about a mile long, or a hike up a trail estimated to take about 40 minutes to ascend and 20 minutes to come back down.

The factoid about the etymology of the mountain's name made an equally strong impression: Mount Sugarloaf gets its name – as have hundreds of other tall and rounded landforms – from having a shape that resembles the conical masses in which sugar was sold in the days before it was cubed or granulated. Who knew sugar used to come in loaves?

I had never heard of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail, which winds a thread between Mount Sugarloaf in Deerfield and Poet's Seat Tower, fifteen miles to the north in Greenfield, most of it through conservation land.

It doesn't appear on the Mass.gov website about the Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation. Neither is it on the official trail map at the

see TRAIL page A7

... Before It Discovers You!



MARK HUDYMA PHOTO

At this intersection, in the saddle between North and South Sugarloaf mountains, the author and her son followed the blue-blazed trail – to adventure.

Gill-Montague Gets Ready For School



ELLEN ELL ANCHETTE PHOTO



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

TOP: Newly hired Gill Elementary School Principal Conor Driscoll got a warm welcome on Monday night as Superintendent Michael Sullivan introduced him to the community.

Gathered in the lunchroom of the school, a large group of parents, teachers and residents offered him their thoughts and insights into being part of the Gill community. New teachers added their enthusiasm for the prospect of working at the school. Members of the school committee joined them.

Parents let Driscoll know it was important to them that the school and community work together.

Driscoll has several years of experience as a teacher prior to his appointment as principal, working for the last three years in the district at Great Falls Middle School. The feeling in the room was a very positive one, with many expressing hope that this year will be a good new beginning for the elementary school, and for the community.

BOTTOM: Maddy Johnson is congratulated by Head Coach Gary Mullins as she receives her 2015 State Championship jersey. The Turners Falls High School Softball Team recently celebrated their State Championship with a banquet at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club.

The Montague Reporter

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To Our Writers: Thank You.

As you are likely aware, the *Montague Reporter* is a bit of a non-traditional newspaper.

We are incorporated as a non-profit, overseen by a volunteer board of directors; we have so far been print-only in an era defined by online publishing; a large number of our readers donate beyond the cover price to keep us afloat; and many businesses advertise with us simply because they'd like to see an independent local weekly survive in our five towns.

And, of course, we take every other week off throughout July and August, so our staff and volunteers can relax, and catch up on life.

Next week is our last "off" week of the summer, and September has a strong back-to-school look to it just now. There is never enough summer, and all the tugging melancholy felt on a late Sunday afternoon starts to come through, a little slower and a little heavier, around this time in August.

This fall we'll start to get a website up, they'll be breaking ground for the skatepark at Unity Park, and a new era will be established at the Shea Theater. Change is afoot here in Turners Falls, and throughout the five towns our paper gets out to.

This newspaper is nothing if not wonderfully imperfect, a haphazard project that seeks to involve anyone who walks in our office door. It is a community newspaper. So far this year, no fewer than sixty-six writers have contributed content.

Twenty-four have written once: guest editorials, in-depth announcements, startling cameos, donated excerpts, false starts, and we think also a few promising real starts that we won't jinx.

Here are the forty-two repeat offenders, so far in 2015:

Every week Don Clegg compiles the local briefs, and Emily Alling is the tireless, tasteful curator of the Montague police log, many outspoken readers' single most favorite part of the paper.

Leslie Brown, David Brule and Vanessa Query write regular columns, and Patricia Pruitt, recently retired as an associate editor, makes a monthly poetry page and writes the odd news story. (Editors Nina Rossi and Mike Jackson get in a lot of bylines of our own.)

Tia Fattaruso, Jeff Singleton, Beverly Ketch, Mark Hudyma, Jenny T. Abeles, Josh Heinemann, Katie Nolan, David Detmold, Ann Tweedy, and Julie Cunningham

have all taken part in our exhaustive coverage of five towns' selectboard meetings. Most of them double as news reporters and features writers.

Ellen Blanchette covers the Gill-Montague school committee, theater, and more. Matt Robinson has been following sports teams in the district, hard work we hope will grow into a sports page – if you're interested in underwriting, get in touch.

Pam Kinsmith has started a regular column updating the community about MCTV, the organization that incubated this newspaper and one we are glad to see growing in strength once again.

Dawn Montague and Matthew Cohen have taken turns poring through 2005 *Reporters* and typing up our "Ten Years Ago" column.

Lee Wicks, Joe Kwiecinski, Anne Harding, Melissa Wlostoski, Joe Parzych and Pete Wackernagel have been frequent feature writers.

Eric Damkoehler has shared a number of pieces about food and work in the hospitality industry, David James reports from Lake Pleasant, and Richard Baldwin sends in detailed articles on the rotating art exhibits he helps curate at the Wendell Free Library.

Jeri Moran has been volunteering her time to put together our Arts & Entertainment listing each week, and we're excited that she's started writing articles too.

And Elizabeth Nash, Jim Gildea, Kathleen Burek, Laura Rodley, Jeff Webster, Matthew Erickson, Mik Muller, Peter Reich and Shira Hillel have each submitted two or three pieces so far in 2015.

That's 42, in eight months, with 24 more getting in once – and you, too, are invited to join us. We know a lot of people are shy about writing, but our editors can handle whatever you send us.

And that's not counting the photographers, illustrators, proofreaders, layout staff, paper carriers, writers of letters to the editor, office volunteers, board members, tech support, web designers, ad salespeople, encouraging friends, night cooks and anonymous tipsters who keep this highly unlikely enterprise chugging along.

After one more week of relaxation we're ready to get back to business. Good things are in store, so put the word out.

We're going to be the best little town paper you have ever seen.



"They always seem happier, but I'm sure I'm just projecting."

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

A Good Old-Fashioned, Low-Key, Late-Summer Downtown Block Party

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – This coming Saturday, Fourth Street, between Avenues A and L, will be hosting a block party. The street on the block will be closed to motorized traffic and the public is encouraged to revel, celebrate, and let loose in this common space.

A number of activities will grace the day. There will be some food, but picnicking and potlucks are encouraged. There will be creative activities for kids, including mask-making.

A parade will take place sometime around 5 p.m., if enough people choose to parade around. Bring instruments! For those who prefer viewing, an art show will take place at 80 Fourth Street.

In addition to these events, a number of bands will play throughout the afternoon next to the Fourth Street parking lot. Our musical community will be strongly represented here, featuring local rock bands Rebel Base, Holy Vex, The Final Frontiers, and upcoming

psych-country star Bryan Gillig.

Coming from farther afield are Western Mass escapees Cloners, Gnarwhal from Nashville, and Chicago-based flatlanders the Great Deceivers.

The Avenue A Block Party enjoyed for many Augusts in Turners will not happen this year. By comparison, this Fourth Street Block Party aims to be much smaller and less commercial. It's a little slapdash and somewhat off-the-rails from a planning perspective, but, man, it's got a lot of heart.

Many ideas that at first seemed golden were rejected by reality, or liability. A dramatic flyover by the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter was defeated by regulations that state that aircraft must fly so many thousands of feet above the highest nearby point, which in this case is Poet's Seat.

A "Running of the Emus" was thrown into the trash-bin of dreams, because it's now difficult to find emus around here.

Luckily, what will really be on display at the block party are not

showy spectacles, but the spirit of our community.

Jocelyn Silverlight, one of the organizers of the event and a Fourth Street resident, says, "One of the first things I noticed when moving to Turners Falls was the kids playing in front of their houses, and the deep connections between neighbors."

Summer is a good time to remember that while the street is often the domain of cars, it is also a gathering place for humans to mingle, to talk, and to play. This Saturday on Fourth Street, it is a good idea to chase that ball into the road, and to let dogs be dogs.

The Fourth Street Block Party is free and will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. this Saturday, August 22.

Volunteers are encouraged to help out on both Friday and Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering Friday, contact jsilverlight@gmail.com. On Saturday volunteers are welcome to drop by starting at noon.

Help with clean-up following the event is more than welcome as well.



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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Come to reminisce, learn and share a period of the “**Glory Days**” in **Powertown** at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday, August 22.

At the turn of its industrial heyday, Franklin County boasted nine paper mills, with a majority being in the town of Montague. The harnessing of hydro-power was an engineering feat comparable to the “Wonders of the Ancient World.”

Join Bill Wilson of the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage as he shares some memorabilia from the past. If you worked in the mills, come to chat. You may just see former co-workers there.

Join Great Falls Discovery Center staff for a leisurely two-hour “**Water Under the Bridge Bike Tour**,” also on Saturday, August 22, starting at 10 a.m. along the Canal-side Rail Trail. The trail highlights the history of bridges in Turners Falls and Montague City.

Come learn about the many challenges associated with getting over the Connecticut River in our villages. The tour will meet at the main entrance to the GFDC. Bring your bike, water, bug spray, helmet, and sun block.

Yes, there will be a Block Party in Downtown Turners Falls this summer after all. On Saturday, August 22, from 2 to 9 p.m., the **Fourth Street Block Party** will be rocking to the music of at least 6 bands, along with food, games, crafts, a small petting zoo, and lots of spontaneous fun.

The event is being sponsored by the Brick House Community Resource Center, with a whole lot of time, help and ideas from volunteers from around town.

“Are Ya Ready, Again?!” The Greenfield Gardens Youth Leaders host another “**Got Talent**” Show on Saturday, August 22 from 2 to 5 p.m.

This event is sponsored by and held at Greenfield Middle School, 195 Federal Street, Greenfield. There will be lots of great raffle prizes, with all proceeds to go to the Recover Project. Tickets are \$7, and doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Roller Derby is hosting a dance party at The Rendezvous in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 22. DJ starts spinning music from 9:30 p.m. until midnight. \$5 cover.

Proceeds benefit Pioneer Valley Roller Derby, a non-profit organization that has been entirely skater owned and operated since day one

in 2006. PVRD prides itself on being the first roller derby league in the country to have both men’s and women’s teams, and introduced the first all-gender team just this year. Their mission is to change the derby world by promoting equality while focusing on athleticism and sporting competition.

Come join them in celebrating and funding this mission. Skaters are available to introduce the sport to those interested and share how they can get involved. Find Pioneer Valley Roller Derby on Facebook or at www.pioneervalleyrollerderby.com.

Enjoy an early evening of “**Vino and Vinyl**” at Connecticut River Liquors, 123 Avenue A in Turners Falls from 4 to 7 pm. Stop by for a wine tasting, and bring along some old vinyl records to play on an even older wooden console record player. Appetizers are courtesy of the Great Harvest Restaurant.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus**, Director Jonathan Harvey, is holding an open rehearsal for all singers interested in joining the PVS Chorus on Tuesday, Sept. 1, starting at 7 p.m., at the Most Holy Redeemer Parish Hall, 122 Russell Street, Hadley.

Singers will join PVS Chorus members as they read through some of the coming season’s choral repertoire. The chorus is recruiting singers in all voice parts. For more information, go to pvsoc.org.

Support groups for **grandparents, relatives, and friends raising others’ children** are being offered in Greenfield and Turners Falls.

The Greenfield location is at the Community Action Family Cen-

ter, 90 Federal Street, on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. (which began on August 4), and the third Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m., beginning September 16.

The Turners Falls location is at the United Arc, 294 Avenue A, on the second & fourth Tuesdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served (and a light dinner during the evening group), and childcare can be provided by calling to reserve it two days in advance.

If you are unable to attend a support group, please call for a phone chat or home visit. Call Pat Keith for more information at (413) 563-1981 or email her at patakeith@gmail.com.

A small but enthusiastic group of Leverett citizens met on August 7 and are looking for other interested persons willing to assist in the **care and maintenance of the stones and grass of the cemeteries** in the villages of Moores Corner and North Leverett.

There are many ways one might help in this effort, and any form of help will be welcome. They will be meeting again on Friday, August 28, at the Moores Corner Church, in the center of Moores Corner, at 7 p.m. For further information, please call Edie at 548-9452 or Charlotte at 367-2243.

The **spouting whale at Unity Park** in Turners Falls will continue to spout, and keep youngsters cool, for 7 days a week with the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Labor Day, September 7.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

STAC from page A1

maximize its use for the benefit of the artists and the community,” she says.

STAC intends to continue to house successful programs and companies such as the Young Shakespeare Players, while also offering a venue to companies such as the Show Circus Studio, Lisa Leizman Dance Company, the Happy Valley Guitar Orchestra, and Paintbox Theater. The group openly describes a desire to expand the theater’s offerings beyond the scope of traditional and musical theater.



Lisa Davol

Lisa Davol, STAC board member and marketing and membership manager at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, emphasizes the group’s commitment to providing a venue for “other artists looking for a home for their projects.”

Citing the Rendezvous restaurant as “one of the very few places in Franklin County that takes chances in terms of programming,” Davol

says that “artists already know that Turners Falls is a place they can come and do their thing.”

As a resident and former director of Turners Falls RiverCulture, Davol has both intimate and detailed knowledge of the village, listing its strengths as its diverse population, location, history, the bike path, and the waterfront connecting to the downtown, a unique feature in the region. Above all, she praises the “spirit” of the town’s inhabitants, who “turn challenges into opportunities in a really fun way.”

The other STAC board members also say they believe that Turners Falls is poised to become the cultural center of Franklin County. Josh Goldman, President and co-founder of Australis Aquaculture in Turners Falls and treasurer of STAC, says that he sees the Shea as “a catalyst for the continued transformation” of the town as an increasingly great place to work and live.

Several point to the village’s interesting architecture and affordable housing costs, a combination that makes it a desirable home for artists. “I have my fingers crossed that the old mills will be converted into artist studios,” says Chris “Monte” Belmonte, morning DJ for WRSI and director of the STAC board.

“It’s a lovely town that seems to have all the right pieces in place,” observes Jim Olsen of Signature Sounds, who speaks approvingly of Turners’ “burgeoning, do-it-yourself arts scene.”

Olsen says he believes strategies used by the Parlor Room in Northampton to promote local artists – pairing them with large, national acts to give them promotional

opportunities until they become headliners themselves – will also be effective at the Shea.



Chris “Monte” Belmonte

Olsen’s work in Franklin County includes producing the Green River Festival, and booking shows at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls and the Arts Block in Greenfield. He says he sees the Shea as a natural location for acts too large for the Parlor Room.

All the board members of STAC spoke of the Shea’s significance in regional economic and creative development, helping to make Franklin County a desirable destination. Davol describes much of her work as being a liaison between artists, businesses, and local and state-wide tourism efforts.

“It’s a huge project, and the payoff might not be evident for many years,” cautions Olsen.

From now until the end of 2015, STAC will be focused on lining up artistic collaborators and renovating the building so as “to make the facility come alive,” according to Goldman, who together with acting

as STAC’s treasurer will also oversee the historic building’s physical transformation. He spoke of plans to create a lobby bar to help make the theater a more “inviting and hospitable space.”

In Goldman’s view, success at the Shea will ultimately come through creating diverse revenue streams including private donors, ticket sales, fund-raising events, and support from the community.

“Buy-in from the community,” Davol agrees, “is extremely important.”

When asked how STAC plans to reach out to the community in all its diversity, Belmonte said that while he was working on this goal, he hopes people from the community would contact him with their ideas and plans. His contact information can be found on the WRSI website.

The group envisions the theater as a venue for artists, an educational facility hosting after-school and youth development programs, and a resource to enrich the lives of everybody living in the region.

“We want to bring people together around the arts,” says Davol, “not just for art’s sake, but to build community.”

Power team though they may be, STAC has been clear that their success at the Shea will depend upon the support of the community at large. The group will be the beneficiary of a Free Soup and Game Night fund-raiser held at Hope and Olive Restaurant in Greenfield on Monday, September 14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.



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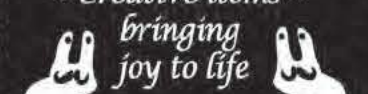


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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Early Retirement Package Requested on Highway

By KATIE NOLAN

Dana Moore, a 29-year highway department employee, asked the Erving selectboard at their August 10 meeting to consider him for an early retirement package.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith said that, if Moore retired now, his retirement income would be approximately 58% of his three-year average income, or approximately \$28,000.

Enabling Moore to receive a higher retirement income would require the town to pay extra into the county retirement fund. If the town funded Moore at the 80% level, he would receive approximately \$38,000 per year. The town could also fund Moore at a lower percentage, where he would receive approximately \$30,000 per year.

Smith said that there was precedent for the town compensating employees with an early retirement package. He said the early retirement was "an opportunity, if we like, to thank someone who's been serving the town."

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory said that Moore was "a great guy with a wealth of knowledge, hard to replace."

Moore said, "It's time for some young people to get in there and start learning."

The board decided to take the early retirement under advisement. If they approve the proposal, the package would also need to be approved by town meeting and the state legislature.

Senior Center Director

The board approved the senior center director job description, including the requirement that the director must become Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA)-certified within five years.

Selectboard chair William Bembury said that the recently hired senior center director, Paula Better, had requested that the selectboard eliminate the MCOA certification requirement from the job description. Although the requirement has been on the job description for years, the previous director was not MCOA-certified.

The MCOA's requirements for director certification are work with a mentor, attendance at workshops, and presentation of a portfolio. In order to apply for the certification program, the applicant must meet certain education and experience requirements: a high school diploma plus ten years as senior center director; an associate's degree plus five years as director; a bachelor's degree plus three years; or a master's degree plus two. The MCOA website lists 52 certified directors in the state.

Bembury said he felt that the certification requirement should be kept in the job description, but that the current director should be given more time to obtain certification.

Board member Arthur Johnson said that the current director will not have the education and experience requirements to apply for certification for years. "I'm really upset about this whole situation," he said. "It will be five years before

our director is up to snuff."

Bembury said the board would work with Better on the certification issue when setting employee goals.

Gas Pipeline Survey

George Moonlight Davis and Morningstar Chenven asked the board if there was a written agreement between the town and the Kinder Morgan company regarding access to town property in preparing for the proposed Northeast Energy Direct pipeline.

Chenven commented that the pipeline company "had come back in other towns. We would like to rescind the permission to survey."

Bembury said that Kinder Morgan had filled out a one-page application for surveying at the former International Paper property. "It only refers to one particular property," Bembury said. "We were explicit as to the rights they had."

Regarding the former International Paper property, he said, "They did it, and it's done." He said he had talked with a Kinder Morgan representative and the company was aware that the town meeting had passed an article requiring citizen approval before any further pipeline work on town property.

Chenven agreed that because the permission to survey was limited, it was not necessary to rescind it.

Bembury said that the town would be considering a noise pollution bylaw developed by Franklin Regional Council of Governments that would apply to the proposed pipeline. He said the proposed bylaw would be provided to the planning board, and be presented at a hearing to be considered at town meeting.

Federal Block Grant

MJ Adams, director of community development for Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, told the selectboard that all the requested community development block grant funding had been approved.

She said the federal grant would provide money for housing rehabilitation in Erving, Northfield, Warwick and Wendell; fuel assistance funds; and funding for senior housing planning in Erving and Wendell.

According to Adams, the state Department of Housing and Community Development would send the Erving a contract in mid- to late-August. Erving is the lead town for the four-town grant.

Johnson asked Adams whether there was any advantage for Erving in being the lead town. Adams answered that it granted Erving greater opportunities for communicating with FCRHRA, and that the leadership role would reflect well on the town when it applies for other grants.

Other Business

Bembury told the board that representatives from the Massachusetts Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program would be touring the former Usher Plant site on August 18. The Usher Plant Re-Use committee has applied for a PARC grant to develop a riverside park on

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Fugitive Arrested During In-Progress Breaking & Entering

Monday, 8/3

8:30 a.m. Report of medical waste dumped on Dorsey Road, unable to locate.

Tuesday, 8/4

2:27 p.m. Assisted with motor vehicle collision on Route 2.

6 p.m. Advised of elderly woman flagging down traffic on Route 2. Officer spoke with the party. She stated she needed a ride to Springfield.

Thursday, 8/6

6:05 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for operating after suspension.

Saturday, 8/8

2:05 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on Wells Street.

Tuesday, 8/11

9:23 a.m. Report of suspicious person on French King Bridge. Found to be taking pictures.

6:05 p.m. Report of firecrackers in area of Maple Avenue. Residents have not heard anything today.

Wednesday, 8/12

2:10 p.m. Report of large black bear in Farley Area, gone upon arrival.

5:05 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted]

[redacted] for operating with a suspended registration.

Thursday, 8/13

12:56 p.m. Mutual aid to Gill for in-progress breaking and entering. Arrested [redacted] on fugitive from justice warrant out of California.

Friday, 8/14

4:15 p.m. Carbon monoxide alarm on Pleasant Street.

Saturday, 8/15

1 p.m. Medical emergency on Northfield Road, assisted on scene.

a portion of the property.

The board – minus Johnson, who recused himself because he is the animal control officer – considered draft bylaws regarding dogs and dog licenses. The board decided that the draft bylaws need to coordinate better with zoning bylaws that reference dogs. The draft will be revised and presented at the August 24 meeting.

The board signed a letter to Claude Jeanloz, owner of the Renovator's Supply building, asking for a list of lessees in the building, including names, business names and contact information. Information previously supplied by Jeanloz included confidential information.

The letter states, "On occasion we are finding out after the fact about businesses that are operating with a town business license and the town is concerned also that if emergency personnel were ever to respond to a fire or any other type of emergency at your building, they would not be aware of any chemicals or any other kind of special materials or even who or how many people might be in the building at any give time."

The board began to review the minutes for the July 27 meeting, which lasted over 3 hours and involved numerous citizen comments, but decided to complete review and acceptance of the minutes at their next meeting (August 24) in order to allow more time for review.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard commented that writing those minutes was "the hardest ever in the history of minutes."

The board approved a change to the employee mileage reimbursement policy, with reimbursement requests now due within 60 days of incurring the expense.

The board appointed Tim Cronin, Bembury, and Davis to the cable advisory committee.



Funny-looking reindeer: Our Leverett delivery drivers, Frank and Kelly, spotted this roof goat along their route.

"How To Communicate With Your Kids" Workshops

TURNERS FALLS – Montague Catholic Social Ministries is hosting a free series of four workshops, "How to Communicate with Your Kids," at MCSM Women's Center, 41 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Come and share with other parents how you have succeeded (and found challenging at times) making yourself clear to your children. Do you understand what they need? Do they hear what you are saying?

Listening and empathy play a starring role in good communication. Conflicts large and small can often be avoided through a few simple strategies. Join us for support and connection around one of

life's most basic activities - "Communicating with Your Kids"!

The workshops will be held on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:45 a.m., on August 27, and September 3, 17, and 24.

The series will be facilitated by Katherine Golub, life coach for "Radical Self-Care Now," with assistance from Taryn Valdez, Emergency Basic Needs Coordinator at MCSM. Early Literacy based childcare is available in the Family Center during this program.

For more information or to register for this program, call Taryn at (413) 863-4804 x 1002 or email her at basicneeds@mcsmcommunity.org.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Block Party, Bus Shelter and Racial Sensitivity Round Out Board Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard's August 10 meeting began with several "public comments" that quickly morphed into full-blown conversations about race, the local police, and how to get on the selectboard agenda. The first such comment was from Avenue A store owner Rodney Madison, who complained that his request to get on the meeting agenda to discuss racial sensitivity training for town employees had been ignored.

"I feel like I've been hoodwinked again by the selectboard," he stated. "If I make a written request, don't I have the right to appear before the selectboard?"

"No you don't," responded chair Michael Nelson. "The Chairman of the selectboard can decide whether or not to have you up."

Pointing to incidents nationally where African-Americans have been killed by police, he asked, "Do we have to wait until somebody gets killed in Turners Falls?"

Nelson stated that black people were not getting killed in Turners Falls.

Madison then complained that Nelson did not see any "institutional racism" in the town.

"I did not say there was no racism in Turners Falls," Nelson responded. "I said [black] people were not being murdered in Turners Falls."

Nelson went on to say that "at this time, I am looking into training in town hall and in our police department... That's what I've chosen to do, at this time."

Turners Falls resident Aiyana Masla, who had supported Rodney Madison's request for racial sensitivity training at a previous meeting, said she was "curious about what the follow-up process should be."

Nelson responded that he was investigating the issue and that she should check upcoming agendas. "It's definitely on the radar screen," he told her.

Short Committees

John Hanold, chair of Montague's finance committee, rose with a plea for volunteers to serve on his board. The Fin Com, as it is known, is required to have between five and seven members. Due to recent resignations, it currently has only three and cannot perform its core function - evaluating and making recommendations to the local town meeting on "money articles," including the annual budget.

Hanold stated that current members have been "calling around" to recruit volunteers, but that he wanted to "expand that appeal" by appearing on television before the selectboard. He said the committee was looking for members "from a variety of backgrounds," particularly geographical, and said that current committee members are "delightful to work with."

Those interested should contact the town meeting moderator Ray Godin or town accountant Carolyn Olsen. The committee serves by appointment.

Next the board considered the

long-delayed reappointments of Mark Fairbrother and Kathleen Lynch to the cable advisory committee. Fairbrother said he had resigned "a month ago," and the Lynch reappointment failed to receive sufficient votes. (See article, page A1.)

Help On The Way

Bob Trombley, director of the Water Pollution Control Facility, came before the board to discuss "summer help": "Well, the summer help we had decided to go to college early, so we lost our summer help," he said.

"Well good for him," responded Nelson.

Trombley said that he had received two applications, one of which would be coming in the following day for a math test. He also stated that the successful applicant might then be hired as "the long-term seasonal person that we've talked about."

Trombley asked that the board approve the appointment even though it had not been finalized, and the board did so.

STAC Stacks Up

Next on the agenda was Allen Fowler of the Turners Falls Civic Commission, to announce the commission's recommendation for the new organization chosen to lease and administer the Shea Theater.

The board approved moving forward to negotiate a contract with the Shea Theater Arts Center. (See article, page A1.)

Dancing In The Streets

Jocelyn Silverlight, a "very new resident" who has volunteered to organize a block party on Fourth Street, was next on the agenda. She requested a permit to hold the event on August 22 from 2 to 9 p.m., closing the street to traffic between Avenue A and Avenue L.

Silverlight said the the Brick House, a Turners Falls social service agency, had agreed to be the official sponsor and the insurer for the event, and presented the board with a certificate of insurance.

Silverlight stated that there would be one stage for bands who would perform "roughly every hour." Although she had talked to potential food vendors, she said they had not received permits from the board of health as of the meeting.

"It's a big undertaking in a short period of time," noted selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz.

Nelson, who organizes the highly attended Franklin County Pumpkinfest event in downtown Turners, said he had been working with Silverlight for several weeks. He declined to use the term "mentoring."

The board voted to approve the application, but extended the time frame to allow for set-up and clean-up. The board also voted to approve an alternate date of September 19 in case more time is needed to organize the event, or in case of rain.

Gas Statement

Next at the front table was town planner Walter Ramsey, with a large number of issues to bring before the board.

The board reviewed the com-

CABLE from page A1

Center resident and Easthampton Media director Kathy Lynch, after a long discussion of Lynch's potential conflicts of interest and perceived antagonism toward the board she would be advising.

Lynch said she has publicly declared a conflict of interest, as her spouse, Dean Garvin, works as station manager for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI), the town's current public access provider. Nevertheless, she has sought to participate on the CAC as a member, arguing that the town needs her expertise to negotiate a contract with Comcast.

"I continually find Kathy to be a great net positive benefit to the committee," said CAC chair Jason Burbank. "It would be my preference that she is appointed, but she also takes a very useful part in this committee as a towns person."

Many others present also said they agreed Lynch is particularly well qualified, and that they hoped she would stay involved in the process even if she were not granted CAC membership status.

"If I were sitting in Kathy's seat, it would not be possible for me to not be involved in some way or another with the decision-making [at the station]," said Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, a former CAC chair himself. "As an overseer, you're obviously going to have a conflict."

He added that, in Montague, the CAC has historically been "proactive" in its dealings with the public-access provider: "We mediated some personnel issues," he said. "All sorts of things went on that were well above the financials."

Sawyer-Laucanno and several other veterans of the effort to restore the town's contract to MCCI during the period from 2002 to 2005, when Montague was served by Greenfield Community Television, have been outspoken critics of the nonprofit's performance more recently.

Last year, as the organization's ten-year contract approached its renewal deadline, that criticism was eclipsed by criticism of the CAC's lapsed oversight role, and then of its internal administration. Fairbrother, then a member of the selectboard, sent an email either suggesting or demanding that the CAC's co-chairs resign, sparking an acrimoni-

ous chain of events that led to the resignation of every former member but Burbank.

McNamara and Fairbrother joined the committee, and Lynch began asking to join, making her case in several different forums over a period of months. The selectboard reduced the CAC's official size from seven to five, and was slow to respond to Lynch's requests.

In April, over Fairbrother's objections, his colleagues on the selectboard voted to appoint Lynch to the committee through the end of June.

And in May, town meeting members, after reviewing MCCI's stated plans to improve its operations, particularly around outreach and increasing its local video production, endorsed giving the group a three-year, rather than ten-year, contract.

Renegotiation of the Comcast contract is ongoing. At present, no agendas or minutes of the CAC are available on the town website, but video of all of its meetings are hosted on *Vimeo.com* and accessible for viewing through the MCCI-owned *montaguetele.org*.

At last Monday's selectboard meeting, Lynch said, "All of this interpersonal nonsense is really wearing," and that she was "almost willing to be bullied off of this committee," but was worried because two of the CAC's previous three meetings lacked a quorum.

Lynch said she had consulted with the state ethics commission, and at the recommendation of assistant general counsel Pauline Nguyen, made disclosures of her conflict based on Garvin's position at MCCI, as well as "a potential appearance of a conflict" in the Comcast negotiations. She said she would refrain from influencing sections of the contract that could directly affect Garvin.

But several residents made the case that the magnitude of her stake in MCCI's revenues, generated by the Comcast contract, should be cause to prevent her from having a formal role in the process.

State conflict of interest law "prohibits her involvement, and it's a broad definition of involvement," argued Jeff Singleton. When the town granted Lynch an exemption in previously appointing her to the committee, Single-

ton said, they did not review the degree of her financial interest, a step it should have taken.

He said that the town had granted these exemptions five times in the last fifteen years, "almost all for very small amounts of money, if anything at all."

"I think that it is more than just an apparent conflict of interest," argued David Detmold. "Kathy has taken a very plain advocacy position toward the station.... If you reappoint her, you're reappointing an advocate for her husband's administration."

Detmold praised the station's staff, and noted that he has taken to making television shows.

McNamara went the furthest, saying he felt Lynch's criticism of the selectboard's ongoing handling of the situation should be grounds for her exclusion.

"I would urge everyone to go on Vimeo and watch Kathy's TV show, where she basically vilified the selectboard," he said. "And then she spoke also with the editor of the local paper."

"So, two different shows where she was able to lay out what I consider her agenda, her feelings about the CAC and the selectboard. Now, what I call that is 'retaliatory TV'. It's one of the lowest forms of television."

McNamara compared this to a previous experience he had in the city of Fitchburg, in which city councilors used the medium of television to voice criticisms of a standing mayor. "To me, when someone is retaliatory like that, that sounds to me like they have a personal agenda," he continued. "I feel as though that's an example of how she might be biased towards the station."

In the end, the board made a motion to appoint Lynch to the CAC, then voted it down, 0-3. "With great regret," added selectboard chair Mike Nelson, after casting his vote.

"I would rather have a committee that has less controversy around the decision-making process," said Kuklewicz.

Three days later, at its August 13 meeting, Lynch attended the CAC as a private citizen, contributing to discussions about the Comcast contract.



ments prepared by Ramsey to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the natural gas pipeline proposed to run through Montague. These comments and questions raise specific concerns about the environmental impacts of the proposed pipeline, including the impact on the drinking water managed by the Turners Falls Water District.

They also call on the federal agency to "respect" state environmental regulations, including Article 97 of the state constitution, which would potentially require a 2/3 vote of the state legislature for construction on any state lands held for conservation purposes.

The pipeline is planned to traverse a number of such holdings, including the Montague Plains.

The board voted to endorse the statement, which is being sent to both the federal agency and the state Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Ramsey put on hold a request to allocate \$7,500 for legal costs and technical expertise on the pipeline provided by the Franklin Regional

Council of Governments.

There was also some discussion of the need for a joint advisory committee on the issue that would include representatives from committees like the selectboard, conservation commission, and the energy committee. Rich Kuklewicz expressed concern that such a committee would require staff support.

Gimme Shelter

Ramsey also brought a proposal from the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) to create a bus shelter on the west side of Third Street, in front of the municipal parking lot. He was accompanied by Michael Perrault of the FRTA staff, who came armed with a number of conceptual photographs of the proposal.

The proposed bus stop/shelter would require the removal of one parking space, but would be further from the Avenue A intersection and thus be safer than the current stop. Ramsey said the proposal would require the removal of some shrubbery, but hopefully no trees.

The selectboard approved the

proposal.

Next Ramsey proposed, and the selectboard voted to authorize a contract with GEG Construction of Springfield for the Millers Falls Road Soil Stabilization and Storm Water Management Project.

This contract totaled \$289,475.25, three-quarters of which, according to Ramsey, is funded by a federal emergency management grant.

Other Stuff

The board approved a statement of support for a state grant to help fund a parking garage in downtown Greenfield.

A request from a group called AJC Global Jewish Advocacy, to support a statement on antisemitism, was put on hold pending more information.

The board discussed policies concerning communication with town counsel, concluding that this is limited to the board and town administrator.

Finally, it went into executive session to discuss real estate, and an employee's request for a leave of absence due to a health condition.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Broadband Celebration Planned

By ANN TWEEDY

The Leverett selectboard's August 11 meeting opened with a private executive session attended by Leverett Elementary School principal Margot Lacey and several others, including an attorney.

Selectboard members present were Julie Shively and Peter d'Errico. Tom Hankinson was not in attendance.

The open portion of the meeting commenced with a visit by Leverett lawyer Gary Gruber, representing Merrill and Carol LaClaire of Derby, VT in the sale of their property on Jackson Hill Road to a couple from Montague Center.

Gruber asked that the board grant the right of first refusal, and waive the 120-day period as the land in question is taxed as Chapter 61B recreational land.

Gruber, who brought an enlarged map of the land in question, explained that none of the property abuts conservation land, but that he did get a call from the secretary of the conservation commission. That commission had met on the previous night, but didn't reach a quorum to decide whether the 61B sale needed further review.

Gruber asked that the town waive the requirement of 120 days' notice, as it would most likely not have the money to buy the property. Shively and d'Errico voted in approval, and the decision carried.

Gruber noted, as he departed, that Leverett can add to the tax base with this decision.

Emergency Vehicles

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis brought to the board's attention a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) asking if the town would be willing to train town emergency personnel at the fire department to drive FRCOG-owned vehicles in the event of a declared emergency, in order to assist residents in evacuation.

D'Errico asked if the town could decline the offer, and McGinnis said that it could withdraw with 90 days' notice. She also explained there was no cost involved. However, if the town signs up for the program, it would be automatically renewed until 6 years passes, when a re-evaluation would take place. In the event that the town uses the service, the town would need to reimburse FRCOG.

When questioned about the type of vehicles the MOA listed, d'Errico said it was a long list of makes and models with handicap accessibility.

Shively and d'Errico voted in favor of approving the training for the town's emergency personnel.

Affordable and Safe

Julie Shively announced the closing on the first affordable housing sale in Leverett. She could not provide the names of the parties involved or location of the property. She noted this was the culmination of over 40 years of work from various members on the Affordable Housing Committee.

The idea of placing a mobile collection unit for medical sharps (such as syringes and needles) at the transfer station was debated.

Shively expressed concern over young volunteers at the transfer station handling sharps. She also said she felt that it was unnecessary, because sharps disposal is already provided at the town safety complex.

Celebration and Improvement

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said that planning for a Broadband Celebration is under way, and an event should take place on a Friday in late September or early October with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The location is likely to be the field between the elementary school and library. Local and state dignitaries have been invited, and the Village Coop is working on a proposal to cater the event.

The celebratory event was discussed as a possible way to dovetail the town's application for grants through the Community Compact under the new Baker-Polito Administration.

This offers communities a chance to apply for help in upgrading areas in need of improvement in town based on a list of eligible Best Practice areas, including housing and economic development, financial management and information technology. McGinnis explained that the administration is providing cabinet-level assistance for the implementation of upgrades in whatever three areas in need of improvement are chosen.

Shively expressed that whatever three areas were chosen, the goals need to be achievable.

D'Errico said he felt cyber-security and information technology would be a good area to apply for, in regards for a firewall for the server.

"This should be put at the top of the list, because we have momentum," he argued. "We can have something in line in terms of the application, so we can show it to the bigwigs from the state when they come to the broadband celebration."

Other Business

A decision was made to draft a list of potential residents for the hiring committee to evaluate applications for the new salaried position of town treasurer.

The highway department made a request for funds to improve Montague Road, from the intersection of Rattlesnake Gutter Road heading south for 550 feet.

The balance remaining in the account is about \$128,000, and they requested \$110,000 to improve the road and provide shoulders backed with gravel. The request was approved, leaving \$18,000 available in remaining Chapter 90 funds.

The same monetary amount showed up in the next item: Off-duty police details in town had not been reimbursed by the town for around \$18,000 of work.

"That is a hefty amount," said Shively.

"Who are the police vendors?" asked d'Errico. "Does [police chief] Gary [Billings] know?"

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Dormant Gill Recreation Committee May Be Revived

By TIA FATTARUSO

Last Monday's Gill selectboard meeting began with resident Nick Stevens' inquiry into reviving Gill Rec. With youth soccer signups approaching, he was curious about what needed to happen to re-create a recreation committee.

Stevens said there are at least two other people interested in helping, and the board told him that was a good start, though five members would better show the level of commitment they would like to see.

"I don't think any of us would be sorry to see the rec department get started back up," said board chair Randy Crochier.

The board advocated for drawing membership from across the age spectrum, to try to avoid another lapse in committee participation.

Plow Sought

Highway department superintendent Mitchell LaClaire is getting ready for winter.

"We need to buy a plow," said LaClaire, who also emphasized he is "all for" fixing things when it makes sense.

The plow recently acquired by the department in a trade along with the "bumblebee" truck, is not in great shape, described as having "weld upon weld upon weld," and barely worth fixing at a cost of more than half that of a new plow. LaClaire found new plows fell consistently in the \$10,000 range, and made his recommendation.

The board was in support of the purchase, and awaits a few more quotes before making a decision.

Building Work

Installation of air-source heat pumps begins next week at the Riverside building.

Town administrator Ray Purington reported that he has the updated agreement for LED streetlights, in which the new company, Eversource, is now named, as well as the inter-municipal agreement between Gill and Amherst for their installation.

Work is slated to start on the safety complex roof August 31, and due to be completed by September 22. This news reminded selectboard member John Ward that due to similar renovations at Riv-

erside, no heat tape should be used this winter at either building.

Construction had just begun earlier in the day on the first floor office, with Roger Augustine's helper framing out the walls. It should be three weeks or so in the completing.

After moving the office out for the work, Purington was inspired to seek a Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association loss control grant funding for an appliance dolly.

"I'm guessing they'll look at it as: \$500 is one percent of a back injury," said Crochier, as he and Ward, absent chair Greg Sneider, approved the application.

Emergency Planning

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has offered Gill \$8,500 in final funding for the Vermont Yankee Emergency Management Grant.

Purington recommended a motion to accept the grant, over conversation that it would likely be insufficient funding for potential future costs incurred by the plant's operations.

"Privatize the profits, and socialize the risk," commented Ward. "I'll vote to authorize the last dribbles..."

The county's Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) has proposed a Memorandum of Agreement between Gill and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority. The REPC hopes towns will consider and sign the memo by September 4, Purington said.

Purington recommended consulting with fire chief Gene Beaubien, and Crochier would like to find out if the September 4 date is firm.

The FRTA shuttled people from Gill to emergency shelter during one of last winter's storms.

The board approved a food concession license for Ken's Roadside Diner - formerly Skip's - at 24 French King Highway. All the necessary departments' approvals were in order.

The next energy commission workshop, Backyard Composting and Worm Farms, will be led by Vicky Jenkins on Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit the town website.

of the broadband project, and the deficit was caused by procedural errors regarding allocating funds through the town accountant to the police detail account.

The off-duty police detail funds are not managed through the broadband budget.

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TRAIL from page A1

mountain. (One rumor is that the trail is underused and underpublicized because a landowner doesn't want people trekking through the part that passes through his woodlot.)

But the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail – a tiny part of it – is in fact the main trail up Mount Sugarloaf: the one that's supposed to take 40 minutes to hike up.

Theo and I weren't eager for anything so rigorous. We walked the paved road up that Wednesday evening in July, and planned to hike the trail on our way back down.

We had our picnic, took in the view from the observation tower, played a few rounds of hide-and-seek. At 6:30, we headed for the trail. Even considering the requisite pauses to consider all fungi (a special interest of Theo's), I was confident that a typically 20-minute hike would take us under an hour, easy. We found the sign saying "TRAIL," and were on our way.

And we were *really* on our way, though I didn't know it at the time.

I haven't done a lot of hiking, but the blue painted blazes on the trees reassured me that we were going the right direction. At one point the trail split: to the left, a wide and friendly trail, but unmarked; to the right, a narrower trail, but with the blue blazes.

I thought to myself: Well, I may not be the most experienced hiker, but I certainly know not to go down an unmarked trail. So to the right we went.

When I peered at the tiny print on an official-looking diamond-shaped plastic marker with the image of a competent-looking hiker in the center, I read the words "Pocumtuck Ridge Trail."

Pocumtuck: Margaret Bruchac's "Revisiting Pocumtuck History in Deerfield," in the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* (Summer 2011), reports that the word is from an Algonquian term that indicates a place beside a "narrow, swift river," or a "short, shallow, sandy river" – both accurate descriptors for the heterogeneous Deerfield River.

The Pocumtuck people had cultivated the rich, alluvial flatlands on both sides of that river long before Europeans arrived. They were estimated to number 1,200 people in 1600, a time when they still inhabited what is now western Massachusetts and the parts of Connecticut and Vermont that touch it.

After King Philip's War (1675-6), in which the Pocumtuck joined the Wampanoags and later the Narragansetts in a conflict with the European colonists, large numbers of the Pocumtuck fled to what is now Schaghticoke, New York, near Albany.

A large group returned to the village of Deerfield about 15 years later, settling uneasily just south of the town. The colonists identified them as a threat, and forced them out in a few short years – in part by the bounties that the General Court of Massachusetts issued in 1694, for scalps of any Indian, "great or small," who strayed outside of lim-

ited boundaries.

What we now call the Pocumtuck Ridge is part of the much longer Metacomet Ridge. That ridge reaches from the Long Island Sound in Connecticut almost to the northern border of Franklin County, but is to the untrained eye featureless for the nine miles that separate Mount Tom and the Holyoke Range (also part of the Metacomet Ridge) from Sugarloaf's sudden rise over the plains of Sunderland and Deerfield.

**We came to a vista and
there was the town of
South Deerfield far below
us. We were further than
ever from the car.**

None of this was in my mind when, after hiking more than an hour on our 20-minute trail, we'd gone down steep terrain and up and down again, and then back up. We came to a vista and there was the town of South Deerfield far below us. We were further than ever from the car. I called my husband.

Chris was able to use a "Find My Phone" app to get our approximate location, and he had bad news for me: We'd hiked up onto North Sugarloaf. It was 7:30 and I knew we weren't going to be able to retrace our steps in daylight. A lot of our hike had been on the east side of the mountain, which was already dusky. "You have to turn around."

"We can't."

I answered his next question before he'd finished asking it: Yes, call 911.

The 911 dispatcher of course told him to have *me* call 911, and when I did, dispatcher Amanda Harker of the Shelburne State Police Barracks quickly put us at ease: help was on its way.

I gave her all the information I could about our location – about the view of South Deerfield, about how glimmers of the river were visible on our left now. I gave her the coordinates that my phone's compass was giving me, and the name of my cell phone carrier. She told us to stay put, to sit down. And that's when it got hard.

The light was fading fast, and the mosquitoes had discovered our bare arms and legs. Theo, unfazed till now, was frightened.

I don't know how quickly Deerfield Police Chief Paciorek and his officers arrived at the mountain, or when South Deerfield Fire Chief Swasey and his department, including EMT's, came on the scene. They were all there by the time Chris arrived to wait for us at the base of Mount Sugarloaf.

Joining them were officers from Whately, Sunderland, the Shelburne State Police Barracks, the Massachusetts State Environmental Police, and the University of Massachusetts Police. The miracles of cell phones notwithstanding, they were unable to get our exact location, and called in

the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, which flew in from Westover. The pilot caught my cell phone flashlight in the beam of the searchlight and, at about 8:30 at night, we were no longer – technically – lost.

By 9 p.m., Montague Officer James Ruddock and his K-9 Artie had traversed a much steeper trail than the one we'd taken to find us. He led us back down that way, and an hour later, we were at the parking area near the top of Mount Sugarloaf. And a few minutes after 10 p.m. we were at the base of the mountain, full of gratitude and a deep desire to go home.

My little taste of the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail has left me intrigued; I'd like to do a longer and better planned hike sometime this fall.

Thanks to people at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), including my friends Paul Grzybowski and Janel Nockleby, the trail leading to the parking at the base of Mount Sugarloaf is now clearly marked.

If I set out earlier in the day there's a good chance I'll see some of the hikers who know the trail far better than I do (and bikers—though I suspect they're not biking the part between the two Sugarloafs).

I probably won't confess to being the woman rescued with her child back in July.



Pocumtuck.org is a good source for people interested in trying the trail.

FERC from page A1

siting and licensing of hydroelectric projects, and even more broadly, "monitor[ing] and investigat[ing] energy markets."

This rather long and seemingly dry laundry list means that FERC's decisions can have a pretty big impact on places like Montague and Erving. For example, not only will the agency decide whether a pipeline will slice through the town, but it could play a role in whether the Strathmore building, an old paper mill on the Connecticut River, can be developed.

Why? Because the power company FirstLight owns the power canal, and thus the bridge across it to the Strathmore. The bridge needs a major fix, which the company has been hesitant to finance. But FirstLight's license to operate the nearby pumped-storage facility (Northfield Mountain) that produces electricity is up for renewal before... FERC.

So the company's administration of the power canal and its bridge is part of the FERC re-licensing process. Or at least Montague hopes so.

The Gas Act: A Little History

FERC was created in 1977 to replace the Federal Power Commission (FPC). The FPC, in turn, was originally organized in 1920 to license hydroelectric projects on land or navigable water owned by the federal government.

That agency's authority was expanded in 1935 to include interstate transmission of electricity, and the Natural Gas Act of 1938 gave the federal commission authority over interstate natural gas pipelines.

The gas industry itself dates back to before the Civil War, although the use of the product for both ceremonial and practical purposes can be traced to ancient civilizations.

During the so-called "gaslight era" of the late nineteenth century, gas was primarily produced from coal in local plants. Cities considered gas companies "natural monopolies," and attempted to regulate the rates they charged customers.

In the early twentieth century, natural gas distribution was extended beyond municipal boundaries, and state regulation became the norm. The 1938 natural gas law reflected the emergence of a national gas market and inter-

state commerce, regulated by the federal government, in the product.

The law was driven, in part, by concern over the monopolistic tendencies of the natural gas industry and the belief that this led to excessively high prices to consumers. By the 1950s the federal agency, like its local and state counterparts earlier in the century, sought to impose what the law called "just and reasonable rates" for pipeline services. At first it set prices on a case-by-case basis based on a company's costs. This led to a high volume of applications for rate increases, which strained the capacity of the agency. So federal officials moved to regional, and then national, price controls.

The Invisible Hand's Rubber Glove

But regulated prices seemed to create significant shortages in the supply of natural gas. Furthermore, belief in "deregulation" and the virtues of the free market was increasingly popular among business interests, as well as both conservative and liberal policymakers.

So the history of FERC, which replaced the FPC in 1978, has been marked by experiments to encourage "market forces" to regulate the natural gas industry. For example, in 1985 FERC issued an order separating the pipeline companies from the distributors of natural gas, and requiring pipelines to accept all negotiated contracts.

In 1989, Congress ended federal price controls at the wellhead.

The somewhat tortured twists and turns of federal natural gas policy did not attract much national attention. FERC remained a rather obscure organization whose activities were too technical to receive much national press.

One notable exception came during the California energy crisis of 2000-2001, when widespread shortages and "rolling blackouts" were blamed, in part, on the failure of FERC to "do its job." (They were also blamed on the Texas energy company Enron, which supplied California with a good deal of its power.) Still, the California energy crisis and its causes were so complex that even the civic-minded public wanted to forget about FERC as soon as the blackouts ended. Those who fancy themselves amateur policy wonks find that FERC makes them feel inadequate.

The Shale Boom

This all changed with the great expansion in the production and use of natural gas soon after the turn of the 21st century. Today's natural gas boom has been driven by improvements in the controversial technique known as "hydrofracking," a process by which shale is cracked with pressurized water and chemicals, to rend fuel from its fissures. The relatively high price of conventionally extracted gas has made the production and sale of "fracked" gas competitive.

Furthermore, burning natural gas emits less CO₂ than coal, making it an attractive replacement for the coal plants that power the regional electric grids. Natural gas was thus seen as a "bridge fuel" that helped states like Massachusetts meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets.

But greater dependence on natural gas, both for domestic use and potential export – critics often claim the latter really drives policy – has meant many more pipelines, and many more decisions brought before the FERC.

Environmentalists not only passionately oppose fracking, but have spent nearly a decade opposing a pipeline to bring oil to the U.S. from northern Canada (the so-called Keystone Pipeline). Mention the word "pipeline" these days and your local stakeholder meeting can attract a pretty big crowd.

A Rubber Stamp Machine?

So FERC is no longer in the shadows. Their meetings have been disrupted by demonstrators opposing new infrastructure, particularly anything proposed to export natural gas.

As part of a "Stop the FERCus" campaign, a national anti-pipeline coalition blockaded FERC's Washington headquarters last spring. A FERC hearing on the proposed Kinder-Morgan pipeline through Franklin County attracted several hundred opponents of that project.

There is even a group called the FERCettes, that has posted a video to Youtube of themselves spoofing the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine" ("We know FERC is a rubber stamp machine") on the steps of the FERC headquarters in Washington.

The agency has also encountered increased scrutiny from the conservative wing of the po-

litical spectrum. President Obama was forced to withdraw the FERC nomination of Ron Binz in 2013 when the career lawyer and energy regulator was attacked for his alleged anti-coal, and anti-pipeline, biases.

Binz was blasted for the support he received from environmental groups. Commission and current chair Norman Bay also encountered a good deal of partisan opposition when he was nominated by Obama in 2014.

So FERC is no longer a sleepy, obscure federal board shielded from public view by the highly technical nature of its mission. "We have a situation here," commissioner and then-chair Cheryl LaFleur told the National Press Club last January, referring to burgeoning anti-FERC protests.

But is it fair to say that FERC is in fact a "rubber stamp machine," or "never saw a pipeline it didn't like"?

The answer to this question will be of some interest to those concerned about the pipeline proposal now before the federal board.



In part II, next issue: How the Pipeline Decision Will Be Made.

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COURTESY JEANNE THURBER

June Thurber of Turners Falls took her twin sister, Jane Wolf, who was visiting from Oregon, and an issue of the Reporter to West Baldwin, Maine, to share with their brother, Pastor Bo Jackson Landsberg.

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YEAR 13 – NO. 41

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

AUGUST 20, 2015

Film is His Tool for Social Justice: Jesse Barrett-Mills and The New Hibakusha

By LEE WICKS

LEVERETT – Jesse Barrett-Mills' film, *The New Hibakusha*, premiered on August 8, at the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett. Hibakusha is a Japanese word that refers to those who survived the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The New Hibakusha are the people who survived and have been traumatized by the meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March, 2011.

Fukushima is considered the second-worst nuclear power plant accident in history. (Chernobyl is first.) Thousands of acres of land have been contaminated, more than one hundred thousand people displaced, and the long-term health consequences for those who were exposed to high levels of radiation are not yet known, though one-third of the affected children have abnormal growths on their thyroid glands.

It was not a coincidence that the day of the film premier also marked the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. News feeds and radio

broadcasts transmitted President Harry Truman's voice through time. In 1945 he announced the bombing with pride and optimism. Now Japan would surrender, and the terrible war would be over, he said.

Robert Oppenheimer, considered the "father of the bomb," saw what had been unleashed upon the world. He said the power brought to mind words from the *Bhagavad Gita*: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

Nuclear power, whether used as a weapon or as a source of energy, has fulfilled Oppenheimer's dire prophesy, according to anti-nuclear power activists throughout the world, including Barrett-Mills and the Nipponzan-Myōhōji monks of the New England Peace Pagoda, who marched this spring to promote peace and protest both nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Early in Barrett-Mills' film we see a picture of the Enola Gay, the plane that transported the first atomic bomb, and its crew. He follows with an image of the infamous

see **HIBAKUSHA** page B5

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Earlier this year, Turners Falls sculptor Tim de Christopher received an exciting invitation to attend the 2015 Pilsen Sculpture Symposium, held in Vilseck, Germany in July. To be selected, applicants go through a jurying process in which their portfolio, referrals and recommendations are considered. Artists are then invited to work at the symposium for several weeks. In exchange, the art work created at the symposium is gifted to the host organization or town.

De Christopher described the opportunity thus:

It is the nature of symposia that one learns from the others who work by your side and the exercise is made easier by the enthusiastic energy of fellow artists and the tumult of work. Strong bonds and friendships are made during these times, an intended outcome of the international exchange. I look forward to it eagerly.

The sculpture symposium was a grant-funded event that came about because the nearby Czech city of Pilsen was nominated as the "Cultural City" of the European Union for 2015. The symposium was pitched as a cross cultural collaboration between Czechs and Germans – with one American thrown in, perhaps in recognition of the large US military base in Vilseck.

De Christopher has made his living as a stone sculptor since moving to western Massachusetts in 1992. He has been practicing his art for 37 years, including a stint carving stone at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. After moving to Turners Falls in the ear-

ly 2000s he became known about town as "the stone guy" and maintained his studio in several locations downtown where it was hard to miss, since the massive limestone blocks were usually stacked nearby. Locals became used to seeing the artist driving here and there with a large stone head, fish, ark, or bread loaf strapped to his forklift.

There can be at times great monetary rewards for work executed in stone. These tend to be sporadic events; the life of an artist is usually one that cycles between feast and famine. Such is the case with the de Christopher wallet: this symposium was simply out of budget.

Tim decided to try waging an online crowd funding campaign using the popular Kickstarter website. He set a goal that would cover his traveling expenses to Germany and two-week stay in Vilseck.

One of the conditions of a Kick-

starter campaign is that if you don't meet your stated monetary goal, you will not collect any of the pledged money. However, friends and family quickly stepped up when Tim launched his campaign in April, and within 6 days he met his initial goal. The fund went on to gather more pledges for several weeks, and at the end of the campaign he exceeded his goal by 189 percent!

The six finalists in the symposium were to each make an outdoor piece that would form part of a sculpture walk along the newly restored river Vils. Tim commented that "the neat thing with this symposium is that part of the rationale for why the town should do this is 'to improve the quality of life.' I don't think I have ever heard that line used in the U.S. relative to an art event, 'to improve the quality of life for the citizens.'"

see **GERMANY** page B6

see **GERMANY** page B6



Tim de Christopher carves the head of his "Jurassic Fish" by the side of the River Vils in Vilseck, Germany.



Barret-Mills answered questions after the film, and the monks talked about their peace walk after Sister Claire offered everyone iced tea.

TEN YEARS AGO: AUGUST 25, 2005

In honor of the imminent ground-breaking of a permanent, concrete skatepark at Unity Park, we bring you this piece from the Montague Reporter's archive. – Eds.

Rusting Skate Park

By PHILIPPE DEGUISE

TURNERS FALLS – As the hot mid-day sun bakes the asphalt surface, obstinate weeds emerge to claim back land that was once theirs. The wood ramps, colored blue to reflect the sky above, lie idle, paint flaking as they slide into oblivion.

A locked gate and a gray metallic fence tries and sometimes fails to keep intruders from disturbing the decay and abandonment that is the skate park on Second Street in Turners Falls. A place once alive with the whoosh of wheels, the release of pent up youthful energy and a competitive edge, the slow but steady decay of the park speaks of a prevailing ambivalence and an uncertain future.

A scant seven years ago, the skate park was built with the help of proud teen volunteers, financed by local donations and in-kind contributions from numerous local businesses. Young skateboarders had gone before the selectboard to gain approval for the project. Less than five years later, in an advancing state of disrepair, the skate park closed its doors.

Since then it has been idle, except for the occasional daredevils who climb the chain link fence illegally. While a crew from the Department of Public Works did swoop in a month and a half ago to remove a lightning struck poplar with deliberate speed, they did nothing to mend the rotting ramps, slashed benches or cracked surfaces.

The skate park is located on land behind the former Chick's Garage on Third Street, purchased last year by sculptor and local

businessman Tim de Christopher. "I didn't want to buy Chick's Garage, but I wanted the land. Francis Ahearn wouldn't sell the land separately," said de Christopher, who leases the 110 foot x 210 foot park to the town via the skate park fund.

The town has three years remaining on the skate park's original ten-year lease. "They may decide to get out sooner, but I can't tell," said de Christopher. "I'm just waiting." He said he has tried to be a good neighbor and does not intend on terminating the lease early, at this point.

"I'm sort of a steward of the neighborhood," he said, referring to his ownership of the Williams Garage across the street as well as the house next door to the park on

see **SKATE** pg B5



PHOTO: PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Ramp to Nowhere



By LESLIE BROWN

MAINE – We leave the long, sandy beaches of Wells for the mountains and the rocky coast, but not before admiring the high tides of the full golden moon. As we strolled the beachfront after nine our first night, the sky was a dark blue with a scarf of black clouds. The scarf slipped away and a golden light began to show.

As we watched in awe, the light rounded to the most spectacular golden orb we'd ever seen. Although touted to be an unusual blue moon, it did not disappoint as it rose gloriously in the sky.

For six days we walked the sands, wet and dry, at high and at low tides, ate with the appetite brought on by the sea air and slept like babies. We stayed off the clogged traffic on Route One except for three forays out for a restaurant meal of fresh fish.

Snug in our tiny efficiency off the beach, we read and ate salad bar and hot roast turkey from the supermarket and walked up the street for

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION Ocean Therapy

morning coffee.

We've emptied our minds of lists of garden and household chores and other day to day sundries and are open to the therapy of the Oceanside.

Both high and low tides delight. The fresh air and the consistent rhythm of the waves soothe and lend the mind and soul a philosophic bent.

Now we have traded a full sized house for our little snug, but it too borders the harbor, and we can leave the car in the yard and walk to everything in town: restaurants and fish market, book stores and the refurbished local theater.

The pace is different here at the rocky coast. In the working harbor, much depends as well on the movement of the tides, but for us, the presence of the ocean is a background to the sailing ships and our daily companion.

Life is hectic at the sandy coast. Beleaguered parents towing young offspring arrive at the beach early, burdened with much: chairs, umbrellas, coolers, life preservers, boogie boards, towels and blankets. They haul small wagons or shopping carts so as to manage snacks, change of clothes, toddlers and sand toys. All come to

claim a space far above the tide.

Then they settle in. It's a wonderful place for small children who are content with tidal pools and digging in the sand for a long day before the tide rises high on the beach and it's time to reverse the journey and tuck those tired and pink skinned youngsters in for a long nap.

Here our days are not measured by the tides, although we do note whether they are in or out. We walk into town for a meal, take a hike for the extraordinary view of the area, drive up coast to the local winery and sample the wares.

One day we take the ferry to Vinalhaven and are lucky enough to spot both seals and porpoise. We begin and end each day in our Adirondack chairs watching the sunrise or sunset and the small sailboats and the large ships.

I also enjoy reading the local news and this year learn two new things about the therapy of ocean waters.

For the first, an interview with a fifth generation lobsterman, a young man of twenty two, tells us that although the catch was slow this spring, likely because of

see **GARDENER** pg B3

Pet of the Week



“BLAZE”

Hi I'm Blaze! I was originally a stray, and even though the kind person who picked me up tried, no one came to claim me. I am described

as loving, and a 'big mush pie'. I really love all people, I don't mind being picked up and cuddled, and I just want to be petted everywhere. I also really like cats, I would sleep and groom and play with my previous feline companions. If you're looking for a big mush to blaze his way in to your heart and home, come visit me today!

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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

“Val’s Valley View” Launch a Great Success!

By PAM KINSMITH

The MCTV studios were abuzz on Friday, August 14, with a great crowd for the premiere of Val's Valley View.

Cramming nearly fifty people into the tiny studio offices, two showings of the first episode were needed for all in attendance to get a gander of local Valerie Magoon's new show.

MCTV has been airing promotional 'First Look' segments for the last month, piquing the interest of viewers about the first episode and what is to come on the program.

"Fun, fun, fun guys, way to go!!!



Videographer Owen Weaver and program host Val Magoon.

Can't wait to see more, love the show and seeing everyone interact with Val, keep it up!!" exclaimed the attendees.

Episode One featured the 10th

Annual Family Fish Day at the Turners Falls Discovery Center, with future episodes highlighting the Mutton and Mead Festival and the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. The first episode begins airing at MCTV Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. and is available for live streaming on our website, montaguetv.org, now.

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

Deadline Looms for Loot's Landscapes!

LOOT would like to remind everyone who picked up a landscape painting for the "Rescued Art for Rescued Dogs" fundraiser to return their completed painting to LOOT by the end of the month!

So far about half of the garage sale landscape paintings have come

back to the shop, completely transformed by generous artists with the addition of various creatures of all kinds to the scenic view.

There will be a silent auction event on Saturday, September 19 at LOOT.

All proceeds will benefit the

Franklin County Dog Shelter.

Drop your work off at LOOT, 62 Avenue A, during business hours: Wednesdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Questions? (413) 863-9500 or info@loottheshop.com.

Senior Center Activities August 24 to September 4

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.

Monday 8/24

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 8/25

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 8/26

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 Monthly Health Screenings

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/27

9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach
Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 8/28

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Contact Center to confirm events for 8/31 to 9/4

class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Daily 11:30 Congregate Lunch or Sandwich Tuesday/Friday

Monday 8/24
9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 8/25
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting Class, "Volunteers Make a Difference" RSVP

Wednesday 8/26
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 8/27
8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles

Friday 8/28
9 a.m. Quilting, 9:30 Bowling

11:30 Pizza & Movie
Contact Center for 8/31 to 9/4

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first

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.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I'm afraid that my grandson may be using cocaine. Is there any way I can tell for sure? And how dangerous is this drug?

This is a topic that is unusual for The Healthy Geezer. It's not about a senior health issue, but it does affect seniors. Many of us are grandparents who worry about the drug culture of our grandchildren. We also wonder if there's anything we can do to prevent kids from getting into a drug habit.

Well, the first step we can take is to educate ourselves. That's what this column is about.

Cocaine, the strongest natural stimulant, is an addictive drug; you can be hooked with a single use. It causes a short-lived high that is immediately followed by depression, edginess, and a craving for more of the drug.

Cocaine interferes with the way your brain creates feelings of pleasure, so you need more of the drug to feel normal.

Cocaine is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a drug that comes in the form of a white powder that is snorted. It can be converted to a liquid form for injection. Crack is cocaine processed into

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Unexplained White Powder

a crystal form for smoking. Crack, also called "rock," looks like small chunks of soap.

Cocaine, in any form, is illegal. It is the most frequently mentioned illicit substance reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network by hospital emergency departments throughout the nation.

Cocaine is lethal. It can cause strokes, heart attacks and respiratory failure. In addition, it can cause irregular heartbeat, depression, violent actions, and loss of sexual function.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the following are the signs that someone may be addicted to cocaine:

Periods of severe depression; weight loss; decline in personal hygiene or appearance; constant runny nose; frequent upper respiratory infections; changes in sleep patterns; loss of interest in friends, family, and social activities; loss of interest in food, sex, or other pleasures; hearing voices when nobody has spoken, or feeling paranoid; expressing more anger, becoming more impatient or nervous; hallucinations.

And here are some more I collected from other sources:

Frequent need for money; intense euphoria; bloodshot eyes; dilated pupils; hyper-alertness; panic; seizures from high doses; the presence of any unexplained white powder; small spoons, mirrors, razor blades and rolled paper money used for snorting; small bottles with screw-top lids and small plastic packets for storing;

increase in body temperature, respiration and pulse; grinding of teeth; obsessive touching or picking at various objects and parts of the body; obsessively making lists, repetitive dismantling of mechanical objects.

There are many slang terms for cocaine. Here are just some: big C, blanco, blow, blast, Bolivian, Charlie, coke, Colombian, girl, heaven, happy powder, Mama Coca, mojo, nose candy, Peruvian, pimp, she, sniff, snort, snow, stardust, toot, trails, white lady.

Cocaine was first used in the 19th century in surgery as an anesthetic and to reduce bleeding; it constricts blood vessels. Safer drugs came along to replace it.

According to a National Survey on Drug Use and Health, about 33.7 million Americans over the age of 12 reported trying cocaine at least once. Among students surveyed, 3.7 percent of eighth graders, 5.2 percent of tenth graders, and 8 percent of twelfth graders reported using cocaine at least once.

In 1970, Congress classified cocaine as a Schedule II substance, which means it may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence.

For referral to treatment programs in your area, call the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Helpline and Treatment line at (800) 234-0420.

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

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GARDENER from page B1

the intensely cold winter, the catch he has thrown back as too small will grow readily now in the summer-warmed water and provide for a larger catch later on, thus evening out the season's harvest. Nature taking care of itself.

We never knew that New York City was the oyster capital of the world in the 1890's.

In fact, New York Harbor was once a rich oyster habitat before it was grossly over-harvested.

Oysters and the reefs they built dominated the entire underwater landscape of the harbor, the East River, the lower Hudson River and the tributaries as far as the salt water mixed into the fresh. Oyster reefs created hiding places and nurseries for fish and other invertebrates. They were the building blocks that housed and fed a rich marine ecosystem.

The reefs also lessened the effect of the incoming storms and helped to protect the coastline. Perhaps most significantly, these sea creatures ate micro-organisms, thus filtering the waters every couple of days.

But over-harvesting and the dumping of huge amounts of com-

mercial and residential waste ended the New York oyster life. Now in our new century, the Billion Oyster Project is an initiative to get the oyster and its reefs starting again. Bolstered by the Clean Water Act, the quality of the river waters has improved. The Project includes the collection of used oyster shells from restaurants to serve as the building blocks for new reefs, and project members also grow oyster brood stock and plankton in tanks for placement in the newly developed reefs.

With some assistance from the same race of humans who created the problem, these waters may be full once again of natural ocean therapy with the help of a new oyster crop to return the favor with a food supply, storm protection and best of all, clean, fresh water.

We too return home refreshed and rejuvenated by our time spent by the great ocean. We've already reserved our spot for the next summer season and recommend the same to all fellow travelers.

Happy near end of season gardening!



Military Dogs Like Max

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

I recently saw a movie called *Max*, which featured a Belgian Malinois named Max being used by Marines in Afghanistan to find weapons and other threats. It shows Max being taken in by his handler's family after the young man is killed. We are treated to what happens next with Max and the family.

This film made me interested in learning about the use of dogs by the military – which turns out to have quite a long history to it. The film is dedicated to the service of those dogs.

During World War I, which lasted from 1914 to 1918, both Allied forces and their enemies used dogs as messengers, to go back and forth between people. I learned this fact from "A Brief History of Dogs at War," an article on *inverse.com* by Neel V. Patel. I found this to be a little surprising – I usually think of pigeons doing that job. But I guess it could work for dogs.

Another fact in Patel's article that surprised me: in 2011, "US Navy Seal Team 6 used a Belgian Malinois military dog named Cairo during its mission to kill Osama bin Laden."

All of those people who wanted to get bin Laden should give a big

thanks and show of respect to Cairo, because he was probably a big help in us getting the guy.

I also learned that people donated dogs to the Marines in World War II to help in liberating Pacific Islands occupied by Japan at that time. Most of the dogs who lived through the war went home with their handlers.

I would call that a big way to be charitable and patriotic.

The part I see as charitable is, obviously, the donating of the dogs to the Marines. The patriotic part, at least for me, is donating these dogs knowing that they will be used to do that. At the time, it was called "helping with the war effort."

Dogs possibly giving their life in service to their country, like servicemen and women do, is actually remarkable. One would think the dogs don't really have a concept of any of the things that might come with that, like courage and commitment.

But if any of the things that Max did in the movie – for example, dive into a rushing river after somebody who was about to drown, and tackle somebody with a gun – are done by dogs in real life, then they do have an idea of what courage and commitment are.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Pitching an Opossum, Removing the Rabbits, Boxing a Bat, Defecating in the Driveway and Harassing the Unhoused. That Kind of Thing.

Monday, 8/3

12:04 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street advises that she was woken up around 3:30 this morning to the sound of shopping carts; upon looking out the window, she saw 2 individuals pushing carts loaded with "stuff" toward the bike path in the direction of Cumby's. Among items they dropped was an envelope of baseball cards that her mother-in-law found this morning. Referred to an officer.

12:35 p.m. Caller from Park Street advises that she is home alone with her infant son and just witnessed a male party run out of her basement. Investigated.

3:24 p.m. Caller from L Street reports an opossum stuck in her trash can. The opossum is still alive; she just doesn't know what to do with it. Contacted animal control officer, who advised that caller can just tip over the trash can so the opossum can get out, and it should run away. These animals do not carry rabies, so that need not be a concern. Caller remained concerned about letting it go in the street but was reassured that the animal would probably be scared of people and run away.

8:10 p.m. Caller advises of 3 white males drinking at a picnic table near the river at Unity Park and harassing her and her dog while she was out walking by. Officer clear; parties moved along.

Tuesday, 8/4

8:59 a.m. Officer out with a vehicle belonging to the Orange DPW that is leaking a significant amount of engine oil. TFFD advised; Greenfield dispatch and Shelburne Control also advised, as spill may have originated as far back as Deerfield. TFFD requests Montague DPW to send a sander and sweeper to Montague City Road/General Pierce Bridge; TFFD will be applying speedy dry as well.

11:12 a.m. Report of a syringe on the side of Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

1:08 p.m. Report of a dog barking for the past hour somewhere near the L Street end of the alley between Second and Third streets. Per animal control officer, the dog in question is fine; his owners are playing with him, and the barking is playful and sporadic.

5:32 p.m. Report of outside fire on Millers Falls Road. TFFD notified and en route.

8:02 p.m. Vehicle off Turners Falls Road and into a fence; occupants uninjured; driver stated he

swerved to avoid striking a deer. Report taken.

10:16 p.m. Caller complains of a vehicle at the Unity Park basketball court with its headlights on and people playing basketball. Investigated.

Wednesday, 8/5

1:11 a.m. Report from Fourth Street that an intoxicated white male came onto the porch and broke a window. One party arrested.

6:07 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that someone left a cage full of rabbits in her son-in-law's truck overnight. Caller advised that incident was logged and to contact the station if she needs assistance removing the rabbits.

12:35 p.m. Caller from Second Street reports that a dog she called about earlier is barking again and is hanging out of the third story window, which does not have a screen. Animal control officer on scene; advises that the dog pushed the screen out of the window and that if the window were left the way it is and the dog were to fall out, it would not survive the fall. Officer response canceled; owner returned home and secured window.

2:13 p.m. Caller states that there is a bin with roosters in it in the alley across from her residence on H Street and that the roosters crow throughout the day. Per the animal control officer, the Town of Montague does not have a bylaw regarding roosters; caller has the option to request to be heard at town meeting and petition the selectboard to implement such a bylaw.

2:36 p.m. Disturbance on Fifth Street. Summons served in hand.

3:36 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports a "small branch" that is sticking out from her property over the roadway; she is concerned that a passing vehicle could hit it. Caller requests someone to come by and cut the branch off. Suggestion was made to the caller that perhaps she may have a friend or relative she could call. Officer checked area and did not observe anything that could be a hazard.

5:42 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that her apartment was broken into. Report taken.

10:40 p.m. Hit-and-run accident on Avenue A. Second vehicle identified. Report taken.

Thursday, 8/6

2:10 a.m. Caller reports loud banging on metal in rear of Black Cow Burger; possible breaking and entering. Units on scene.

Disagreement in apartment upstairs seems to have sent an angry male outside to damage trash and recycling cans. Investigated.

7:43 a.m. Caller from West Chestnut Hill Road reports that a logging truck has been flying down the road each morning with a full load; this morning, the caller yelled at the operator, who skidded in front of his driveway. Caller would like an officer to contact the operator and advise him of the safety concern. Contacted other agency to try to identify logging company, which is working on behalf of Eversource; they will speak to the company and advise them of the complaint.

8:34 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reports unknown female party sleeping on the third floor porch; same female was seen this morning in the community room, and caller does not believe she has any ties to the building. Caller called back to report that female had left with neighbor's daughter. Appears to be all set.

8:42 p.m. Caller advises of shirtless white male standing in middle of road near Avenue A and Fourth Street yelling profanities and threats at someone inside an apartment. Second caller advises of same. Unable to locate; will be on lookout.

Friday, 8/7

9:27 a.m. Caller requests extra patrols on Industrial Drive due to speeding trucks.

9:55 a.m. Caller complaining of noise and fumes from a train that has been parked on the tracks near Lake Pleasant Road for several hours. Pan Am contacted; operator stated that the train got there at 8 a.m. today and will be moved at 2 p.m.

11:46 a.m. Caller reports he has a deceased raccoon in his front yard. Animal control officer will pick up the raccoon.

1:52 p.m. Three bicyclists into station to report erratic operator; while approaching the four-way stop near the station, one was nearly struck by a grey Subaru Impreza. At the stop sign, one of the bicyclists attempted to speak to the driver and noticed an open bottle of white wine in the center console. He stated that the driver noticed him looking at the bottle, grabbed it, and tossed it into the back seat. Officer spotted tail end of vehicle on Ferry Road, but it was gone by the time he turned around. Greenfield PD and Shelburne Control advised to

be on lookout.

9:16 p.m. Caller complaining of a late-night basketball game at Unity Park; requests that an officer put an end to it. Officer advises that 3 kids were shooting hoops; they were not overly loud, but they were advised that the park closes at dusk. Parties left without issue.

Saturday, 8/8

9:20 a.m. Caller from N Street reports that neighbor's dog is loose; states that dog has shown signs of aggression in the past and this is an ongoing issue. Dog could be heard barking in background, and argument ensued between dog's owner and caller's husband. Officers mediated situation; dog did not attack anyone today and had gotten loose accidentally. Owners advised that animal control officer would likely be in contact with them this week.

11:07 a.m. Caller complaining of homeless female who has been camping out in the parks and other town property during the overnight hours. Caller requests that female be advised that she cannot be in the parks after hours. Referred to an officer.

11:21 a.m. Dog in distress removed from Third Street to kennel.

2:23 p.m. Report of dog in distress at 15 Fifth Street: a pit bull owned by one of the residents has reportedly been tied up outside on the pavement for a couple of hours. Dog cannot lie down because pavement is hot from the sun; dog is also reportedly defecating in the driveway. Caller reports that he spoke with the owner but the owner refused to take the dog inside. Similar call received last week. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

6:53 p.m. Party calling on behalf of her 86 year old mother reports that people often walk their dogs past her mother's house on Oakman Street and allow the dogs to go to the bathroom on the lawn. Caller had a "heated discussion" today with someone who claimed that it was OK for dogs to go to the bathroom there because the town owns the property 12 feet from the road. Officer contacted caller and advised her that she can contact the Board of Health with these issues as everyone should be cleaning up after their dogs.

Sunday, 8/9
1:09 p.m. Caller reports that her grandchildren were out playing and said that they saw one of their neighbors capture and

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

kill an opossum. Officer, upon speaking with all parties, advises that the children admitted to making up the story after being spoken to about poking the opossum, who was caught to be relocated at a later time, with sticks.

11:08 p.m. Caller from High Street reports that he has a bat that he caught in his house and that it seems unable to fly. Caller advised, per animal control officer, to keep the animal in a box or container and take it to the Board of Health office in the morning. Caller called back advising that the Board of Health advised him to call MPD for the animal control officer. Confirmed with the caller that no one had been bitten by the bat and it is contained at this time. Bat picked up by animal control officer.

Monday, 8/10

8:27 a.m. DPW, on behalf of Parks & Rec department, reports that there are shopping carts in Unity Park containing someone's personal belongings; requesting that person be advised that they cannot keep their items there. Owner of items could not be located, but officers will be on lookout for her.

8:44 a.m. Caller reports that he struck a cat near Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Cat is gone; believed to have run off in unknown direction. Animal control officer advised and en route.

11:12 a.m. Gas leak in Avenue A apartment. TFFD on scene. 6:27 p.m. Report of loose bulldog in roadway coming up from Unity Park toward Unity Street. Dog, who seems friendly, located and secured in kennel; has Greenfield tag. GPD advises that they may know the dog's address and that his name may be Winston.

7:19 p.m. Report of an assault on West Street. Victim will come to MPD to give a statement.

Tuesday, 8/11

11:12 a.m. Officer requests second unit; reports that subject threatened to slit his throat by the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street. Units clear; subject returning home.

5:06 p.m. Report of fight between two females near Chick's Auto on Third Street. Investigated.

7:00 p.m. First of several reports of street flooding. Part of Millers Falls Road washed out.

Wednesday, 8/12

2:13 p.m. Report of structure fire at Bob's Auto Body on Avenue A. Everyone out of building. TFE1 on scene. Fire confirmed extinguished.

6:16 p.m. Caller reports that his foster children, ages 14 and 15, were walking to the store in Millers Falls when a male who appeared intoxicated came out from his residence and started yelling racial slurs at the boys; when the caller went out, the male had already returned inside. Caller just wants this on record at this time; advised to call back immediately if this happens again.

9:58 p.m. Threatening/harassment at F.L. Roberts; fe-

male party trespassed.

Thursday, 8/13

6:29 p.m. Caller advises that earlier this evening, a truck drove by and somehow lost a tire; the tire rolled through the neighbor's fence, through the caller's yard, and into his stone wall. Caller wants to remove the tire but is not sure how to go about doing so, i.e. paying for it at the transfer station. Advised of options.

Saturday, 8/15

12:01 a.m. Multiple reports of single car accident on Millers Falls Road. Officers en route; MedCare and TFFD advised. No one found at scene. Both airbags deployed; damage to vehicle and curbing. Area checked; no one found. Owner of vehicle called and reported vehicle stolen; was advised to come to station. After being Mirandized, owner admitted to being the operator of the vehicle. Owner advises that no one was injured in the accident. Investigated.

8:07 a.m. Report of illegal burn on G Street, where residents are breaking up and burning unknown items in their yard. TFFD responded; fire extinguished; residents advised of rules and regulations.

8:45 a.m. Backpack reported stolen from unlocked vehicle on L Street overnight. Report taken.

10:31 a.m. Caller reports suspicious activity in the sculpture park at Third and Canal Streets. Yesterday, the caller observed a man in the park talking to himself. After the man left, caller discovered several syringes and a prescription bottle near a smokestack and a makeshift grave. Caller advises that it appears something had been burning in the smokestack and there is a cross, flowers, dog toys, and a rubber ducky around the makeshift grave. Officer checked area. No syringes located; empty medicine vial nearby, but no needles on or near it. Officer did not observe anything in area that would suggest that anything is buried there.

5:52 p.m. Caller reports that she left her dog "Fluffernutter," a Shih Tzu, in the care of a neighbor when she had to go out of town. She reportedly had arranged for her daughter and her daughter's father to pick up the dog. Caller reports that the neighbor is now refusing to turn the dog over to the daughter, claiming that the caller abandoned the dog. Officer spoke to both parties; neighbor was advised that she needs to return the dog.

7:32 p.m. Multiple reports of trees and wires down around town.

Sunday, 8/16

10:34 a.m. Report of breaking and entering on Third Street. Investigated.

5:08 p.m. Anonymous caller complaining of the noise level coming from Hubie's Bar. Officer advises that the music had stopped upon his arrival and that the owner had taken decibel level readings which were within the permitted levels for this time

of day.



OYSTERGIRL'S GUIDE TO REAL LIVING: OLFACTORY WORLDS

By VANESSA QUERY

Dear readers, I'd like to return to my musings about hygiene and how to get your own natural and stress-free personal care routine.

A significant part of a transition to natural hygiene is about questioning our cultural assumptions about cleanliness, and changing our thoughts as well as our practices. You might say that one thought or practice begets and perpetuates the other.

The fact that, culturally, we are much more disturbed by one person's slightly wiffy B.O. than by another's horrendously excessive perfume points to what I'm talking about.

But it's not as simple as it just being culturally ingrained in us, mentally; our senses adapt to what is most prevalent, so that mild B.O. becomes more offensive to our noses than perfume, because, as a result of our cultural standards, we smell the former much less frequently than the latter.

Again, I am speaking generally about our cultural mainstream; there are exceptions, of course, for example those who were raised outside the mainstream, in more natural/hippie/crunchy environs.

Our natural, unadulterated scents are pheromones: our body's natural substances to attract. When we are healthy, inside and out, our pheromones work quite well.

Being attracted by a person's pheromones is a different sensation than smelling someone who smells like peaches and flowers and thinking that's nice. It's a raw, animal, primal lust kind of thing. I've experienced it. It's powerful, and a little scary, because we're not used to it.

It's also incredibly sexy, much hotter than any cologne or perfume or bubble bath.

At the risk of sounding like the anti-capitalist conspiracy theorist that I totally am, I wonder if part of our culture's obsession with synthetic-smelling bodies is a way to hinder that natural pheromone release.

It is not controllable by the media; it's not subject to be marketed to with products. Because it happens totally on its own, there isn't anything for the media to convince us that we need to strive to attain.

On the other hand, if we're told that we want men who smell like "Axe," that we want women who smell like — well, pretty much like anything other than what a woman smells like... If we're all raised to cover our natural scent to the point that the natural scent of others is offensive to our adapted noses... that can be totally commodified.

In addition to this pheromonal aspect, our natural scent serves us as an indicator of our health: it changes, becomes more or less pungent, shifts in quality depending on what we've been doing, how we've been eating, if we are well or ill.

It also serves — coming full circle — as an indicator of our hygiene. A strong underarm B.O., for example, comes from bacteria, some of which are harmless or even beneficial, some of which tell us that we need a shower. Or maybe a sponge bath, which I previously wrote about!

I encourage you to get in touch with

your natural essence. Most of my suggestions for natural personal care practice will help with that, but here are two especially big dives you can take.

Stop shaving your pits and bits.

I write this from my perspective as a cis-woman, but due to increasingly weirder and unnatural beauty standards for all genders, you may still relate to this, regardless of your gender identification and biological sex.

The concept of women shaving didn't really take off in this country until the early twentieth century.

It was basically a marketing ploy by companies that sold razors and depilatory products. Prior to this, only men shaved their facial hair. Then some genius decided it was silly to not market to half the population. But they had to create *reasons* for women to remove their body hair.

They decided on a two-fold attack: body hair on women was unsightly (read: unfeminine) and unhygienic. The former became a cultural truth, while the latter has remained totally bogus — but we have all bought it hook, line, and sinker.

In May of 1915, *Harper's Bazaar* ran an ad for depilatory cream that, for the first time, featured a woman baring her hairless underarms:



Summer Dress and Modern Dancing

combine to make necessary the removal of objectionable hair.

X BAZIN

DEPILATORY POWDER

has been used by women of refinement for generations for the removal of objectionable hair. It acts gently and effectively. It is harmless to the most delicate skin. It is easily applied.

Send for Generous Sample
Send us 10 cents for generous sample and our special offer. Sold by Druggists and Department Stores everywhere for 50 cents.

Hall & Ruckel
(Makers of Sorodent since 1846)
229 Washington St., New York

It wasn't until I was 20 that I saw, for the first time, a woman with unshaven underarms.

It inspired me to stop shaving to see what would happen.

I let my underarm hair grow, and it wasn't so bad. It was so much easier to *not* shave. Especially those sensitive areas.

Because I am a meticulous person with a horrible short-term memory, I've developed cheats to help me remember stuff. One such cheat was, when I was running out of deodorant, I would not wear it that day; I would therefore smell myself and remember to buy it while I was out.

The first time I did this, after not having shaved for a while, the cheat didn't work, because *I didn't stink!* Not shaving made me less stinky. It was amazing. I didn't remember to buy deodorant for 3 days!

If being stinky is an indicator of being dirty, and possibly unhealthy, and if *not* shaving makes me *less* stinky...

I'm sorry, corporate America, what were you saying about body hair being unhygienic?

I have not shaved since.

Ditch the conventional deodorant.

When I stopped shaving my underarms, I was markedly less stinky. This allowed me to continue my personal experiments with ease.

I found a deodorant stick made entirely of mineral salts, which neutralize the bacteria that cause odor. It's not an antiperspirant, so it doesn't stop you from sweating; but it does naturally prevent odor.

I began using that (I still do), and while it helped curb the more pungent odors associated with uncleanliness, it did not cover up the natural, perfectly normal smell of my body, a smell we are taught is gross no matter how clean we are.

It took some time, but I learned to appreciate how I smelled. As I mentioned before, it was an indicator of what I'd been doing, or eating, and where my health was. And at my hippie college, nobody complained. I could smell them, too, and it got less and less offensive to my nose.

I began to move from one olfactory world to another (to paraphrase LittleOwlCrunchyMomma in this must-read post, "What's That Smell?": littleowlcunchymomma.blogspot.com/2014/01/whats-that-smell.html).

I use the salt stick most days, but not all of them. I give my underarms a good water-washing when I shower, and sometimes a dab of diluted Dr. Bronner's.

In between showers, I often use a dash of spray from a cleaner I made, based on a recipe from *Making It: Radical Home Ec For A Post-Consumer World* by Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen.

In a small spray bottle filled mostly with water, I add a bit of baking soda and tea tree oil, and a few drops of essential oil (my personal favorite is lavender).

In addition to freshening underarms, this all-purpose, naturally anti-septic spray can be used as an alternative to horribly synthetic things like "Febreze": a few sprays does wonders to freshen up linens, clothes, furniture, what-have-you. Bonus!

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

She writes about food and philosophy and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com, and welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

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SKATE from page B1

2nd Street, lately remodeled.

De Christopher's plan is to install the Cathedral Project on the site of the skate park one day, a monumental sculpture which "Will tell an archetypal story of the human condition, as it has manifested through time, in its own unique way, in the village of Turners Falls," according to his website.

He stated the project will take several years to complete and install, eventually becoming a "center of artistic activity within the community." Additionally, de Christopher hopes to include studio space, a gallery and café, or a small museum.

The end result will be a "monument in a park-like garden setting," he said. At present the piece is progressing slowly, as de Christopher gives his attention to other ventures.

For the town, one of the main difficulties in dealing with the current and future status of the skate park is money. The park was placed under the supervision of the parks and recreation department in 1999, but the line item for maintaining the skate park was subsequently dropped, due to town budget constraints.

"That money covered supplies and materials, but not labor," said John Dobosz, parks and recreation director. "We needed volunteers for that, which were hard to find," he added.

Workdays were held to paint, clean and repair the skate park, but the number of volunteers was not always sufficient, and the weather sometimes worked against them.

Teens who showed up for rainy workdays grew demoralized, although they did persevere for a time. Fundraisers were organized to pay the taxes on the property and to cover the cost of maintenance, but the sums were insufficient to guarantee the facility's long-term health. The last fundraising concert broke even and did not achieve its intended goal.

Another key issue, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, is insurance. The town has

a new insurance carrier who has yet to decide whether it is willing to insure the property as a skate park. "There is a question of whether additional things have to be done. What is necessary to bring it up to code?" said Abbondanzio. He said the town has been supportive of the park, but did not want to take on added expenses. "It is the preference of the selectboard (for park users) to fundraise," he said.

According to town treasurer Patti Dion, the taxes for the skate park, which include \$896.87 in real estate taxes and a fire district tax of \$191.26, are paid up until November, when the next installment is due. There is currently \$350 in the skate park account, some of it from donations and some of it from the sale of Montague magnets, for sale at town hall for one dollar.

While money is a concern, Jeremy Latch, a former Americorps volunteer at the Brick House teen center who dedicated his time to fixing the skate park two years ago, said the other main problem at the park is the deteriorating surface of the plywood ramps.

While the ramps are still useable, he said they need to be resurfaced with sheet metal, treated with acid and painted. "A couple of skilled people over the weekend could do it," he said. Latch estimated the cost to be around two thousand dollars. According to Dobosz, who said he remains interested in the project, the cost could be twice as high as that for the sheet metal alone. His department does have the paint but would depend on volunteer labor to complete the work.

At the time it opened, the park was widely utilized by local skateboarders, bikers and rollerbladers. "The operation was smooth," said building inspector David Jensen, whose son Enoch was instrumental in its design.

"We got it open and kids used it pretty well," said police officer Bill Doyle, who donated his time to building the facility. "The more we built it, the more the donations came in." But over time the issue

of maintenance - relying on teenage volunteers - came to overshadow the initial excitement. In addition to the growing damage to the ramps, Doyle said, "The original kids lost interest. No adults wanted to take the ball and roll with it. We tried meetings, but the kids wanted to use the park and not help."

This year, few parents or youth have contacted Dobosz about the skate park and a number of individuals who were instrumental in the initial organizing, fundraising and construction have gotten older and moved away. But Latch insisted, "If it were open, it would generate interest."

Jenny Gabrenas, mother of Winter Orion-Clark, an avid skateboarder who was instrumental in first getting the skate park idea off the ground, and who later drowned in the Connecticut River with his friend Chris Gallagher, expressed dismay at the state of disrepair at the skate park and the town's ambivalence about its future. "It was Winter and Chris' passion, and they did all the right things to make the dream happen. Maybe not in his own lifetime, but for the benefit of other young adults or those who are young at heart.

"Those who grieve their loss poured their pain into the opening of the skate park. It hurts me to know that it has become a seemingly unloved space again, after all the positive energies it possessed."

Gabrenas went further. She spoke of "the positive community attention and civic pride the park could generate for Montague among young adults," and said, "I am amazed it has become an eyesore again. Kids need a safe outlet. The death of Winter and Chris cements this fact for me. They need a place they can congregate, not to put them out of sight, but so they feel safe, so they feel accepted, so they feel worthwhile."

Both Greenfield and Easthampton have active skate parks. According to Edward Piziak, director of parks and recreation for Easthampton, one key difference there

is the ramps were made of concrete and have lasted 10 years.

Each year the town spends a couple of hundred dollars to patch the surfaces, which comes out of the maintenance budget for facilities.

In Greenfield the town does not account for maintenance of the skate park in its budget. Expenses are paid by money left over from a grant initially acquired to build the park.

A skate park committee oversees fundraising and contacts the DPW when needed to repair the metal ramp surfaces and carry out other maintenance work. That facility appears to be well used, and may explain why there is less interest locally to reopen the Turners park. But not all local teens have

transportation to the other area skate parks.

Latch proposed downsizing the Turners skate park by getting rid of some of the ramps. He suggested a smaller facility might work to provide an outlet for those who like to carve, grind and slide without the constant fundraising and maintenance that led to the current state of affairs.

In the meantime, the weeds will have their way with the asphalt, the resurfaced ramps will rust, and local skaters will seek their thrills on the sidewalks and streets of the villages.

— August 25, 2005



MORE LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was August 25, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bathers: Enter Fiske Pond at Your Own Risk

The question of Wendell's recently acquired Fiske Pond property, specifically who should conduct water quality tests, landed on the selectboard's table again at their August 10 meeting.

Planning board chair Deirdre Cabral recently submitted a letter to the board regarding her correspondence with Massachusetts Department of Public Health employee Christopher Huskey.

Huskey stated it was up to the local board of health to determine what was and was not a bathing beach, and that the state would not mandate that Fiske Pond be designated as a swimming beach.

Cabral recommended the town put up a sign saying, "Fiske Pond is not a public bathing beach. This is Conservation land. There is no testing of water quality. Enter the water at your own risk."

Selectboard member Dan Keller said he liked that wording, and suggested the sign be put up in the proposed information kiosk at the Fiske Pond parking lot.

Old Mill Program Will Keep Some Students in District

For some Gill-Montague students, the new school year will mean less of a commute. Rather than being sent to programs out of district, they will be educated in their own communities as part of the Old Mill Program.

Laurie Farkas, director of special education at the school district, has organized the new program for students with "emotional and behavior disabilities".

One immediate result of partnering with School Based Services (SBS), an agency that runs programs for students with special needs in western Massachusetts, is that five students who were previously sent out of district for services will be served here.

Having children educated here helps the system build caring citizens in our community, Superintendent Sue Gee said.

HIBAKUSHA from page B1

mushroom cloud, and photos of the devastation on the ground in Japan.

He then moves history forward and shows news footage of President Dwight D. Eisenhower promising that the United States will lead the world in the safe and peaceful use of nuclear power.

Then Barrett-Mills transitions to the vulnerability of nuclear power plants, with footage from 2011 that shows the tsunami hurling enormous quantities of water against the Fukushima plant and the devastation that follows. He chronicles the aftermath, and then moves to activists in Vermont striving to shut down outdated power plants here in the US.

The threads weaving together the monks who led a peace walk this spring, the Fukushima survivors, and the activists are fear and mistrust of nuclear power.

In the film, a farmer near Fukushima refuses to kill his animals that have been exposed to radiation. Looking straight into the camera, he says he cannot destroy the evidence. He is not comforted by his government's claims of safety.

In Barrett-Mills' film, we see displaced families living in temporary shelters and babies that look healthy

— at least for now. Their trusting faces are unsettling. Citizens saying their rural environment has been sacrificed for the power needs of Tokyo and that corporate profits are valued more than human life echo the sentiments of protesters everywhere.

Barrett-Mills has put a human face on a tragedy that has now faded from the nightly news but remains sadly real to the people living in the aftermath of environmental disaster. He hopes to host additional showings of the film locally, and it can be seen on his website www.jbmfilm.com. In an interview after the showing, he sadly noted that Japan had just that week put one of the previously shut down nuclear power plants back online.

This is by no means his first film. Barrett-Mills is an award-winning director, producer, and cinematographer. His work has screened at several international film festivals including New York, Berkeley, and Cannes. He is the Founder and CEO of JBM Films, an independent media company dedicated to the production and distribution of feature length films, documentaries, and other video content. Seven of JBM's films are presently being distributed around the world, and he is preparing to release three other projects in

the coming year.

When asked about the beginnings of his career, Barrett-Mills said, "It started when I was 17 years old. I was a student at Northfield Mount Hermon, and was given the opportunity to do an independent study in Northern Ireland to learn about the country's religious conflict. While over there, I had a small camcorder with me and started recording a documentary about the conflict.

"Through the help of a really great taxi driver, I was given a tour of the neighborhoods and had access interviews with some of the local people. That was my first project, and it's kind of gone on from there."

With a small camera and a lot of courage, he has gone on to shoot fifteen films all over the world. A combination of inspiration, fearlessness and technology has made it all possible.

He said, "My biggest inspiration was growing up as close friends with the nuns and monks of the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett." (His parents volunteered there.) "As a kid, I was exposed to their activist work and grew up with a passion for the subject. I think another important inspiration was when my family moved from Amherst to Montague.

"Montague, historically, has

been a huge part of the anti-nuclear power movement, going all the way back to when Sam Lovejoy fought the construction of a plant here in town back in the 1970s. So certainly being around the community provided additional inspiration."

He ended up filming *The New Hibakusha* after being asked to produce a documentary about the integration of traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine for China Medical University in Taiwan.

"After finishing there, I had a layover in Japan and decided that I would extend the trip a bit and travel around the country," he said, adding, "It was through the connections of the New England Peace Pagoda that I was introduced to members of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and, through their support, was able to meet with survivors of the atomic bombings. Then, after that, through Twitter and Facebook, we were able to connect with some people living in and around Fukushima.

"A lot of it was just luck, combined with the fact that people were so passionate about telling their story. We didn't really have to ask, just the presence of a camera made people eager to speak with us."

Barrett-Mills completed the project on a small budget because

he lives modestly, owns his own equipment and edits from his personal computer. To communicate he used Google Translate through his phone and relied on a friend who spoke some Japanese.

He said, "It was really a fascinating process, interviewing people through an automated translation system. I think it turned out surprisingly well; we managed to get the interviews translated by native speakers when we returned home and the Q&A turned out just as expected."

This fall, JBM Productions is planning to release a documentary made in Tibet after Barrett-Mills befriended a Tibetan Lama who invited him to become one of the first foreigners to travel to his remote mountain village in Tibet, which stands over 16,000 feet elevation. Barrett-Mills stayed in his monastery and created a film that documents the isolated community as they transition into the future. "That was another incredible adventure," he said.

Barrett-Mills has become a global citizen, capturing lives in transition and the humanity of those working for social justice.



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GERMANY from page B1

During the 1930s, Hitler ordered the Vils river dug out and remade into a straight road of a river. Reconstruction efforts put the meanders back in and reintroduced native species of plants back into the watershed. Tim had in mind carving a seven foot long limestone "story fish" called the Vilseck Fish, to tell the story of this river. Carved into the sides of this great fish were to be historical vignettes illustrating these memories.

Tim wanted it to be "this ancient fish, pre-historic, for centuries swimming and watching the development over time, along the merchant route called the Golden Road, between Nuremberg and Prague. And I wanted to put a speech bubble coming out of his mouth, and in the bubble I wanted to have some expression." He was confident he would run across a suitable native expression while spending time in Germany.

When he landed in Munich, the airline could not locate his bags, which contained all of his carving tools. From Tim's travelogue: "The airline, Norwegian Air, has no clue. Nothing! Nada! And I have no tools! Not good... So that is my overriding obsession so far, and rather dampens the enthusiasm, but I am trying to muster and soldier on as they say. What else can you do?"

He pushed on to Vilseck without them. Luckily he had a small carry-on with other necessities with him, but this was going to put a serious crimp on his plans for the Vilseck Fish.

Tim found Vilseck to be "like a medieval version of Turners, but in a lot better shape than Turners, for the most part. There was sort of an old section of town, some buildings that were not up to snuff, but mostly it was really pristine, and a little boring because of it."

The town of roughly 4000 was arranged around a "tiny little castle, like you could hug it." The castle served as a community center and events were frequent held there, celebrations that inevitably included beer, music, and the appearance of a group of "pistoleros," as de Christopher nicknamed them: a half dozen men in native costume who were cheered as they shot black powder handguns into the air.

After borrowing tools from a local stone carver so he could get right to work, he ran into another little snag. From the travelogue:

I had been asked over the winter to supply dimensions of the stone I would like, which I did, in metric measurements. Somehow they misread my numbers and



The "Jurassic Fish" lies in four sections in its final resting place close to the Vils river.

thought I had asked for a stone measuring 2.25 centimeters, as opposed to meters. They wrote back asking politely, 'Wouldn't you like a larger stone?' to which I replied, 'Well, there are only two weeks to work, so I want to be sure to finish.'

It turns out they do not have any stones 2.25 meters long, so that was not an option to begin with! I am now faced with the challenge of redesigning the Vilseck Fish, and downsizing him, and still have to figure out what I will be able to do with minimal tools.

He was led to a gravel quarry where he managed to find four boulders to work with, a far cry from the 7 foot long limestone block he envisioned for the Vilseck Fish. The boulders had peculiar qualities, being both soft and hard and full of fractures and small air pockets filled with crystallizations like a geode.

He decided that this stone would become the Jurassic Fish, and would lie in four parts at

the edge of the river. Curiously, he found this very important water feature, the river Vils, to be more like what Americans might call a stream, being very shallow and not so broad.

Tim set to work with zest despite the last minute modifications to design and technique, and was carving outdoors during what turned out to be a record heat wave, reaching a searing 104 degrees on one day. Eventually, his own bag of tools arrived from the airline, which helped him make more efficient progress.

The townspeople were very friendly and welcoming, and it is in Tim's nature to "roll with the punches." During one local beer fest he found his "phrase" for the thought bubble of the fish. Tim heard a man at the fest philosophizing about life, and using the phrase *Der Lauf Der Dinge*. Translation: The Way Things Go - a phrase that couldn't be more appropriate to Tim's circumstances!

One evening, as he labored over the sculpture, he was approached by a woman from one of the "garden houses" on the river adjacent to his site. She brought him a glass of schnapps and invited him to join her family in a birthday celebration. German families have a tradition of maintaining small cottages which serve as a mini vacation spot on the river, where they go for special celebrations and to just get away from town. This was her son's 51st birthday, and soon Tim was singing along and making merry with the whole family in their garden house.

Her name was Resi, and Tim called her "the Queen of the Garden House People... a dear one and a loving one [who] radiates her emotions and her energy without reserve." Tim ended up carving Resi's name into the head of the fish, a gesture that touched her deeply. She even invited him back to have Christmas with her family.

At the end of the symposium, there was a well-attended dinner celebration at the castle, complete with beer, youth orchestra, a menu combining Czech and German specialties, the ubiquitous "pistoleros," and an inaugural riv-

er walk to view all six sculptures in situ.

Tim reflected on his feelings about the work in the final chapter of his travelogue:

Only the work remains as a testimony to what was done. Does it really tell the story? Of course not! That is a big part of what I think about in relation to my work. What the object itself conveys and communicates. How and what these objects say, what they speak of, as objects, what the form itself conveys; and for me especially, what emotions it communicates.

That is a driving component of what I make, the where-from, how-so, and what's-up that the forms convey. And so it is with the Jurassic Fish. It is also what I see in the human form, that the body tells a story of all the history and experience of the being that lives within it...we understand and interpret it through our own experience, what we are able to relate to and recognize and own in ourselves.

That is in fact how I make my work, by feeling it, through my own body. Does the form touch me physically? Can I feel the shape, the attitude, the emotion in my own body and my own mind? That is how I find my form, when it resonates in my own body. I can quite literally feel it and when I do I know I am hitting the right points. I can't really explain it better or beyond that.

In summation of his experience as an American artist visiting and working in Germany, Tim is succinct: "It felt good to be so well regarded and treated."

For more information about Tim de Christopher's work, view an online picture gallery of his sculpture at: www.timdechrisopher.com.

Tim will also be giving a presentation about his journey at the Greenfield Savings Bank community room, at a date to be determined. Look for information about this event in our Local Briefs column.



The German phrase "Der Lauf Der Dinge" (The Way Things Go), carved into the side of one of the boulders comprising the "Jurassic Fish" sculpture.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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. 6:30-7 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 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.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*, live acoustic

guitar, 7 p.m.

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Hall Art Display, *Great Gods and Little Fishes*. Latest paintings by Northfield artist, Charles Shaw. Through 8/31

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines*. New pencil and ink drawings as well as Da'Muse wire figures and layered sculptures of Glenn Ridler. Through 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Elizabeth Denny*. Found objects transformed with humor and an acetylene torch. Show through 9/12.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Two exhibits in two galleries. *The Same Moon: A Table Set for Two Faiths*. Ceramics and multi-media by Molly Cantor; *Wood Stone Water and Plant Life Collaborations*. Large drawings and site specific installations by Karen Dolmanisth. Through 8/30.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Hot Stuff*. Members summer show. Through 8/31.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *East Meets West by Southwest*. Paintings by Sara Deponte and Fabio Deponte. Through 8/24.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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

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

EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Guitar music. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *98th Heath Fair*. Website www.heath-fair.com has program schedule and travel directions. Musical entertainment throughout evening. New this year is 230' Zipline. 5 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Sherman's March*. "Off-beat, beguiling documentary" by Ross McElwee who is described as a "Southern Woody Allen". 7:30 p.m. Music by Lysha at 7

Street between K & L streets. Parade, music, food, and lots of multi-generational activities. Begins at 2 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Sherman's March*. See Friday's listing for details. 7:30 p.m. Music by Lysha at 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Kristin Hoffman*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

the Arts Block, Greenfield: *Noche Cubana IV: Salsa Cubana with De Lomes y Sones*. Salsa Cuban style with William Rodriguez and De Lomes y Sones. 8:30 p.m. \$

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Benefit dance party sponsored by non-profit Pioneer Valley Roller Derby. Music provided by DJ. 9:30 p.m. \$

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *98th Heath Fair*. Website www.heathfair.com has program schedule and travel directions. Comedy show at 3:30 p.m. New this year is 230' Zipline. 8 a.m. \$

the Arts Block, Greenfield: *Sunday Improv Fun Time*: An Open Improv Jam on the Fourth Sunday of Every Month 7 p.m. \$

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Kevin Greenspon, Soft Eyes, Baby Birds Don't Drink Milk*, and animated movies by Jo Dery. All ages/substance free. 7 p.m. \$

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week it's Coyotes!. See "Every Tuesday" for details.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield Energy Park: TBA acts. 6 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Belle of the Fall*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lines West*. Pop rock. *Glenn Roth*. Fingerstyle guitar. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Snakepriest*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sam Steffen*. Folk. 8:30 p.m.



Red Fire Farm is hosting their 15th Tomato Festival on Saturday, August 22 at their Granby MA farm. This year's celebration will include a performance by Pioneer Valley-based musician Erin McKeown, dozens of local food and craft vendors, games, kids activities, wagon rides and a tomato tasting, featuring over 100 varieties of tomatoes. The festival runs from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and children over 10. Admission is free for Red Fire Farm CSA members.

p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Ian O'Neill (Deer Tick), Julian Veronesi (Titus Andronicus)* 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *John Statz*. Americana. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristen Ford - Troll 2*. Folk/scumfolk/rock. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Heath Fairgrounds, Heath: *98th Heath Fair*. Website www.heath-fair.com has program schedule and travel directions. Musical entertainment throughout day. New this year is 230' Zipline. 8 a.m. \$

Red Fire Farm, Granby: *15th Tomato Fest*. "Seasonal fare, kids activities, farm fun and a 5k fill the day." Pioneer Valley's Own Erin McKeown and Her Fine Parade will perform at 4 p.m. Festival begins at noon. \$ Note: this festival is at the Red Fire Farm's Granby location.

Block Party, Turners Falls: *4th*

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range Cats*. Groove Band. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

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

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The Rendezvous
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Half Shaved Jazz
FRI 8/21 9:30 FREE
Kristen Ford - Troll 2 (folk/scumfolk/rock)
SAT 8/22 9:30 \$5
Pioneer Valley Roller Derby Dance Party
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1
MONDAY, AUGUST 10 6-8 PM
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27 WEST MAIN STREET

2
MONDAY, AUGUST 17 6-8 PM
ASHFIELD, MA
421 BELDINGVILLE ROAD

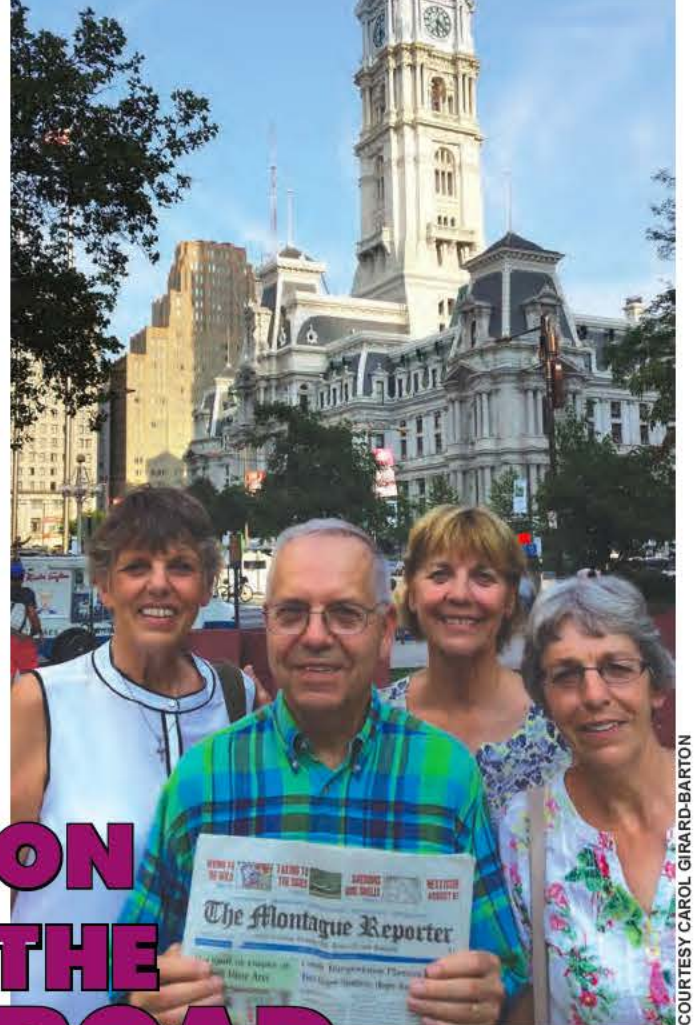
3
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 6-8 PM
DEERFIELD, MA
WOOLMAN HILL RETREAT CENTER
107 KEETS ROAD
WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO
NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION 3-5 PM
POTLUCK DINNER 5-6PM

4
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 5-7 PM
MONTAGUE PLAINS, MA
MOHAWK RAMBLERS CLUBHOUSE
1/2 MILE DOWN BARTLETT ROAD FROM
LAKE PLEASANT ROAD

5
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 5-7 PM
NORTHFIELD, MA
RICHARDSON CONSERVATION AREA
ALEXANDER HILL ROAD

6
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 5-7 PM
WINCHESTER, NH
PULPIT FALLS
PARKING AT 60 WOLF TREE ROAD

MONTAGUE REPORTER



ON THE ROAD

The Girard clan and their spouses visited Philadelphia during the last week of July, where they met with Mark Girard's daughter, Julie, a law student at University of Pennsylvania. Left to right: Michele (Girard) Novak; Eric Girard; Carol Girard-Barton; and Pat (Girard) Cournoyer.

COURTESY CAROL GIRARD-BARTON

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