

LOOK AT THIS  
BABY ALPACA

Page A8



1950s TFMA  
MEMORIES

Page B1



FRESH AND  
AFFORDABLE

Page B1



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 38

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 9, 2015

ERVING TOWN MEETING

## Sharp Retires; Town Says No To Pipeline

By KATIE NOLAN

**ERVING** – Erving's June 29 special town meeting approved a citizen's petition article expressing the town's opposition to the Kinder Morgan's planned Northeast Energy Direct pipeline, opposing any pipeline in Erving carrying natural gas obtained through fracking, and instructing the selectboard to obtain voter approval before making decisions concerning the proposed pipeline or compressor station.

The town's administrative coordinator, Tom Sharp, announced at the meeting that he is retiring as of July 10. Sharp has worked for the town for 12 years.

Sharp told the meeting he was "ready to close this chapter of my life." He told the crowd, "I will miss you." He said what he would remember of his years in Erving was "YOU - the friends and friendships I've developed," and not "surveillance cameras, political games or discussions and discussions about personnel issues."

He said that retirement would allow him to spend more time with loved ones, time to strengthen his spiritual side, take long walks in the woods and volunteer for hospice.

Sharp said, "I'll be good, but how about you?" he asked – then answered his own question, saying that he was leaving behind a town with an active selectboard, a great town hall staff (mentioning municipal clerk Betsy Sicard in particular), a strong volunteer committee network, and able police and fire chiefs.

He thanked the selectboard, saying, "I wouldn't be able to retire without their help and their encouragement."

The hundred or more people in attendance at the STM gave him a standing ovation.

At the June 1 selectboard meeting, after the selectboard refused to turn off or relocate a recently-installed security camera that records activity at his desk, Sharp asked the board to schedule an executive session to discuss an "exit strategy" from his job. The board held executive sessions to discuss contract issues with Sharp on June 15 and on June 29, with town counsel Donna MacNicol in attendance at both sessions.

The board did not renew Sharp's employment contract, which ended June 30. Sharp has been working from July 1 to 10 without a contract.

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline**

Moonlight Davis, one of the originators of the anti-pipeline article, told the meeting, "If we allow a pipeline to come to Erving, nothing that we just voted on will have a good result," because a pipeline would pollute the town's natural resources and "destroy the peace and tranquility that we have now."

He added, "We are going to change the way we live if we allow this pipeline to come through."

see **ERVING** page A6

## Weaving Past Into Present



*Peggy Hart with one of her looms. The abacus-like structure at the end of the loom is called the "pattern chain." It can be manipulated to make changes within patterns, or replaced with another one for a significant design alteration.*

By JERI MORAN

**SHELBURNE** – When you shake hands with Peggy Hart, you know you are shaking hands with someone who works for a living with her hands. Her handshake is strong and her skin is textured. When you see her in her workshop in her barn, you know you are in the presence of a skilled craftsman, and when you see her finished blankets and throws that she designs and weaves, you know you are meeting an artist.

Hart has been a weaver for most of her life, beginning in high school, weaving on her grandmother's 4-harness loom. She did the whole process – spinning the wool, vegetable dyeing, hand weaving – all

on a small scale.

After getting a degree in African history, she worked two years setting up and running a hand spinning and weaving cottage industry as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya.

When Hart returned to the United States in 1978, she realized that she couldn't make a career weaving blankets on a commercial scale using only a small hand loom, but she would need more training to design and weave on an industrial power loom.

For that she went to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) where she studied industrial textile design. She went to the right source: the school's catalog explains their textile program is "... founded upon

see **LOOMS** page A4

## Compromise Sought Over Downtown Sound Controversy

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – A compromise solution to the problem of noise generated by outdoor bands on Saturday nights at Hubie's Tavern in Turners Falls could be emerging. Shawn Hubert, who bought the bar at 66 Avenue A last winter and has been having outdoor band music since the weather turned warm, stated that he has been meeting with local residents concerned about the noise on Saturday nights: "I believe that we will be able to strike a balance. I don't want to make their

homes uncomfortable."

John McNamara, who owns a commercial and residential building next door to Hubie's, agreed that progress was being made in resolving the noise issue through low-key discussions between neighbors.

That was certainly not the dominant sentiment at the June 29 Montague selectboard meeting, where a crowd of downtown residents complained about the noise levels at Hubie's and the lack of response by the town of Montague.

One man, who said that he was

see **NOISE** page A4



*Hubie's has been having live entertainment on the renovated outside patio.*

## Simple Safety Precautions Will Keep Summer Safe, Fun

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

**LEVERETT** – With the warm summer months come family trips to the lake, bonfires, and cookouts. These popular summer activities come with a few safety precautions, however, which greatly reduce the risk of injury or



*Leverett fire chief John Ingram urges residents to be careful during the hot summer and to call the fire department immediately in case of a fire. Since fires double in size every minute, he recommends calling the fire department and against residents putting out fires themselves.*

fire damage to the home.

Leverett Fire Chief John Ingram said grilling safety is something many homeowners need to consider and be aware of. A grill left too close to the house can ignite the siding on the home and start a fire.

"The heat flares up, and the siding can catch on fire," said Ingram.

Homeowners should also be careful when using accelerants like gasoline when igniting a grill, especially a grill in an outdoor kitchen.

"Many people don't realize it's the fumes that ignite, not the liquid. They keep pouring gas on the grill and go to ignite it and poof," said Ingram.

Cooking fires are dangerous, and according to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, cooking fires account for 43% of all fires reported in one- to two-family dwellings, and 83% of fires reported in apartments, dormitories, rooming houses, and residential board and care facilities. Even more shocking, most of the injuries reported from these fires were a result of people trying to fight the fires.

"Fire moves very quickly, it doubles its size every minute when burning. Don't try to put it out yourself," said Ingram.

The same principle applies to a fire in the home.

"As soon as the fire alarm goes off, the first thing you should do is get out, don't go around the house trying to see if something is on fire," said Ingram.

With cooking fires, Ingram said not only is it illegal to use cardboard to ignite the flame, it is also dangerous. The embers from the fire can float in the air, igniting the house or woods surrounding the house. The embers can even light other houses, and often no one notices the fire until there is

see **SAFETY** page A8

## Multi-Venue Music Fest Returns to Turners Falls

By REPORTER STAFF

Turners Falls is happy to welcome back the Upper Valley Music Festival this year on July 25. As in previous years, the festival promises to bring some of the best talent to Franklin County for a full 12 hours of musical entertainment. Local and regional artists perform from noon to midnight, with sidewalk sales, art exhibits and restaurant specials throughout the downtown.

A benefit for the American Cancer Society and the Franklin County Relay for Life, the

UVMF is always an all volunteer event with both musicians and staff graciously giving their time so festival proceeds can be donated for cancer research.

"The most wonderful part of our event is how much fun the fans, musicians, volunteers and downtown businesses have for 12 hours. It's amazing to present such awesome talent to our community and at the end of the day be able to donate proceeds to help find a cure," said Jessica Byrnes, who founded UVMF with her husband Tommy.

What started as a gathering in honor of

Tommy Byrnes' 50th birthday back in 2011 has now become a much loved event throughout the area. There are many reasons to love UVMF: the quality of the performances, the affordable wristband admission price, and the altruistic objective to raise donations for cancer research. Shops and restaurants welcome the additional traffic and are prepared to pitch in with discounts and specials of their own to encourage attendance and help foster a truly festive atmosphere.

Offering something for everyone, the family

see **UVMF** page A3



# The Montague Reporter

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## Growing Pains May Require Some Stretching

After witnessing the hour-long hearing at the June 29 Montague selectboard meeting concerning the creation and enforcement of more elaborate sound ordinances, we are very relieved to hear that the parties involved – Hubie’s Tavern and its immediate neighbors – may be on their way to working out a livable compromise solution.

Downtown residents are well accustomed to dealing with an occasional racket, and tend to be tolerant of it. The neighborhood is a remarkable mixture of families and childless households; homeowners and renters; middle and working class; working, unemployed and retired.

Those of us who have been living, booking and playing loud music in this town – in bars, basements, galleries, shops, garages, and even the teen center – have a sense of what we can get away with, and when. Be cool to the neighbors and they’ll be cool to us. Warn them well, and take them seriously when they say they’ve had too much. And everyone can understand a special occasion.

The idea of one to three nights a week of four-hour amplified outdoor shows, in a densely settled neighborhood where even loud conversations have a way of bouncing off the brick, is a game changer, and not a decision anyone is going to make unilaterally.

We commend Hubie’s for jumping right into it, paying bands well, booking a solid summer patio schedule and bringing in a good range of customers, including some still recovering from an outdated perception of the neighborhood as unsafe.

But when we saw a punk band park a van full of amplifiers at a nearby venue and, upon hearing the sounds of a Judas Priest cover ricocheting off every surface in town, joke, “Guess we’re playing the wrong show!,” we knew it wouldn’t last.

It’s a shame that the issue couldn’t have been resolved through conversation before it shot all the way to the selectboard – the third-most-powerful body in Montague, after town meeting and the regional housing authority.

The selectboard doesn’t want to be seen as oppressing residents or squelching business, so it is doomed to devise some wonky set of regulations and displace the con-

tradiction onto enforcers, who will then be accused, probably rightly, of selective enforcement.

The last thing anyone wants is for police, politicians and self-appointed hall monitors to start chasing each other around downtown with decibel meters, making sure there is fairness in pulling the plug on every good time that’s gone past its allotted hour.

There’s no use in pointing fingers as to how this dispute landed in town hall so quickly, but like so many other recent controversies, it highlights the need for an independent, neutral mediation organization.

Wouldn’t it be great if there was a number we could all call for assistance in settling simple, civil disputes over the space we have to share downtown? Trained mediators could listen to grievances, de-escalate conflict, and help guide parties through the process of working out win/win solutions.

When a seemingly trivial dispute between two business owners escalated bizarrely and resulted in unnecessary criminal charges on Monday (see story, page A5), we once again wished for this fantasy team of mediators.

As we all know, Turners Falls has had its ups and downs, a lot of ups and a lot of downs, since Alvah Crocker built the town in the late 1860s. Right now many are optimistic about its future, but may have different visions of what that means.

The historically fractured town of Montague has been very supportive, in recent years, of its off-center downtown, and it’s high time those of us who work, live, and enjoy ourselves here return the favor by demonstrating we can work out our own problems.

Questions and conflicts will inevitably come up in a growing, changing neighborhood, and we shouldn’t need to involve the police or town hall every time we want to put folk art in a planter, dispose of dangerous litter, or have a band play drums after dark.

Let’s take each other seriously, understand our differences, and figure out how to work together to make this the downtown neighborhood we know it can be – affordable and safe, a great place to live and to visit, peaceful and wild at the same time.

*It wasn't until mid-July that she realized the tallest plant in the garden, the one she had been nurturing carefully, was not a Zinnia*

*but a common WEED.*

*The perfect metaphor for all the failed relationships and projects that never bore fruit...*

*The community band started playing in the park. A cheerful, brassy tune with a few bad notes here and there.*

*It was just what she needed to bear – everything would be all right!*

**You never know: the same thing you find irritating could be saving someone else's day. Rejoice in the music, bad notes and all.**

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors

### Flag a Symbol of Terror

I was both pleased and dismayed by your recent editorial “Freedom From Historical Fact” (June 25, 2015) – pleased at your stand on the removal of the Confederate Flag, and perceptions regarding our collective hand-wringing.

And I was pleased as well by your questioning the flag’s presence in our fair city so far from the Mason-Dixon line, but dismayed at your conclusions as to the bearer’s intent.

How do you know the homeowner in Gill or the owner of the black pickup on Turners Falls Road are not white supremacists? Have you looked into their hearts and just seen rebellion? Have you checked their laptops for visits to the Council of Conservative Citizens website?

The massacre in Charleston was an act of terror. For the FBI to deny this is an outrage.

How many African-American churches have been burned at last count? The Klan was and is a terrorist organization. And the CCC (hmmm... I wonder) is aiding and abetting a terrorist organization.

If the Klan were placed on the list of terrorist groups, the confederate flag as its symbol would be cause enough for the FBI to pay close attention to the guy with the black pickup truck or the flag waving on a lawn in Gill.

To project your own sense of rebellion or white pirate fantasies onto these Yankee ‘good-ol boys’ is just denial of the white supremacist underbelly of our own roots.

**Elliot Tarry**  
Montague Center

### “As Long As We’ve Got Each Other...”

Turners Falls is well on its way toward revitalization. Success is happening one storefront and rehabbed living space at a time. With decades of community support, downtown has become desirable to live, work and play.

As the community grapples with issues such as streetscape beautification, public art, and outdoor entertainment, let’s all remember that these are the growing pains of an engaged and growing downtown.

In 2013 the Town adopted a Downtown Livability Plan, where area residents defined livability as “safety, quality housing, cultural energy, good schools, outdoor recreation and having necessities within walking distance”.

The plan highlights the need to establish a high quality of life for people living downtown while attracting people from outside the area to work and support businesses. I encourage all you to review the plan at [montague.gov](http://montague.gov).

Through open discussion and careful planning, I am confident we can continue to create an inviting environment that accommodates residents, visitors, and business alike.

**Walter Ramsey, AICP**  
Montague Town Planner

### Celebrate the A.D.A.

The Americans with Disabilities Act will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on July 26.

This comprehensive civil rights law was signed by President Bush, and prevents discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

It consists of 5 titles:

- Employment;
- Access: Public service, schools, churches, buildings and transportation;
- Public accommodations: recreation, restaurants, stores, public places;
- Telecommunications: for hearing impaired, speech impaired, with FCC guidelines.

(The fifth covers miscellaneous provisions.)

Congratulations, and thank you, to so many joint partnerships for ADA compliance. I encourage all of us to be more understanding and educated, and to advocate for our frail relatives, family and friends for handicapped parking and supporting access throughout our community.

Remember the handicapped parking spaces are created for the disabled, and we thank you for respecting them. Again, thank you to all the supporters.

Sincerely,

**Betty Tegel**  
Turners Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Join in on the **33rd Annual Connecticut River Valley Astronomy Conjunction** on Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11.

Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together. Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend will be jam-packed with slide presentations, talks, and night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes.

Held at Northfield Mountain Recreation Environmental Center located at 99 Millers Falls Road in Northfield. For ages 12 and older. For more information go to [www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction](http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction).

World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main St, Greenfield is holding a **book**

signing for “Live Free (or die),” poems by Eric Wasileski on Saturday, July 11, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Wasileski, from Greenfield, is a Persian Gulf Veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He is also a father, activist, preacher, ethicist and poet.

He is the coordinator of Chapter 9 Smedley D. Butler Brigade, Veterans for Peace, Clerk of New England Yearly Meeting (Quakers) Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and a facilitator with Warrior Writers. Wasileski also facilitates monthly at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans.

Join **Geologist Richard Little** on board the Quinnetukut II, Northfield Recreational Center, on Sunday, July 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. as geology comes alive through the clear and often humorous stories

from the professor.

This relaxing cruise on the Connecticut River will be filled with tales of drifting continents, earthquakes, dinosaurs, glaciers and Lake Hitchcock, all are part of the creation of our idyllic Valley.

Professor Emeritus of Greenfield Community College, Richard Little has published three editions of *Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut Valley* and created videos about the rise and fall of glacial Lake Hitchcock and the 500 million year history of the Connecticut Valley.

For ticket information and directions call (413) 659-4426.

Staff members from **Historic Deerfield** will be at the Greenfield Saving Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, July 18 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to provide information and hand out brochures and items of interest for the upcoming events at Historic Deerfield.

Come join local resident Lill Miskinis as she points out the historic house tours, collections of art and antiques to explore, as well as the history of silk with live silkworms spinning right before your very eyes.

Sheldon, Shokazoba, Holly May, Carrie Ferguson, Chris Scanlon, Community Smokes, The Snaz, Pat and Tex LaMountain, and Women Songwriter Collective. New additions include Mary Jane Jones, Samantha Farrell, Mad Yonder, The Coteries, and young up and comers Kalliope Jones, to name a few.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and are good for the entire day and night. Children under 12 are free.

For more information, full performer list, volunteer opportunities and advance ticket purchases please visit the festival website: [www.uppervalleymusicfest.com](http://www.uppervalleymusicfest.com).



**The Great Falls Discovery Center presents Wingmasters:** North American Birds of Prey on Saturday, July 18, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This live, free raptor program incorporates six live birds that may include: hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons. The presentation, packed with stories, gives an overview of the birds and explains predation, the birds' place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations and their conservation status in a rapidly changing world. All ages are welcome.

Early arrival is suggested since the GFDC fills up quickly when live animal programs are offered. For more information call 863-3221.

Wingmasters program is sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Save the date of Saturday, July 25, because the **Upper Valley Music Festival** is returning to Turners Falls where more than 30 performers will share 5 venues for an all-day festival.

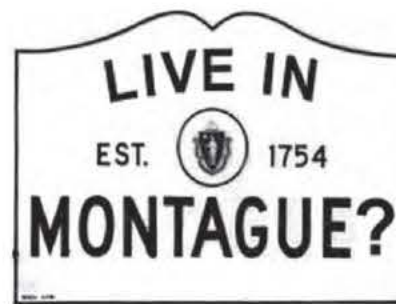
Venues include The Shea Theater, The Great Falls Discovery Center's Great Hall, Hubie's Tavern, Harvest Market and The Rendezvous. All are in easy walking distance of each other and there is ample free parking in town.

For more info visit [www.uppervalleymusicfest.com](http://www.uppervalleymusicfest.com).

**The Common People Concert** series held on Tuesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. is in full swing. The concerts are held on the Gill Common, hence the name, or in the Gill Congregational Church if the weather is inclement. This series continues to August 11.

Residents and local businesses have been disappointed to learn that there is **no Block Party** along Avenue A in Turners Falls this summer.

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



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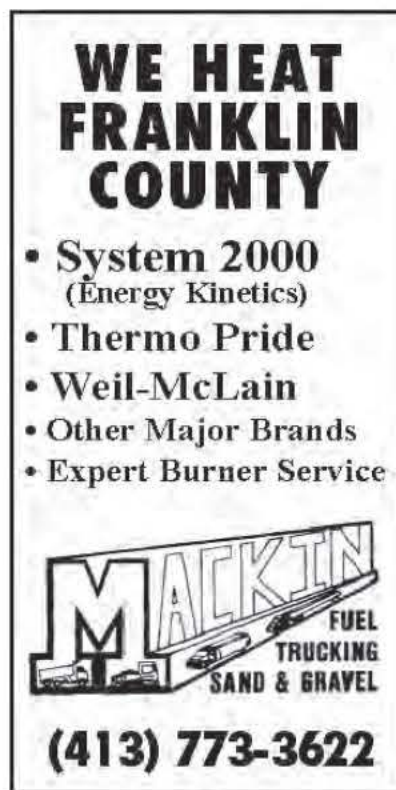
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## GUEST EDITORIAL

By STAN ROSENBERG

In one historic 48-hour burst last week, the Supreme Court affirmed what we here in the Commonwealth know well: Massachusetts is a trailblazer for equal rights and social justice in the country and the world.

On Thursday, the court upheld the Affordable Care Act, a law that was of course modeled on the health care bill we passed here nearly a decade ago. The results of that law nationwide are the same as they are here in Massachusetts: the number of uninsured people has finally been drastically reduced, families are no longer going bankrupt over health care, and a measure of social justice and stability is taking root.

And on Friday, the court struck another blow for a just society by affirming another Massachusetts innovation: the right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation. Thanks to this ruling, gay couples in all 50 states will enjoy the same protection under the law first guaranteed in Massachusetts and then in 36 other states.

To say the least, this is a remark-

able achievement considering where the nation stood on this issue just a decade ago.

It's easy to forget that when our state's Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of same sex marriage in 2003, it was not a widely embraced position – here or anywhere.

The moment the court ruled, groups began organizing against it, pressing the legislature to pass the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. Less than half of Massachusetts voters supported the ruling. And fewer than 35 percent nationwide supported gay marriage.

Those of us on the front lines of defending the court's decision here started with just a handful of legislative allies. Fearing that we may lose any legislative vote held soon after the ruling, we fought, battled and stalled for three and a half long years as public opinion slowly but steadily shifted in our favor.

By the time we voted on the move to force a constitutional convention that would have made DOMA state law, the public was firmly in our column and our opponents could not muster the 50 votes they needed to put DOMA on the ballot.

## As Nation Celebrates Historic Week, Massachusetts Takes a Bow

To protect the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's ruling, it was crucial to win over public opinion. And the U.S. Supreme Court was also undoubtedly influenced by the rapid shift in national public opinion. Today, a strong majority of Americans favor marriage equality.

The change in public opinion has been breathtaking to those of us who have engaged in this battle for so long. But we also know this is not a mere political victory – it is a validation of our state's record for legal and social innovation that dates back at least to the days of John Adams.

Remember, it was Adams who penned the equal protection clause in our state's constitution in 1780. Our state's high court based its marriage equality ruling on that innovative piece of law. And it was the same legal concept, added to our national constitution after the Civil War to guarantee the equal rights of African Americans, on which the Supreme Court based its decision.

That's our state's history – innovators, trendsetters, forward thinkers. We were the first to open a public library, the first to establish

public parks, and the first to create a public school system. We've led the world in technological innovation, from the invention of the ether at Mass General Hospital in the 1800's to laying Internet's foundation in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

But perhaps our proudest achievements have taken place most recently on the social and policy front. With the health care law and the marriage equality ruling we've shown the world not just how to innovate but how to foster true and lasting social change; how to build not just a better Commonwealth but a more compassionate and more just world.

Today, the people of the Commonwealth are basking in the glow of our achievements in the wake of the Supreme Court rulings. We have every right to feel good about ourselves. Take a bow, Bay Staters.

Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst) represents the Third Hampshire district, which includes Gill, Erving, Montague, Wendell and Leverett, in the Massachusetts Senate, and serves as President of the Senate.

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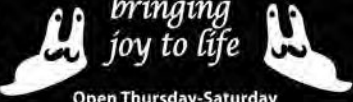


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LOOMS from page A1

the need for local textile mills to educate and support designers.” Rhode Island School of Design has been at the forefront of textile design education for 135 years, so she went straight to the source.

Then she spent close to another year working in a textile mill in North Providence, further honing the skills she was going to need to set up shop.

While in Rhode Island she met Lenny Brodt, who worked in the mills for over 60 years as a loom fixer and a supervisor. Brodt also worked a second job at RISD as the textile technician, and had been weaving since he was 16. He and Hart decided to each buy a 1940s production loom from a small mill that was phasing out of using shuttle looms, and then find a place where Hart could set up a production loom business.

These massive looms don’t fit obediently in a spare room in a house. Hart found a barn in Buckland to retrofit in order to house the looms, eventually moving there and building a home next to the barn. Brodt came to western Massachusetts also.

Hart calls Lenny Brodt the “loom whisperer” who has helped keep her looms running smoothly for years. He is now in his late 80s and lives in Shelburne Falls.

Thus, since the early 1980s, Hart has been designing and producing primarily woolen blankets and throws using industrial power looms, those behemoths one can see in old photographs from places like the Lowell mills where there were whole floors of these giants back-to-back, in the heyday of the American Industrial Era.

Hart would be quick to tell you

that the Lowell Mills, however, were cotton mills, and she is primarily a wool weaver, and they are not interchangeable processes. When one is weaving wool, it is necessary to take into account the thickness of the wool yarns which vary, as does the wool itself, depending on what breed of sheep the wool is from.

It’s that complicated, and it is this knowledge and her design skills, learned over decades, that make Peggy invaluable to her customers. Seventy-five percent of Hart’s business is custom weaving sheep farmers’ wool, which they have already had spun into yarn.

Small mills used to dot the landscape where farmers could take their product to be finished. In Franklin County, Conway had 3 cotton mills, and there were woolen mills in Pittsfield. But these are no more, and as far as Hart knows, she is the only one offering this service in the United States. She gets design and weaving commissions from as far away as California.

Her website explains to prospective clients that the minimum amount of weaving they need to consign is 40 yards; she does not do single pieces for people. Hart welcomes people to her workshop, however, where 25% of her business is selling blankets, throws, and tablecloths that she has designed and woven for her own sales, both in wool and cotton.

Peggy Hart avows that she is “committed to the rectangle.” She is not interested in cutting and making clothing, or any other object, from her weaving. She uses a shuttle loom so that she has a finished edge to the piece as it is woven. New shuttle-less looms are much faster, but cut the threads with every pass of the weft yarn and then need to be

sewn for a finished edge.

She did remark that in fact her “rectangles” can be worn, noting the long tradition of Native Americans wearing blankets, as well as people wearing sarongs, kangas and other rectangular cloth in Africa and Asia.

Her website most concisely explains what she does:

... I am a textile designer and weaver. I weave on 1940s vintage dobby looms, with widths ranging from 48” to 92”. I enjoy working with complex weave structures, often using 24 harnesses. For comparison, a standard hand loom has 4 harnesses.

Using so many harnesses requires the technology of the power loom, and results in more unusual, intricate patterns. I use the looms as a handweaver does; however, with the flexibility to change patterns and colors as I work.

Hart explained to me that the looms she uses, made by Crompton and Knowles Loom Works of Worcester MA, provide her the flexibility to weave these intricate patterns and change patterns in the same piece – partly because of the pattern chain as seen on the left in the photo (page A1).

These looms, which were produced beginning in the mid-1800s, were considered the industry standard workhorse for over 100 years.

After World War II, however, with the introduction of new fabrics and the need to produce fabric more efficiently, the manufacturing of these looms dwindled, replaced by shuttle-less looms and computer designs. The last C & K loom was made in 1981.

Peggy Hart’s looms fill the barn

space, with spare parts that she and Lenny Brodt scrounged over the years “just in case,” lining the walls.

Hart says that there was a school group touring her workshop and one of the children asked, “Does that loom weigh as much as an elephant?” She did some research and found, yes, they could weigh the same, depending on the size of the elephant; the looms each weigh about 3,000 pounds.

And when they are operating – Peggy Hart doing the work of at least 7 people in a mill running a loom like this – protective headphones need to be worn, and one needs to stand back as the shuttle is quickly and forcefully propelled back and forth, powered by electricity. In earlier times, versions of this loom might have been driven by water power or steam.

Hart’s website lists the workshops and shows that she does through the year. Currently she is working on a project that will result in a show at the Salmon Falls Artisan Showroom in November.

With a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, she is experimenting with creating linsey-woolsey, an ancient fabric made of linen (flax) warp and woolen weft. It was common in Colonial times in the United States when the access to wool was limited.

This fabric was known for its warmth and durability, but not considered very attractive. We’ll have to see what she does with it.

If anyone can make it beautiful, I’m betting on Peggy Hart.



For more information and samples of her work, Peggy Hart’s website is: [www.blanketweave.com](http://www.blanketweave.com).

NOISE from page A1

a music fan whose hearing had been impaired by going to too many concerts, stated that he could still hear the music loud and clear. “I was on my back porch having a cigarette and heard the singer ask the crowd, ‘Is it loud enough? Can you hear me?’ [I thought] are you people deaf or what?”

Most of those who complained about the noise live in apartment buildings adjacent to the bar’s patio. However, Janel Nockleby, who lives over two hundred feet away down Third Street, said she could clearly hear the bands with the windows closed. Noting that the distance violated the local noise ordinance, she complained that calling the police was “useless.”

Even selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz claimed that he could hear the bassline and drums from his property on top of the hill in Turners, well outside the downtown area, though many have since suggested he may have been hearing a concurrent event at the much closer Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club.

Many who attended the packed hearing expressed anger at the sudden increase in Saturday night noise levels, and the town’s perceived unwillingness to respond to their complaints. Yet there was also a strong sentiment that compromise was needed to keep Hubert’s business, which is drawing people to downtown Turners, viable.

David Detmold, who lives on Fourth Street several blocks away from the bar, stated that he was worried that the selectboard would “go

too far in the direction of enforcing the noise ordinance”.

“I do think that people should get relief and ... sleep, but if they don’t want to hear any noise that may be a bit of a utopia... We have to live downtown, and we want it to be lively. We want the businesses to thrive. I’ve lived here for twenty-five years and have seen businesses come and go. It’s been a tough haul for a lot of them.”

McNamara noted that Between the Uprights, a bar across Avenue A, also has band music that “cranks it out.” But that bar, he stressed, has bands only play outdoors four or five times a year, not every Saturday night.

“We’ve heard people say ‘it’s the downtown,’” said McNamara, “but it is also our neighborhood.... I think we can work this out. Shawn and his wife have been great neighbors. We worried about who was going to buy the bar, but we like those guys and the place has been a lot of fun.”

Even the man with the impaired hearing several times commended Hubert’s efforts to create a new music venue in downtown Turners.

A compromise solution that satisfies both Hubert’s business plan and the peace of mind of downtown residents may not be easy to achieve. At the June 29 meeting, Hubert said he was open to turning down the volume and even ending outdoor music at 10 p.m. He also proposed to purchase his own PA system so he could control sound levels.

But Mike Thorn, who owns and lives in an apartment building that abuts the Hubie’s Patio, argued that

the drums, not the volume of the sound system, were the issue.

“The PA system [solution] will only work if it’s not an acoustic drum set,” said Thorn. “There’s no way you can have live music with a standard drum set in this area unless it’s indoors. It just simply doesn’t work.”

After a long pause, selectboard member Mike Nelson asked Hubert if “all your bands have drums.”

Hubert answered “yes.” This was followed by another very long pause.

“We’ve heard people  
say ‘it’s the downtown,’  
but it is also our  
neighborhood... I think  
we can work this out.”  
John McNamara,  
abutter

One member of the audience then asked if the music could be moved inside. Hubert responded that his inside capacity is 70, and there is seating for 60 more on the patio, for a potential total of 130 people on a Saturday night. When he has had to move the bands inside on a rainy Saturday he has had to remove tables, cutting the inside capacity nearly in half. Given the cost of the bands, he said, such a solution would not be realistic.

Hubert also noted that he had already booked bands for every Saturday night, and several other days during the remainder of the summer.

The situation looked even more dismal when Kuklewicz consulted the “good old internet” and found that the “recommended” decibel level for drums at concerts was 90 to 105 dB, with a “peak” at 124-136 dB. The maximum levels allowed by the current town ordinance are 80 in the evening, with special permission.

“That’s my concern,” stated Kuklewicz. “Drums are loud, and I don’t know if people are going to be happy with it. I would not want to see us trying to stop somebody from trying to conduct a business, [but] I believe that it’s going to be more than this noise ordinance allows.”

In the end, Kuklewicz proposed a modified implementation of the existing town noise ordinance that would allow up to 80 dB between 4 and 10 p.m., turned down to 70 decibels between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Hubert said he believed he could live with that and even proposed to shut the music down entirely at 10 p.m.

The selectboard agreed that it would monitor decibel levels and discuss the results at its next meeting on July 13.

A week later, one resident of the abutting Moltenbrey Apartments, sitting in front of the building on Third Street, expressed less concern about decibels than the quality of the music.

Noting that he could hear the patio bands even when his air conditioning was on, he said he did not really mind “unless the music stinks. Tell the guy to keep having good bands.”



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Hart Helps Board Navigate “Shifting Sands” of Broadband

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at its first summer meeting of 2015, heard a lengthy and often complex update from broadband committee member Kevin Hart. Hart reviewed the latest developments in the committee’s efforts to bring fiber-optic cable to “under-served” areas of Montague, particularly homes in the southern section of town not served by the Comcast cable network.

Hart noted that the broadband committee had proposed an appropriation at last May’s town meeting to finance a “pole survey,” but had been withdrawn when 45 new unserved households were discovered, and because town counsel had advised that the town would have to get a so-called “Municipal Light Plant” license to oversee the new system.

Hart stated that while he was initially disappointed, the delay turned out to be a “good thing,” because the “ever shifting sands of the state” have led to a process to procure broadband for underserved towns in the area.

Hart explained this procedure, and presented the board with a provisional timeline. The state has put out a “request for qualifications” for companies to install the broadband networks.

Two companies have responded so far, and there will thus potentially be a total of four options for Montague. These would include the expansion of the existing Comcast network.

However, Hart noted that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which is in charge of the state process, has informally set a threshold of 96% total coverage for a town, which in Montague’s case would still leave 104 homes unserved.

Whatever the solution, the town will have to initiate a “make-ready” process to survey and prepare existing poles for fiber-optic cable. Hart presented the board with a detailed and formidable estimate of the cost of the pole work.

Poles would need to be surveyed for connecting the Turners Falls safety complex with the Montague Center fire station, a key “anchor institution” to connect unserved homes in the southern part of town. Then, bringing cable from the fire station to the main unserved neighborhoods will require still more pole preparation.

Hart estimated that the entire pole project could cost as much as \$556,000 and, as he has in the past, made the case that this could be funded with state money.

He noted that the state had allotted \$5 million to the eleven underserved towns in this region – although to further complicate matters Montague is not considered “underserved.” He calculated that based on the number of unserved homes, Montague should receive at least \$600,000, but “MBI is not breaking it up that way.”

Clearly this will be a topic of discussion with the state, but Hart implied that he had a “verbal commitment” from the state to fund

pole “make ready” work.

Most of the rest of the cost of the project in theory will be assessed to new broadband users. “The net cost to the town if we play our cards right could be very little,” Hart stated. The town would have to foot the cost of an MLP lawyer, and perhaps bonding costs for make ready construction.

There was some discussion of the local process for creating a Municipal Light Plant. This will require two-thirds votes at two consecutive town meetings.

Hart expressed concerns about the potential need to have these votes before the end of this calendar year, which did not appear realistic.

He presented a letter for the board to send to MBI, which was approved.

## Noise and Gas

Much of the rest of the June 29 meeting was taken up by a public hearing on noise complaints in response to bands playing on the patio of Hubie’s bar on Avenue A. (See page A1.)

In other news, the board approved two letters about the proposed natural gas pipeline which could run through the town of Montague. The first was to the Department of Public Utilities protesting the refusal of the DPU to allow the town, in coalition with a number of other towns, formal intervention into Berkshire Gas’s proposed contract with the pipeline company.

The second was to attorney general Maura Healy, who was granted intervention status and is supposed to represent “rate payers,” including Montague. The letter to Healy expressed a number of concerns about the project and about Berkshire’s moratorium on new service pending completion of the proposed pipeline.

## Booze, Bikes and Brass

The board approved two one-day beer and wine licenses for events at the Upper Valley Music Festival on July 25 in Turners Falls. One was for the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant on Third Street, and the other for an event at the Shea Theater served by Lefty’s Brewing Company.

Greg Garrison received approval for an annual cycling race at the industrial park that will take place on five days in July.

Police chief Chip Dodge requested, and received, board approval for a raise for reserve officer Todd Michon.

## Pump and Cable Stations

Bob Trombley of the Water Pollution Control Facility came before the board with a number of requests, including a requisition to pay Baltazar Construction Company \$71,941.45 for work on the pump station project.

“Is this project with this company doing any better than it did up at the airport?” asked audience member John Reynolds.

“So far,” responded Trombley.

Jason Burbank of the cable advisory committee requested that

the board approve another extension of the town’s contract with the local access provider, Montague Community Cable Incorporated (MCCI). Negotiations for a new contract, which expired on June 30, are still in progress. The board approved an extension until December 3.

There was further discussion of the meaning of the recent town meeting vote to “authorize” the board to sign a contract of “not more than three years.”

## Improvements

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Housing Authority received an authorization to disburse funds for the senior center planning study. Hunter also requested that the board sign a contract with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care, Inc. to proceed with the Avenue A Streetscape Enhancement project.

There was discussion of the next steps in the senior center planning project. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio noted that the town’s capital improvements committee would meet in mid-July to discuss priorities. The town is not only considering a new senior center, but also a new library and a major upgrade of its highway department facility.

## Appointments

Selectboard chair Michael Nelson proposed that the board appoint a vice chair in case he was called to do emergency management work “at a moment’s notice.” The board appointed Rich Kuklewicz to the position.

At the end of the meeting, the board renewed the appointments of all appointed town officials, including board members. However, the appointments of Kathy Lynch and Mark Fairbrother of the cable advisory committee were delayed until the next meeting so both could be present to respond to concerns that have been raised.

In Lynch’s case the issues involve a potential conflict of interest; Kuklewicz raised questions about some emails that had been sent to certain board members which he had also received.

The next selectboard meeting is Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs public meeting room at town hall.

By TIA FATTARUSO

**TURNERS FALLS** – Downtown shopkeeper Rodney Madison was arrested early Monday afternoon on Avenue A by Montague police officer Mike Sevene, on charges of disorderly conduct and assault and battery on a police officer.

Officer Sevene had no comment on Madison’s arrest. He was advised on the arrest by staff sergeant Christopher Williams, who, when asked by the dispatcher on duty to speak with the *Montague Reporter*, said, “I’m not going to give [Madison] any publicity, good or bad.”

Police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge said Tuesday he was unsure of the circumstances that initiated a police presence, but confirmed that Sevene is alleging that Madison assaulted him, and said it was possible that the original circumstances escalated into the current charges.

As to what action or actions were the basis for the charge, Dodge said, “I guess I shouldn’t get into it.”

Any “trespassory touching” would constitute assault, he said.

The dispatch log provided to the *Reporter* was censored, with a blacked-out paragraph. According to Dodge, only confidential material that would compromise involved parties would be withheld.

The department also refused to provide the *Reporter* with a copy of the arrest report, telling us that we would be unable to obtain the document until after Madison’s scheduled arraignment this Thursday.

The report was obtained directly at the Greenfield district court.

According to his narrative in the report, Sevene was passing Gary’s Coins, at 115 Avenue A, when shop owner Gary Konvelski hailed him to tell him that he and Madison had been in an altercation, and that Madison had said he was going to call the police.

Then, according to Sevene’s report, Madison approached him, “demanding and yelling that I charge Gary.” Sevene called for Ssgt. Williams, advising him that Madison was “flipping out.”

Sevene wrote that Madison stated, “in a yelling matter,” that Konvelski had “chest bumped him,” and that he subsequently demonstrated this to the officer by chest bumping him. According to the report, Madison then stated, “thats [sic] what he did to me and I want him charged.” Sevene wrote that he “attempted to calm Rodney down.”

At about this point, *Montague*

*Reporter* managing editor Mike Jackson happened by the scene, followed by Ssgt. Williams.

Madison was sitting on a bench and speaking loudly. Sevene’s report states that when Williams arrived, the two spoke and Williams attempted to calm Madison down.

According to audio and video recordings made by Jackson and reviewed by the *Reporter*, when Williams arrived he told Madison he should be arrested. “If you bumped him on purpose, he should be arresting you,” said Ssgt. Williams.

“I didn’t – would you tell him the context of it?” Madison asked of Sevene. “I thought I was the one making the complaint!”

Sevene and Williams briefly conferred, and when Madison stood up from his bench, they told him he was not free to walk away, handcuffed him, and put him in a cruiser. Madison continued to shout in protest, but did not resist arrest.

“So what if I am loud?” Madison said during his arrest. “This is the racist shit I was talking about. You don’t like what’s on my wall. I know none of you like me. I am drawing attention to myself. It doesn’t mean I go to jail, for drawing attention to myself.”

The incident is the latest in a series of events dating to 2013 concerning ornamental planters on the Avenue.

Madison and Kovelski are both responsible for the stewardship of town-owned planters in front of their shops, and controversy over Madison’s placement of art objects in the planter in front of his store, Madison on the Avenue, has most recently led to the formation of a town committee to set policy concerning the planters. Madison sits on that committee.

According to interviews with both Madison and Konvelski, their altercation began when Konvelski asked Madison to move flower boxes he had recently placed in front of Konvelski’s antique store.

Madison states that he has the permission to manage the plants outside that building, which was purchased in May by Ya-Ping Douglas. Konvelski said the boxes were a hazard to his customers and impeded movement on the public sidewalk.

As Konvelski moved the boxes on his own, according to both men, they came into contact. Madison then left to call the police.

*Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.*



Williams and Sevene arrest Madison on Monday.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Town Requests Compressor Station Hearing

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard’s agenda for its first meeting of fiscal 2016 was so short, and their discussions so businesslike, that the board members had time to wait before the executive session that was scheduled for 8:15.

They signed a letter to Norman Bay, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, asking that scoping sessions for the Northeast Energy Direct project be held in Northfield.

Board chair Christine Heard said that she had an email exchange with state senator Stan Rosenberg, and he has expressed concern about large scale projects that continue Massachusetts’ dependence on fossil fuels as opposed to renewable energy sources and conservation. Rosenberg meets weekly with the governor to discuss the commonwealth’s energy needs.

The proposed pipeline route passes through some land under conservation restriction, and the Massachusetts constitution does not allow eminent domain taking of that land without 2/3 majority approval in both chambers of the legislature. While federal law may pre-empt a state law, Heard was not sure whether a federal law can pre-empt a provision of a state constitution.

Nan Riebschlaeger met the selectboard in two capacities, first as chair of the Friends of the Meetinghouse to pursue the Friends’ ownership of the meetinghouse and the land it is on.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said town counsel has the view that the Friends own the building, but the town owns the land, and the lot boundary in-

cludes a small “L” onto the north common where the gazebo sits.

As a group, the board members think the town should maintain ownership of that “L” and so money must be spent to survey and divide the lot.

Riebschlaeger felt that the Friends could share the cost of that work, as suggested by selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser.

A town meeting vote is necessary for the town to sell or give away town owned land.

In her capacity as its chair, Riebschlaeger said the energy committee would like to use Green Communities money to replace the ceiling fans in the library with Energy Star fans, a request that calls for selectboard approval, which she got. The cost would be \$5,208, including prevailing wage for labor.

Pooser suggested that those fans may be repurposed in another town building, and Riebschlaeger said that if the grant comes through the town can look for a local electrician who does not have to charge prevailing wage.

She also said that the deadline for using the town’s Green Communities money has been extended to May 2016, and may be extended again.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that facilities engineer Jim Slavas has been having trouble getting an estimate from Whittier Plumbing for overhaul of the town hall heating system and so that project is on hold.

Pooser said that recently Left-Click has been doing well with their contract to maintain and back up the town’s computer systems and records, but through most of the year they have been largely

absent. He questioned signing another contract, but thought there are few, if any, alternatives.

Left-Click is changing their pricing structure to a flat rate plus an hourly service charge. Pooser said he was going to Amherst the next day and would speak with them.

Cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey met the board and asked that the town’s old brush fire truck, a 1972 International, be transferred to the cemetery commission, instead of being auctioned as surplus. It could be used to carry loam for backfilling where graves had sunk, for plantings and for carrying equipment.

He said he is familiar with that vehicle, and can remove the equipment it held when it was a fire department truck. If it stays as town property it can be available in situations like the ice storm, and he could keep it next to the trailer that stores cemetery commission equipment.

Heard said it is already registered and insured in the town’s policy, and no board member objected to Mackey’s plan, as long as fire chief Joe Cuneo has no objection either.

Mackey said that he would plant trees in the Osgood brook cemetery, but the trees that former cemetery commission chair Dan Bacigalupo had planted there were stolen.

Board members will have to come in, but not necessarily at the same time, on July 8 to sign the last warrant of fiscal 2015, the contract for the Franklin Regional Animal Shelter, and the warrant for the debt exclusion ballot vote that will be held July 27.

## Wendell Selectboard’s Letter to the FERC

Dear Chairman Bay,

On behalf of the Town of Wendell, we respectfully request consideration be given to holding a scoping session within the Town of Northfield as they are one of two communities being proposed to host an 80,000 horsepower compression station.

If these sessions are held in Boston, that means a 180 mile round trip for Northfield and Wendell residents to participate. This translates to a full day off of work. With the exception of Dracut, Massachusetts, all of the other Massachusetts towns affected by the NED Project are located to the west of Northfield and Wendell.

We believe that it is imperative that residents be afforded the opportunity to engage in open and transparent dialog with FERC regarding the pipeline and the proposed route, impacts and mitigation requirements before any final decision is made.

Thank you for your prompt attention and we look forward to welcoming you in Northfield.

Sincerely,  
The Selectboard of Wendell, MA

## Monday, July 27: Debt Exclusion Vote

**WENDELL** – The Wendell Selectboard has voted to authorize a Debt Exclusion Election regarding the costs associated with bringing high speed internet to Wendell.

The election will take place on Monday, July 27, 2015. The polls will be open noon to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballot applications

are available now and continuing until noon on Friday, July 24. To vote absentee you must be absent from Wendell during the hours the polls are open, or have a physical or religious constraint that prevents you from coming to the polls.

The deadline to register to vote in the Debt Exclusion election was July 7.

### ERVING from page A1

Morning Star Chenven, also a petition originator, asked the meeting to consider that pipelines can leak and explode – “We have to vote for our life and our way of life.”

Town counsel Donna MacNicol, asked about the effect of passing the petition, said that pipeline decisions were up to the state Department of Public Utilities and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. “I can’t promise you that this will stop the pipeline, but it is your voice,” she said.

After the article passed by majority voice vote, the crowd erupted in delighted shouts and clapping.

### Erving Riverside Park

The STM also approved borrowing \$775,000 to develop Erving Riverside Park at the former Usher Plant on Arch Street. The money will be used only if the town obtains a Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the state Division of Conservation Services, which would reimburse the town up to \$400,000 of the total cost of development.

Usher Mill re-use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser said that, if the state approves the PARC grant,

the money will be used to turn a portion of the “abandoned and blighted” former mill into a riverfront park. The grant application is due July 15, and awards will be announced in November.

MacNicol explained that PARC grant application requires three things of the town meeting: authorization for the selectboard to apply for the grant, dedication of the land to conservation and recreational purposes, and approval of the full amount of the development cost.

If the grant is approved, up to \$400,000 of the cost will be paid by state funding. If the grant is not approved, the project will not go forward.

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock called development of the park a “win/win/win/win” situation, because river access for tourists is “an incredible opportunity.” He said that, because the majority of the town’s property taxes are paid by the Northfield Mountain Project, only \$56,000 to \$58,000 would come from residential property taxes.

Planning board member Jacquelyn Boyden called the park development “a good opportunity to revitalize the center of town – and the

Mountain Project will pay the lion’s share of the cost.”

After a question about traffic and parking at the proposed park, recreation commission chair Mark Burnett said, “Hundreds of people were working at the Usher Plant every day, about 15 years ago.”

Usher Mill re-use committee member Jeff Dubay answered a question about the potential safety concerns from falling bricks from the former Boiler Building smokestack by saying that the building area is surrounded by a chain-link fence and is blocked off. This building area is not part of the proposed riverfront park.

Ivan Ussach of the Millers River Watershed Council, asked to speak by the Usher Mill re-use committee, told the meeting about expanding the Athol-to-Orange “blue trail” on the Millers River to a trail that goes through Erving all the way to the Connecticut River. He said there was “enormous recreational and ecotourism potential” along the river.

Ussach said Erving’s riverside park proposal was “not in a vacuum”: Athol has developed a riverfront park near its library, and Orange has been approved for a riverfront park grant. He encouraged the town to vote the

funds for the park, so the river can be used “for fun and economic development.”

The meeting voted 95 to 10 to approve the borrowing. In addition, the meeting approved \$5,000 for the re-use committee to hire professional grant-writing help.

### Two Re-Voted Articles

All of the \$1.9 million in proposed expenditures, including putting \$852,712 into the stabilization fund, \$165,000 to purchase the property at 34 Northfield Road, and \$90,000 to re-side town hall, were approved.

The \$855,712 stabilization fund addition and the \$165,000 Northfield Road purchase were previously approved at the May 6 annual town meeting. After that meeting, town clerk Richard Newton questioned whether the moderator could declare that the required two-thirds majority for these articles was reached by voice vote rather than by actual vote count.

According to Sharp, MacNicol recommended re-voting the two articles at the June STM. Both were re-approved unanimously at the STM.

In addition, the STM passed a bylaw clarifying the moderator’s

authority to declare a vote, without a hand count, on matters requiring a two-thirds, four-fifths or nine-tenths vote, unless the moderator’s declared vote is immediately questioned.

### Property Tax Work-Off

The STM approved a plan to allow property tax reductions for people over 60 who work for the town as volunteers. The property tax exemption of up to \$750 will be available for ten households.

The seniors in the program must work for a town office or committee and have the skills needed for the jobs. Their work will be valued at the state minimum wage rate, and will be considered taxable income.

### Other Expenditures

The STM approved \$25,000 for future repair or replacement of the library, \$21,000 to replace the police station flooring, \$9,517 for Class A dress uniforms for firefighters, \$9,135 for partial tuition at Smith Vocational School for one student, \$3,200 for purchase and installation of a washer and dryer at the senior and community center, \$6,000 for a portable public address system, \$2,820 to refinish the library’s oak

see **ERVING** page A7

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BETSY SICARD PHOTO

Erving town hall sends off one of its own, Tuesday night. Tom, you've always been a great help to us at the Reporter, and we wish you all the best!

#### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Community Part of Senior & Community Center Stressed

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard met both immediately before and after the June 29 special town meeting.

The board held an unadvertised executive session attended by administrative coordinator Tom Sharp and town counsel Donna MacNicol. Sharp announced his retirement from town service as of July 10 at the subsequent special town meeting. According to MacNicol, the executive session was legal, although not posted.

The board reappointed members of the police department, town committees and boards for fiscal year 2016. Sharp was reappointed “as per agreement.”

Appointments to vacant Council on Aging seats were delayed while the board waits for recommendations from the council.

The board approved spending \$45,000 to contract for heating, ventilation and air conditioning work at Erving Elementary School, including repair or replacement of the building’s boiler. The May 6 annual town meeting voted up to \$110,000 for capital repairs to the EES building.

#### Community Center Job

The board reviewed the draft job description for the senior and

community center director.

Scott Bastarache observed that the job description didn’t speak to the citizen comments at the special town meeting held earlier.

During discussion of purchasing a washer and dryer and snow blower for the senior and community center, one resident noted that the warrant article used the term “senior center” rather than “senior and community center,” and asked that the selectboard pay attention to the whole community’s use of the building.

Bastarache said he would like to see the responsibility for outreach to the whole community expanded in the job description.

Selectboard member Jacob Smith noted that there were several sections of the description dealing with the general community.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson warned that increasing the center director’s hours to include opening to the community in evenings would “blow the budget through the roof.”

Smith suggested that the description should include language saying that the director’s hours would be flexible, including several evenings per week.

The board decided to ask the Council on Aging and the two town institutions that currently use the center – the recreation commission

#### ERVING from pg A6

tables and chairs, and \$1,500 for a snow blower for the senior and community center.

During discussion of the senior and community center purchases, one resident noted that the warrant article used the term “senior center” rather than “senior and community center” and asked that the selectboard pay attention to the whole community’s use of the building.



and the library – for input on the job description.

#### Renovator’s Supply

The selectboard revised the wording in a letter to the owners of the Renovator’s Supply building in asking for the names of the businesses renting space in the building. The information was sought by the assessors, but has not been provided.

Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden noted that businesses operating in Erving are required to have a business license, and none of the businesses renting space in the building have obtained a business license.

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#### NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Dump Truck Will Need Some Work

By MIKE JACKSON

Waiting for Randy Crochier’s scheduled late arrival, John Ward and chair Gregory Snedeker ran through as many agenda items as they could at the outset of their June 29 selectboard meeting. First order of business was the purchase of a used dump truck, and how best it could be brought up to snuff.

“It’s looking like most likely next Monday will be the delivery date,” said administrative assistant Purington. “We know there are odds and ends with the truck – there’s a chain that’s in the spreader body that will need to be replaced. . .”

At its annual meeting this spring, the town of Gill made the somewhat unconventional decision to purchase a used vehicle, a 2009 Sterling L7500, for the highway department, and fix it up as needed, allocating expense of up to \$50,000 for the project. This put the board on unfamiliar procedural territory.

The vehicle itself ended up costing \$33,200, with most of a \$3,700 sandblasting, repainting and undercoat job covered by a \$3,500 trade-in on the retiring vehicle.

“What about picking the truck up and getting it straight to our mechanic,” Ward suggested, in order to get a complete list of its needs as soon as possible.

According to Purington, as of press time the dump truck had been delivered, but the town was waiting for its title and registration before bringing it for inspection.

#### Heat Pumps Approved

Vicky Jenkins of the energy committee came to discuss a proposed

Green Communities-funded energy conservation project, of up to \$66,000, at the town-owned Riverside municipal building.

The building is rented to the Four Winds School and used by the historical commission and Riverside water district. The project would install six outdoor air-source heat pumps at the building, to feed thirteen indoor units.

According to state law, for energy conservation projects of under \$100,000, towns can contract directly with utility company subcontractors without going to an open bid. Eversource brought in Gates HVACR of South Deerfield for the proposed project.

After the proposed overhaul, the building would be heated in zones suited to the different use of different rooms: the two classrooms would be heated more regularly, and meeting rooms would be kept colder most of the time, and brought up to temperature only for meetings.

“I think we’ve got a reasonably funded, reasonably budgeted project,” said Purington, explaining that nearly \$57,000 should be available from the town’s Green Communities fund, and an additional \$9,000 for contingencies could be pulled, if necessary, from money designated by town meeting for heating projects.

The board approved the project’s Green Communities application.

#### Hearing Requested

The board reviewed a draft of a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, asking that a scoping hearing for a proposed natural gas transmission line and com-

pressor station be held in Northfield where the compressor station would be located.

Northfield and Warwick have sent letters to the FERC asking a scoping hearing be held in Northfield. Purington based his draft on Warwick’s letter, modifying it given that the route would not pass through Gill.

“The line that reads, ‘and the light and noise pollution that will come shining and rumbling across the Connecticut River Valley’ is colorful... but I wonder if it was too colorful for the tone and tenor of the rest of the letter,” said Ward.

“I don’t want it to diminish us in any way, where we could be brushed off as being a little fanatical.”

“You could possibly just rephrase it,” said Snedeker, to “possible negative impacts.... Isn’t there a certain amount of gassing off that happens?”

“When FERC looks at Gill on the map and looks at where this compressor station may be located,” Purington reasoned, “they may say, why does Gill even care? From a city perspective, they don’t know what light pollution is, because they’ve never lived without it.”

The board authorized Purington to revise, and Snedeker to sign, the letter. “I don’t think people should have to drive 180 miles to go to a scoping hearing about something in their backyard,” said Snedeker.

#### ConCom Entrusted

The conservation commission has notified the town about a hearing for a deck rebuilding project at a Grist Mill Road residence that abuts town property. “The concrete footings, or pad, for the current deck are

in danger of tipping toward the river, so the deck needs to be rebuilt,” said Purington.

“The part about it toppling into the river makes it sound really close,” said Ward, wondering just how close to the river it is.

“Might take two bounces,” joked Purington.

The board did not take action, deferring to the conservation commission to represent the town’s interests in the matter.

#### Lights Ordered

The board discussed final details of an order of LED streetlights from the Medfield-based lighting wholesaler Fred Davis Corporation, a project that would also be funded under Green Communities.

“All of the street lights have been a topic of ‘could they be toned down,’” said Purington. “I can’t dispute that LED lights can seem brighter, and I can’t predict whether these will or these won’t – it’s definitely a valid concern.” “The one outside town hall has been complained about numerous times by numerous people,” noted Ward, adding that one on Route 2 by the Scheutzen Verein has also been mentioned as a candidate for toning down.

After a lengthy, technical discussion of which floodlights might need toning down, the board opted not to adjust the proposed purchase, and Purington cut to the chase. “This is a non-negotiable kind of agreement,” he said, and said that there had been delays in securing an inter-municipal agreement with the town of Amherst, which would be doing the installation work.

“The last thing to know about these, from what I’ve been told, is that, once built, these are non-returnable kinds of items,” he cautioned. “I feel very certain that we’re doing this project, and everything I’ve heard

says these are the ones we want, so I think it makes sense to go ahead and place the order – I don’t think there’s a lot of downside risk.”

The board approved the purchase, for \$11,527.34.

#### Obelisks Notarized

Town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo came to certify the results of the board’s mandated, if mostly ceremonial, perambulation of the town boundaries on June 17. “Ray said I could come because of the joy that I was feeling about how we have accomplished this project,” she said.

Board members signed statements that they had uncovered the stone markers that indicated the town borders with Northfield and Bernardston, and confirmed their coordinates.

All involved agreed it had been an enjoyable outing, though it was noted that in future years, this mandated task should be attempted in the springtime, before greenery obscures the markers.

#### Other Biz

The board voted to renew the town’s contract with the Regional Dog Control Services, for \$350 a year.

They made routine reappointments to various town committees. Pam Lester opted not to be reappointed to the town energy commission. “Pam’s been a really strong member of that body,” noted Purington.

They also appointed Andrew Howell as a firefighter, and Leah Banks to the town cultural council.

It was announced that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is holding two public hearings on its draft Regional Transportation Plan, viewable at [frcog.org](http://frcog.org), Wednesday, July 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Greenfield’s Olver Transit Center.

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## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Erving Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40, will hold a public meeting on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, to discuss a Request for Determination of Applicability.

The Request was filed by BSC Group on behalf of Eversource Energy, to build a new transmission line, a switching station and access road on Eversource property.

Chairman, David Brule

### SAFETY from pg A1

a major issue.

Campfires and fires in fire pits also require precautions.

"Always have a bucket of water nearby," Ingram cautioned.

Water safety is a concern during the hot summer months as well. Ingram urges parents of small children to be responsible. This means knowing your child's abilities when it comes to swimming, he said, and knowing what flotation devices are needed.

"Swimming and boating can be fun activities, but they also can be dangerous," said Ingram.

Diving injuries are also common, especially in a large, manmade body of water like Lake Wyola. If people don't know their surroundings, Ingram cautioned, they may try to dive in an area that is more

heavily covered in rocks than they thought.

If the worst does happen and someone is injured or needs medical attention, Ingram said to call 911 immediately. Someone should meet the rescuers, or whoever is on the scene first, to point them towards the scene of the accident.

According to the CDC, children between the ages of one and four have the highest risk of drowning. In addition, according to the CDC, males account for 80% of the drowning deaths each year. For every one child who is reported dead from drowning, five children receive emergency care for their injuries.

"Know what your child's swimming capabilities are," said Ingram.

Hiking is another summer activ-

# FACES & PLACES



Gill's newest 20-pound baby: An alpaca belonging to David Balise, with her one-day-old baby boy. His big sister, one year old, looks on.

JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

ity that helps people stay in shape while enjoying the bright, sunny days. Ingram recommends bringing plenty of water and being mindful of the daylight hours.

"Be responsible, go out at a reasonable hour," Ingram said.

Ingram also recommends bringing a cell phone, in case hikers get lost. Rescuers can track the location of the lost hikers using the cell

phones.

While Ingram said bear sightings are rare in Leverett, it is important not to leave bird feeders out in the yard. If a bear does appear, do not feed it. Call the local police or animal control to deal with the animal.

Last, it can be tempting to exceed the speed limit with warm, sunny days and good road conditions. In light of the recent motor-

cycle crash in Leverett, Ingram is urging motorists both on the road and off the road in ATVs or mountain bikes to be responsible and go slow. ATV users should use the areas designated for that particular activity, and wear helmets.

Most of all, Ingram urges residents to have a safe, fun summer.



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## WEST ALONG THE RIVER



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## Every Time the Sun Goes Down

By DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS RIVER BEND** – Out here on the edge of the woods, along the rushing river, we’re part of the nightfall. We keep track of what happens every evening when the sun goes down. We are beyond the reach of the electric light and the intrusions of the 21st century, for now. Out here, we are timeless, in a way. Flowers close, the Big Dipper appears over the ridgeline of the old house, and night falls.

Most of you are indoors by choice, behind screen doors, cool with air conditioners, in front of television or computer, away from annoying bugs and all. But some of us are outdoors, reporting on nighttime events for you, quietly watching, seeing and hearing things when the sun goes down just over there to the southwest, turning the sky and our valley rim briefly gold in the slanting rays.

Evening and the night unfold like this:

The red-eyed vireo has been singing his interminable, breathless warble. He’s been at it all day, maybe he’ll stop after dark. The redstart whistles every twenty seconds as he has been all day, watching over his mate and nest in the glen. He started before dawn and will only relent after dusk.

The first cricket begins fiddling, the first mosquitoes come out to bite, but not for long. The females are

AGASSIS-FUERTES ILLUSTRATION



A pair of american redstarts - Setophaga ruticilla

looking to feed on red blood, they can’t help it, that’s how they’re hard-wired. No sense in any of us fleeing indoors because of it. Certainly don’t want to spray. Just cover up a bit, and they’ll go away.

The chattering chimney swifts streak through the sky overhead. Their sheer joy of flying is easy to see and to share in. They weave and dip in formation, usually three by three. From time to time they sweep by, gliding side by side, their pointed wings held up in a rigid letter V. Then they break into swirls and power dives, chattering and screaming with joy the whole time.

The humpy-back bats will be out precisely at 8:40. Two or three of them tumble through the air, erratic, snapping up night moths and

see WEST ALONG page B3

## 1950s Third Street: Mayberry on My Mind

By JEFFREY WEBSTER

**TURNERS FALLS** – We moved to the Baker block on Third Street when I was about four years old. I moved out when I was 19. Now, almost 50 years later, I remember my life in that third-floor apartment better than I recall today’s breakfast. Oatmeal, right? Pancakes?

When I think of that top-floor apartment, I visualize the plethora of television aerials – that’s what we called them in the dark ages – on rooftops stretching up to Avenue A and beyond. The green wooded slope of Canada Hill provided a natural backdrop to the man-made forest of masts, crosspieces and rotor motors.

This confused array was best viewed from a window in the common hallway where my mother would lean out and literally air out our laundry in public. The high-flying clothesline stretched to a utility pole in the alley behind the Rendezvous Cafe.

Two street-facing windows provided me with hours of entertainment: The Massachusetts National Guard’s annual convoy from Fort Devens heading to Camp Drum, NY, the fire engine from the old Third Street station screaming by, and the daily parade of across-the-street neighbors coming home from the mills to their Cutlery block apartments.

Each morning, I was serenaded by the crowing of roosters that belonged to my friend on L Street. He also kept a barrel of leeches he applied to mosquito bites. I declined to try that.

My friend’s uncle lived in the little gray house sandwiched between Baker’s and the Rendezvous. He was a gentle character who would readily show you the six fingers on each of his hands.

After my sisters moved out on their own, I inherited the “big” bedroom in the back with its alley-facing window. One day, I was drawn to that window by a ruckus in the alley where a dog was threatening some kids. A Turners cop showed up and shot the dog while my mother edged me away from the window.

There were four apartments in the Baker building, and several tenants moved in and out of the unit directly below us. One evening, we heard what sounded like a gunshot. We couldn’t determine the source, and pretty much forgot about it. The next day, two men in blue knocked on our door and asked to inspect the floor in my room.

It seems that our downstairs neighbor had fired a pistol into his ceiling and the officers thought it may have



COURTESY JEFF WEBSTER

*“The director was desperate for a baritone so he let me in the band while I was still in 8th grade. Big mistake,” writes Jeff Webster, pictured here on the hood of his father’s 1956 Studebaker President on Crocker Avenue, around 1960 or 1961.*

come through my floor. They did not find any evidence, but my mother was appalled that they had seen my messy room. She was apparently less concerned with me getting shot than she was with the cops seeing my stacks of Mad Magazines and piles of stuff that kids collect. Admittedly, I was not the neatest kid, but I’m sure the officers had seen worse.

The best days of anyone’s childhood are school snow days. Waking to a storm, I would jump out of bed to the smell of hot cocoa my mom made from scratch. WHAI would be on the radio, and I always hoped I would hear Bob Gallison announce that Montague schools were closed. Of course, when that happened, I grabbed my sled and headed to the Unity Park hill.

In summer, my mother would gather with neighborhood women and sit in their lawn chairs on the sidewalk in front of Baker’s used furniture store. My father might be working a shift at Cabot Station or hoisting a few in the Rendezvous. I spent more than a few hours with him in the Rendezvous sipping a Coke. I vividly recall the

see 1950s page B4

## Something’s New at the 2015 Farmers Market!

By JOHN FURBISH

**TURNERS FALLS** – Yes, something is new and it is exciting at the 2015 Great Falls Farmers Market. Donna Francis, the market’s manager, has started scanning EBT cards to authorize SNAP benefits (formerly called “food stamps”) so that low-income people in the Montague area can more easily obtain healthy and nutritious produce that is grown locally.

EBT cards will be accepted every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m., rain or shine, through October at the farmers market for big and small purchases, as long as your EBT account has enough in it to cover the cost of what you

want to purchase.

The Great Falls Farmers Market has been around for 25 years. For the past several years, they have been located starting on Avenue A at the corner of Second Street and expanding as needed down toward the Discovery Center.

You may have noticed from the eye-catching 2014 and 2015 posters, that the market has come under new direction. It is now managed by the Montague Agricultural Commission (AgCom), a citizens group which is determined to keep farming viable in Montague, which has nearly 3,000 acres of arable land. Donna Francis, the AgCom chair, is the market manager and maintains its Facebook

presence at [www.facebook.com/GreatFallsFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsFarmersMarket).

### AgCom and GFFM Join Forces

The market is such an essential manifestation of Montague’s identity that, arguably, if it hadn’t started about 1990 and thus been in existence before 2010, it would have had to have been invented afterwards. The year 2010 saw a group of town residents and officials meet with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) planners to develop an Open Space and Recreation (OSR) plan, which became adopted by the selectboard in December 2010.

The OSR group came to a new appreciation of the rural character of Montague’s historic villages, whose diverse landscapes include a mix of farms, extensive forests, hillsides and river corridors. These all help to provide many scenic views and, with the agricultural and forestry businesses, a satisfaction that comes from “eating fresh vegetables, fruit and meat produced close to home, and buying nursery and forest products raised by their neighbors.”

see MARKET page B5



By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Last winter I decided that this year was the time for me to make all the decisions, call all the shots, choose what to let live and what to let die. I’d put in three years working for other farmers, with this period culminating, just before last Halloween, in being fired from Riverland Farm.

The proximate cause had been that I’d informed the owners that I’d be taking a day to get acquainted with the full-manual espresso machine at a local café, the post-season job I’d lined up. They thought that I wasn’t asking for permission, and, I really wasn’t.

The ultimate cause, however, had been eight months of thinly veiled mutual dislike and resentment where I’d developed prison mentality. With the invincibility and freedom of the fugitive with nothing left to lose, I got myself fired for exercising my own agency.

It was an easy step from this nadir in my employment history to choose to grow on my own. In pretty quick succession, I landed some land and received a few offers to purchase my vegetables.

I felt great about not having any real type of plan or business education, and at least five or six people, plus my parents felt neutrally or positive about the idea, so I put in a \$200 seed order to High Mowing Organic Seeds. I ordered everything, the brassicas, the solanums, mesclun mixes, celery, fava beans, carrots, beets, radishes, herbs both medicinal and culinary.

## Not a Paltry Parsley Problem

I was somewhat overcome when the box of seeds arrived in the mail. Seeds are just grains of hope, and so receiving them in February is a helpful tool to deal with the winter blues. I took each bright package out to look at, covering my bedroom floor with them.

I usually don’t look at invoices, but perhaps out of aspirant professionalism, I unfolded this one and read down the long list. It appeared that everything had shipped – everything, that is, except for the Giant Italian Parsley that I was looking forward to making parsley salads with. A few days later I received the first back-order shipping delay e-mail.

High Mowing Organic Seeds is the only seed company that sells exclusively organic seeds. With most seed companies, even those popular with organic growers such as Johnny’s Select Seeds and FEDCO, only a fraction of their catalog is organic.

Much of the reason for this is that it’s just very difficult to produce organic seeds. The plants must be in the ground for far longer than they would be if they were being harvested for food, and so are at risk for a long period of time. This means a greater chance of weather-related damage, insect pests, and fungus: more exposure to the multifarious gauntlet of mortality that farmers navigate.

There’s little incentive, other than ethics, for organic growers to buy organic. Organic certification does not require them. It only requires that growers buy an unspecified good-faith

see AGRARIAN page B3



FURBISH PHOTOS

*Farmers Market 1: Amos and Mark Koyama pick out a box of strawberries as Bill McKerchie of Just Roots looks on.*



# Pet of the Week

Hello, I'm Babe. I'm a pretty laid back, but also pretty playful, guy who enjoys the greater things in life such as exploring my sur-

roundings, running around the house playing with all the toys and being with my people.

I can be a little shy at first, but if you give me a few minutes I'll slowly start to get comfortable.

I've lived with dogs and other cats before and I just love people.

Stop down and visit with me, maybe you'll fall in love and take me home with you!

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



“BABE”

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

### MCTV News for the Week of July 6

By PAM KINSMITH

Check out some great programming this week at MCTV:

- The Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club welcomed car enthusiasts on July 1. Program host John Landino spoke with participants and shares with us unique information about some of the spectacular cars in attendance. The next public Cruise Night will be held August 5 at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club on Deep Hole Road from 5 to 9 p.m.
- Stay informed about local politics. The Gill and Montague selectboard meetings from June are now available for viewing on our website.
- Check out the kick-off event for the Montague Public Libraries Summer Reading Program. Hosted at the Carnegie Library, presenter Richard Roth from Creature Teachers gives a terrific presentation with all kinds of animal information for all ages. For more information about the libraries and all kinds of events

and programming, go to their website at [montague-publiclibraries.org](http://montague-publiclibraries.org).

- Common People Concert from June 23 at Gill Congregational Church. Pep up your workday or cooking in the kitchen by listening to Zydeco Connection!
- Unable to attend the Turners High School 2015 graduation? Watch your grandkids or yourself by visiting the “Latest MCTV Videos” link on our website and checking out this year’s successful seniors.



## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

### Mouth Health

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I seem to be getting more cavities in my teeth as I get older. Is this another part of the aging process?*

Tooth decay – and gum disease – are caused by plaque, a layer of bacteria. This plaque can build up quickly on the teeth of older people. In addition, seniors have a greater tendency to get decay around older fillings. And we have more fillings than younger people because we didn’t all grow up with fluoride.

Cavities in the roots of teeth are also more common among older adults, because the roots are exposed when our gums recede and we become “long in the tooth.” The root surfaces are softer than tooth enamel and decay more easily.

Dry mouth, which is a lack of saliva, promotes tooth decay. Saliva is needed to neutralize the cavity-causing acids produced by plaque.

Most dry mouth – a condition also known as xerostomia – is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging.

More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands. These include drugs for urinary incontinence, allergies, high blood pressure, depression, diarrhea and Parkinson’s disease. Also, some over-the-counter

medications often cause dry mouth. Dry mouth can also be caused by cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, nerve damage in the head or neck, the autoimmune disease Sjogren’s syndrome, endocrine disorders, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, anxiety disorders and depression. Despite all of the dental problems related to age, seniors are holding onto their teeth longer than they used to. One reputable survey showed that the rate that seniors lose their teeth has dropped by 60 percent since 1960. This improvement has been attributed to advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene.

Cleaning your teeth is especially important as you age. Dentists advise that you brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste, and clean between your teeth with floss or other interdental cleaner.

Gum disease is common among seniors because it develops painlessly over a long period of time. It is caused by plaque, but it can be aggravated by smoking, ill-fitting dentures and poor diet. Symptoms include bleeding, swollen or receding gums, loose teeth, a change in your bite, and persistent bad breath or taste.

Another change as you grow older is difficulty keeping your teeth white. Again, plaque is to blame.

Because plaque can build up faster and in greater amounts as we age, older people have a hard time maintaining a bright smile. Changes in dentin, the bone-like tissue that is under your enamel, may also cause your teeth to appear slightly darker.

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

## Senior Center Activities

July 13 to 24

### 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 7/13

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 7/14

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

#### Wednesday 7/15

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 7/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi,  
Veteran’s Outreach  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

#### Friday 7/17

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

#### Monday 7/20

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

#### Tuesday 7/21

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Wednesday 7/22

10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:30 Monthly Health Screenings  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 7/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi,  
Veteran’s Outreach

#### Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

#### Friday 7/24

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

### LEVERETT

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### 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 congregational 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, interim Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

#### Monday 7/13

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

#### Tuesday 7/14

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 Sandwich Tuesday (sign up)  
12:30 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday 7/15

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

#### Thursday 7/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class  
**Friday 7/17**  
9 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza, Movie & Snacks  
Noon Out to Lunch at Terrazza

#### Monday 7/20

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
**Tuesday 7/21 CLOSED**

#### Wednesday 7/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
Noon Bingo & Snacks

#### Thursday 7/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class

#### Friday 7/24

9 a.m. Bowling, Quilting  
11:30 a.m. Pizza, Movie

### 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.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

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### MPD from page B3

respond and stage. All occupants confirmed out of building. Bridge Street shut down. Active fire in ceiling of apartment. TFFD advises incident brought under control.

5:57 p.m. Party into station to report that she was accused of stealing money by a male party she had been staying with and was kicked out. Party's belongings were placed on the porch, and she reports that half of them are now missing. Officer spoke to reporting party and other involved parties; advised of options. Party later called back to say that after leaving MPD she was "nearly run down" by the involved male party. Officer advised of complaint.

9:06 p.m. Caller reports that she was driving over the General Pierce Bridge into Turners Falls and observed a male standing on the railing of the bridge. GPD and TFFD contacted. Second call reporting same. GPD officer advising a knife was found on the bridge near the spot where the male was reportedly seen. MSP Airwing requested; 1 hour ETA. Northfield Mountain advises river flow is 21000. FD units advised. MSP Airwing cancelled; all units clear and returning; it is believed, based on wit-

ness statement, that party walked off the bridge. Area checked thoroughly.

**Wednesday, 7/1**

7:23 a.m. Caller reports that she was "grazed" by a vehicle while crossing Avenue A. Vehicle stopped momentarily then continued onto Third Street and up the hill. Caller is "shaken up" but refusing EMS. Officers spoke to party in vehicle and to the caller. Report taken.

10:56 a.m. Tools reported missing from Fourth Street: a Bostich air compressor, air hose, and "blow kit." Report taken.

11:16 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

11:20 p.m. Caller reports that there was a large pickup truck traveling eastbound on Swamp Road stopping in front of each residence and throwing fireworks into yards, including into the caller's yard. Patrol units advised.

**Thursday, 7/2**

10:51 a.m. Caller from Taylor Hill Road reports that last night there was a mother bear and three cubs in her yard. Advised to keep bird feeders and trash inside and call if she spots them again.

10:05 p.m. Caller reports suspicious vehicle sitting with headlights off be-

hind a house on N Street. Officers clear; surprise party for resident's husband, nothing out of the ordinary.

10:16 p.m. Report of neglected dog on Fifth Street. Animal control officer advised.

**Friday, 7/3**

6:56 a.m. Caller from Park Street reports large turtle on sidewalk. Officer moved turtle to a safer location. Environmental officer advises that it is likely a female trying to get back to where she laid her eggs.

7:51 p.m. Complaint regarding fireworks that are shaking a house and scaring horses and dogs on Lake Pleasant Road. Quiet upon arrival.

9:56 p.m. Complaint regarding high-quality, "professional" fireworks near Stevens Street. Referred to an officer.

10:32 p.m. Complaint regarding loud party with fireworks, a bonfire, and 30-40 people on Kingsley Avenue. Parties advised of complaint.

**Saturday, 7/4**

10:56 a.m. Caller from East Chestnut Hill Road concerned about airplanes flying over her neighborhood on a regular basis. Caller states that the planes sometimes dive, and she has noticed variations in the sounds of

their engines. Caller advised that this would be referred to a n officer but that there was likely nothing MPD could do.

10:50 p.m. Caller advises that the front door to Madison's on the Avenue is wide open. Responding officer advises that owner is on scene refusing to provide ID.

**Sunday, 7/5**

6:40 p.m. Multiple calls regarding an apparently neglected dog tied behind a house on Park Street with no water. Officer confirmed the dog is getting "mangy"; unable to make contact with anyone inside building. Check of listings shows no dog registered at this address. Dog removed to kennel. Received call from owner; advised her of condition that dog was found in and that dog was at kennel. Owner upset; given contact information for animal control officer.

11:49 p.m. State police out with a male party on Fifth Street who states that he was "jumped" at his apartment. Victim advises that the assault occurred 2-3 hours ago during the fireworks in Greenfield while he was asleep. Party transported to hospital. Report taken.



## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was July 14, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### Dry Hill Road Paved With Good Intentions

Wendell Road resident James Senn and his lawyer Michael Pitt came to an agreement with the Montague select board regarding the long-standing dispute over access to the Dry Hill Cemetery.

After years of legal wrangling and posturing, the road will once again be open to the general public, if the verbal agreement reached at Monday night's selectboard meeting holds.

"We have a historical right to the road," said board chair Allen Ross. Ross did offer Sen the possibility of opening an alliterative access route to the Dry Hill Cemetery, which would require an exchange of land.

However, Pill stated that his client would not challenge the town's authority over the historical roadway.

### Conflict of Interest Charged at Wendell Hearing

On July 12th the Wendell board of health completed the continued hearing on proposed septic and groundwater regulation changes, with five residents in attendance.

Under question was the board's proposal to reduce separation requirements between a well and a septic leech field from 150 feet to 100 feet, and the minimum distance to high groundwater for a new system from 18 inches to 12 inches, the lower distances are all that is required by the Commonwealth's Title V regulations.

Stephen Broll brought up the potential for conflict of interest on the board, because, he said, board member Donald Richardson owns

hundreds of acres in town which could be developed more easily with less restrictive regulations, and his brother runs a prominent excavation business. He said that it would be prudent if that potential conflict were researched by counsel.

Former board member Gloria Kegeles added she thought Richardson should recuse himself from the decision because it was an ethical violation for an official to make a decision that involved money for himself or members of his family.

Board member Harry Williston called that comment was out of order, but Mary McBride demanded, "How can you say that?"

### Erving Housing Grant Approved

The Erving selectboard was notified by Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) that its community development block grant for housing rehabilitation has been approved by the state.

Erving was the lead agent for the seven-town joint grant, which totals \$1.2 million, and includes the towns of Bernardston, Leverett, New Salem, Northfields, Warwick and Wendell.

Paul Douglas, HRA's executive director, said the state approved all five of the proposals the HRA submitted, covering 14 towns in Franklin County. "That made us very happy," Douglas said. The five grants total \$3,655,960.

Speaking of the "Erving" grant, Douglas said it received the #1 ranking in the sate, which he said "speaks to the credit of our staff."

According to Douglas, grant funds will be made available to individual homeowners and multi-family properties where tenants are income-eligible and owners agree to keep units affordable.

### 1950s from page B1

smell of stale beer that permeated the bar.

The amiable Saulnier brothers, Pete and Leo owned the Rendezvous and they always made me feel welcome. I was touched when, some years later, they both attended my bachelor party at the

Rist Tavern in Greenfield.

When my dad died in 1969, my brother and I went into the Rendezvous to honor him with a toast. We weren't allowed to pay for our drinks that day.

Many of the stores we patronized were locally owned. I wore clothes from McCarthy's, bought fishing lures at Pipione's, newspa-

pers and magazines at the Corner Book Store, shoes at TruVals, flowers at Cade's, chocolate frappes at the Cone Shop, and penny candy at Equi's.

At Christmas, I made the annual trek to Trudell's Drug Store to buy my father his recurring gift of Old Spice. Our photos were processed at Valley Camera. When I had somehow accumulated a few spare dollars, I would deposit it in my meager account at the Avenue A branch of Crocker National Bank.



## Huh, Small World...

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – I had to laugh when we received Jeff Webster's piece here at the *Reporter*. Turns out that sixty years later, the managing editor of this paper sleeps in Mr. Webster's old childhood bedroom, overlooking an occasionally rowdy alleyway.

The furniture store downstairs is now a laundromat, which keeps heating bills low in the winter. The Rendezvous is the Rendez-

vous again, but we dry our clothes downstairs as there's no clothesline set up out back.

We love watching sunsets over the Greenfield ridge, and the confused array of steeples and satellite dishes downtown. The windows on the Third Street side continue to provide entertainment.

And the neighbor below us, a poet and DCR park interpreter, hasn't fired any weapons at her ceiling, at least not in the seven years we've been living there.



JACKSON PHOTO

*"The green wooded slope of Canada Hill provided a natural backdrop to the man-made forest of masts, crosspieces and rotor motors. This confused array was best viewed from a window in the common hallway where my mother would lean out and literally air out our laundry in public. The high-flying clothesline stretched to a utility pole in the alley behind the Rendezvous Cafe..." Here's the view out of the window in the hallway of the former Baker Block in July, 2015.*

Grocery stores were plentiful back then, and we shopped at all of them. On Third Street alone were Girard's Market; First National (FINEST); the Red & White Market; and Dave Solomon's, where items on high shelves were plucked down with a pincher on the end of a pole.

Norwood's (later Cumberland Farms) was handy, but not for milk – our Tenney Farms milkman delivered dairy products in glass bottles to our door.

Hood's Pharmacy, on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street, looms large in my memory. One evening, a Turners Falls police officer knocked on our door inquiring about my older brother. It seems he and a bunch of guys were throwing snowballs in front of Hood's and shattered the big plate glass window.

I was in the fourth grade at New Eighth School off of L Street, when I started working for our landlord, Mr. Max Baker. He and his wife, Mary, were wonderful people who always treated me well.

Max owned a kerosene truck, with which he delivered heating fuel to residential customers. He hired me for three dollars a week to help him on Saturday mornings.

One very cold day, we unreeled the hose to pump kerosene into a tank on lower L Street. On completing the delivery, Max pressed the button to rewind the hose. Ice had worked its way into the mechanism and the automatic hose reel stuck in the on position. The hose and nozzle kept whipping around the reel. I was afraid the nozzle would be knocked off, spewing kerosene all over the street. Somehow, he finally stopped it, at least temporarily.

We drove back to his store and he went in, only to return with a blow torch. He thought that would be the solution to further icy mishaps.

It certainly would have been a solution – a permanent one for all of us! Even at nine years old, I knew that a blow torch and a truck full of flammable liquid

were not a good combination. Mrs. Baker and their adult son Sammy became very animated and convinced Max of the potential for an early Fourth of July.

That potentially disastrous incident came back to me about one year later when my friend Mike and I saw the Drago building explode on Avenue A.

Other treasured memories include the countless hours spent at Carnegie Public Library with my dad; concerts at the band shell in the park; and hiking up the "boardwalk" to grades 7 through 12 on Crocker Avenue – always an adventure in winter when the sidewalk was ice.

One of my final recollections of the town involved the river. On one of our first dates, my wife (a Greenfield girl) and I paddled a skin kayak down the Connecticut from Northfield to Turners.

That was about 48 years ago, and the cliché about a lot of water over the dam since then has never been more true.



Jeff Webster in front of the Rendezvous, circa 1951 or 1952.

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# Goat Over Floweth? Make Cheese!

By KATHLEEN BUREK

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – The does have kidded, a joyful event – goat mamas love their babies and nurse them well. And now that the weaning process has begun (separating the kids from their dams and milking the does in the morning before the kids are back) I am swimming in loads of milk.

A good goat will give upwards of a gallon per day. So for a family, two goats are sufficient to supply milk, cheese, meat and manure for the garden.

Among life's greatest pleasures are cheese, wine and bread. All require fermentation. Bread rises in the pan; wine matures from the action of yeast and sugar; cheese magically emerges from a pot of milk with the action of bacteria upon milk sugar.

Cheese is patience. Cheese is slow food. Cheese is in favor of family farms. Cheese making preserves an age old process that is both healthy and tasty. The easiest variety to make is soft cheese.

When you make cheese, you think cheese. That is what I mean by slow. You slowly warm the curds and wait patiently till the cheese ages to perfection.

How did cheese come about, you ask? Cheese dates back to 9,000 BCE. Archeologists found that cheese was well known among Sumerians, Egyptians and Chaldeans around 4,000 BCE. Also known in Biblical times was that David was delivering cheese to Saul when he met Goliath. And there is the tale of the young nomad who poured his morning ration of milk into a bottle made from a sheep stomach (thus, rennet) and plodded across the hot dessert all morning, only to find at noon the milk had solidified! Voila! What a surprise – the first traveling salesman!

On to making your cheese. When I first started to make cheese some 25 years or more ago, I only knew of two starters: vinegar and lemon

juice. One's a bit tangy, the other's a bit sweeter. I brought the gallon of milk in the pot to about 180 degrees (without a thermometer), added 6 tablespoons of vinegar, and immediately got curds and whey. Same result with 1/2 cup of lemon juice.

Today I am more advanced. Into a stainless steel large cheese vat, similar to a double boiler, I pour one gallon of goat milk, place a thermometer in the milk (careful to not touch bottom with it) and heat it slowly to 86 degrees. At that point add your chèvre culture (available in a small packet from New England Cheese Supply) and let it set atop of the milk. Then, with a slotted spoon, stir gently in an up and down motion to mix the culture throughout. Cover, remove from heat, and leave on the counter overnight to coagulate.

In the morning, remove the cover and you will have curds and whey. Remember Little Miss Moffet eating her curds and whey? Next step is to take a long knife and cut the curds, first one way, then the other, so it is a checkerboard pattern.

Now you need to put a colander over a large pot, with a large piece of butter muslin over the colander. Spoon the curd into the muslin. Some whey will be left. Tie up the edges of this muslin, also called cheesecloth, and hang it to drip over the pot of whey for three or four hours.

Now the fun creative part begins. Put your cheese in to a bowl and salt with cheese salt or fine Kosher salt, about one tablespoon. At this point you can add any herbs you like.

Usually I divide the cheese into as many bowls as I have herbs, and then add them, such as: garlic, dill, French herbs, chives, etc. The list is endless. You can even add dried fruit.

Wrap up in cheesecloths or in cups, refrigerate, or enjoy right then. You have made a delicious, healthy cheese to enjoy with crackers, bagels, salads, burgers, pizza, wine, beer, or any way you like.

**MARKET** from page B1

The full OSR plan can be read through, including maps, at [www.montague.net/Pages/Montague-MA\\_Planning/docs](http://www.montague.net/Pages/Montague-MA_Planning/docs).

The AgCom was created in 2005, but after the adoption of the OSR plan, the group revitalized. It drafted a "Right-to-Farm" bylaw passed by Town Meeting in 2011. Because of this, previously existing agricultural operations are protected from "nuisance lawsuits" by neighbors about noise, dust, odors, visual clutter that may occur from normal farming operations day or night on weekdays, weekends, and holidays. The five AgCom members continue working on a complete inventory of Montague's farms.

New home buyers and renters in town can expect to receive a "Disclosure Notification" about what to expect and accept from the existence of active farming in town. The commission has secured a grant to fund welcoming signs to identify Montague as a "Right-to-Farm" community. Look for the signs to be installed this summer. For information about the commission and its work, see [www.montagueagcom.blogspot.com](http://www.montagueagcom.blogspot.com).

In 2012, commission chair Donna Francis took over the management of the GFFM. Donna was raised in Ohio where she studied biology in college. She moved to Massachusetts in 1996 for a job, and has stayed here since. For the past ten years, she has been on the Montague Conservation Commission. Presently she teaches Environmental Science at Holyoke Community College, coming to her table at the market on Wednesday afternoons from class there.

In October 2014, the AgCom secured a state grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources that allowed them to purchase an EBT card reader, so that food stamps can be offered for all the food products offered at the Farmers Market. Now, for the 2015 season, Francis operates the reader every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. through close of season in October. I have used the service and it is very convenient, and I know of no farmer setting up in the 2015 season who does not accept SNAP payments through the system.

## What to Expect at the Market

Joe Chamutka, of Millers Falls always sets up on the Discovery Center end of the market tables and keeps providing a "little bit of everything" each season. His flowers make a fabulous display to look for when you start shopping every Wednesday (though please note that flowers are not covered by SNAP.) And his \$4 strawberry boxes are very affordable.

The only market farmer from Turners Falls is Peter Kretzenger, who uses less land for his farming than anyone else by including planters in his driveway and garden beds in his yard. He always packs an amazing variety on his single table set-ups. Kretzenger does public presentations on small-scale growing and is very approachable; he gives advice and consultations freely.

When I inventoried the market tables on the first Wednesday of summer 2015, an interesting table of wares was shared by farms from Montague Center and Sunderland. Kathy Burek was representing the Thomas Family Farm and Goat Dairy in Sunderland, which makes fresh cheese every week.



FURBISH PHOTO

Market manager Donna Francis demonstrates the new EBT card reader.

Burek assured me that the lush pastures of grass that her Montague goats eat produce a better taste for her products. I found the Nubian goat cheese with dill and cracker delectable, and it did not trigger my lactose intolerance.

You may buy her products with SNAP benefits. (Burek has penned an article in this issue about goat cheese, as well.)

Another goat-loving farm shared the same table that day. It was Alice and Ted Armen's Frost Pocket Farm in Montague Center. The couple keeps bees, chickens, and dairy goats, and sells honey, eggs, and delightfully carved bars of Goat Milk Soap (which alas, is not edible and thus ineligible for SNAP).

The farm's garden for vegetables and fruits is spacious, and Alice Armen assures me that various, unusual fruits will be presented throughout the season. Her currants and berries are edible, and very tasty, and like the eggs and honey they are food stamp eligible.

A central figure in the farmers markets in Greenfield and Turners Falls was Bob Johnson, Sr., who farmed 12 acres of prime Deerfield soil. Today, Eddie Johnson continues to hold the anchor position for the market with a horseshoe array of tables on the corner. His tables present a large variety of plants, herbs, vegetables and fruits, and if any one vendor could be called one-stop shopping at the GFFM, it would be the Johnson Family Farm.

Eddie Johnson grew up farming corn in Deerfield, so he knows how to bring the ears in early, and how to keep them ripening through the sunny season. And if you get to know him as a customer, you may find that he gives "farmer's dozens" of corn, 13 or 14 ears, for the same low price.

## NKOTB

This year at the market, the Just Roots Community Farm are the "new kids on the block." Their soup tastings, a new line of development for the farm, get well received and their vegetables and fruits have displayed well.

Just Roots also provides CSA farm shares (which are SNAP eligible) with reduced prices for seniors and low-income folks. Pick up of shares in Turners Falls is Fridays at the Brick House on Third Street for the twenty weeks of the CSA program. Some 70% of their shares go to low-income folks, and their ecological and agricultural themed community workshops also have low-income options.

Just Root's "Senior Supported Shares" are half the size of regular shares, and cost half the price. Be sure to check out their brochure, available at the Just Roots table at the farmers market, and their web site, [www.justroots.org](http://www.justroots.org), and keep your ears open for winter CSAs and for their new soup line, with pint and bucket sizes, to be available in local retail outlets.

There is a big lawn surrounding the Wednesday Farmers Markets, and more display space is available. The market welcomes new vendors. The fee is \$5 each week, or \$100 for the entire season. Vendors must be selling locally grown or produced items. Community non-profit groups may set up displays for free. Interested vendors or groups can email [greatfallsfarmersmarkettur-ners@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsfarmersmarkettur-ners@gmail.com), or call Donna Francis at (413) 687-1288.

It should be noted that farm products are allowed on the FRTA buses, like other packages, and the Route 22 (Montague/Greenfield) allows people to board a bus in Montague Center at 1 p.m., shop at the market and do other things in Turners, get on the bus at 5:25 at the Third Street stop, and return home through the 6 p.m. stop in Montague Center.

Millers Falls does not have good bus service for use of the market, but Greenfield, Orange, and Charlemont do. About Town Taxi Service is another great option.

Gym bags and the cloth grocery store bags are convenient for market shopping because they can be set down for rests. I find that, especially in corn season, it can take me two trips to get what I need from the Great Falls Farmers Market.

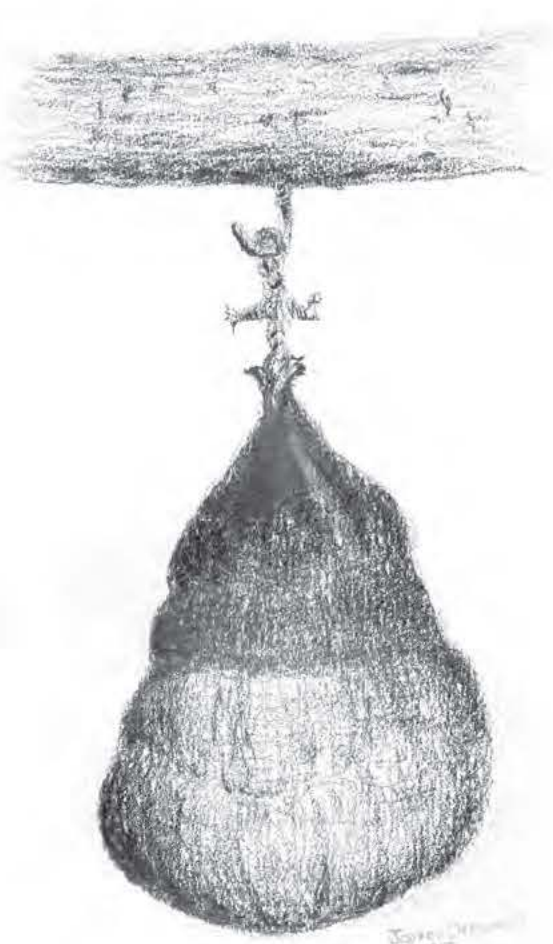


ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES DRESSER III

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the poetry page

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

edited by Patricia Pruitt

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

GALLERY I: POLLICE VERSO

A Roman myth  
In a French frame  
Poses between  
The cherished game  
Of Academia  
And the trivial  
Aims of popular  
Publication seen  
In grocery aisles.  
Yet, with  
Loud acclaim,  
The former boasts difference  
Like old-impasto beefy evidence  
Of faded sin  
As time lauds its blood.  
Study  
Gerome and determine if he  
Changes any history  
Or improves varied origin—  
Adam, Eve, Gilgamesh,  
Or the thin, dainty, Japanese gods.

Richard Charles Thayer

A Sonnet for the Heirs of Sisyphus

Henry never knew his dynasty  
Would wither so into dead children-kings  
And two queens. Nor did the vain century  
Envision history jousting for things  
Of no consequence. Typeset and dry ink  
Bequeath ten volumes unto lineage;  
And Mears and Carter make occasion think  
Itself as something better than a stage  
Of dreams and efforts to beget one crown,  
Denial. Yet, success rolls on itself  
Like Jack and Jill forever tumbling down;  
Forever weighing down a narrow shelf  
Of many stories—all identical.  
God could have stopped at Adam's chronicle.

Untitled

Since you are reading this, I want you to know,  
as deeply as you can,  
that I didn't intend to be gone like this.  
As much as I love you; an envelope of love  
sealed with the lick of my tongue  
and forever in your inbox.  
A Sun and Rain and Sky and Earth of love  
bearing flowers of spring and summer's heat,  
bringing crackles of fall's fallen and the crisp cold in steps ahead.  
As much as I love you, now, as I write these - words,  
that much and more entangles our hearts,  
even with where I have gone.  
My face before you now, my hand on your back, my arms enfolding you -  
my kiss on your forehead, your cheek, your lips -  
the love that extends to you now was there when this body was alive - still.  
When we argued, it was fruit in the aspic of love.  
When you walked out in fury, and I knew not where you went,  
love stayed as the balm waiting for fury to abate.  
And it waits now, as you come to know  
in oh, how many ways  
I am gone; it waits at the moment  
When waning dark grief opens and the love  
that is always already there  
turns the key to your heart, and I am with you.  
Start each day with knowledge that our life rose the same as all life;  
neither better nor worse,  
neither richer nor poorer,  
neither sicker nor more well  
than any life that rises, ever. And death cannot part us.  
As time will come, my body they will burn; that is as it should be.  
I would not pretend that change cannot claim me,  
any more than it could not move me through the moments of life and change;  
infant,  
toddler,  
child,  
tween,  
adolescent,  
adult;  
such a rush to down the steps forward into life,  
as if change were forever in service to eternity.  
Eternal Life is, but it is not in this body separate,  
only as it is, in these words,  
this love, forever with you.

Remember me and I am Love; forget me, I Love.

Paul S. Flandreau

RAINDROP

R As raindrops pixel eastern evening sky  
A refracting photons of specific hue  
I which turn back to confound my raptured eye  
N with billions of their brethren, falling through  
B the space where all, assembled in my brain  
O make God's own rainbow blossom from the rain.

Paul S. Flandreau

June and July bring us two local poets from the village of Turners Falls; We thank them for sharing their poems with all of us.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

### ONGOING:

#### EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

#### EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 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:

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, Turners Falls: *Aliena Animali*. Strange Beasts, Sci-Fi Figments, Monsters and Bio-Hybrids. . Runs through 7/20.

Deerfield Arts Bank: S. Deerfield: *JUST VISITING: Chirico Was Here*. Still-lives by Ron Chirico. Opening reception is 7/2 at 6 p.m. Chirico, who is also a published writer will do a reading on 7/9 on drinking and swearing at 7 p.m. Art show runs through 7/30.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Hall Art Display, *Invasive Water Chestnut in Ceramics: Explorations of a Nemesis* by Karen Jean Smith. Exhibit runs through July 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: *Cool Cats*. Highlighting the work of Montague painter Christine Mero. All cats, all the time. Through 7/18.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Two exhibits in two galleries. Ceramics and multi-media by Molly Cantor, and large drawings and site specific installations by Karen Dolmanisth. Artists' reception 7/11, 6 p.m. with music by Loren Feinstein.

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

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *Here, There, and Everywhere*. Oil, Watercolor, and Egg Tempera paintings by Edith Bingham. Reception 7/11, 7 p.m. Through 7/27.

#### 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](http://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](http://www.wendellmass.us)

#### EVENTS

##### THURSDAY, JULY 9

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield: *Lexi Weege. Strawberry Afternoon*. At the Greenfield Energy Park. 6 p.m

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple and Friends*. Special



*These "sortaman" sculptures of Glenn Ridler are part of his current show called "Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines." They are now showing at the Little Big House Gallery in Shelburne through October 18. Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Go see his fascinating house which is his largest piece of art.*

Guest Hillary Chase. 8 p.m.

##### FRIDAY, JULY 10

Green River Music Fest, Greenfield: Our local music festival that has gotten some national recognition. Artists include *Steve Earle & the Dukes, Polaris, Rubblebucket, Punch Brothers, Preservation Hall Jazz Band* and many more. begins Friday at 6 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. on Sunday. On the grounds of GCC. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse: Falltown String Band*. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *PWR RTLZ, Azfarat, and Rebel Base*. All ages, sub free space, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno-boogie blues. 9 p.m.

##### SATURDAY, JULY 11

Shelburne Falls: *Art Walk*. Events all over town. Two exhibits at the Salmon Arts Gallery, demo of making a "diddley bow" with Dane Donato at 4 p.m. 4-8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Happier Valley Show with THE HAHAs and special guests*. Comic theater. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Open Mic Night*. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Willy & the Poor Boys*. 9 p.m.

##### SUNDAY, JULY 12

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Cleopatra Degher*. 2:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

##### MONDAY, JULY 13

Monday Night Music at the Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Well-tempered Ukes Trio*. Robin Hoffman, Richard Perlmutter, and Marlene Wong play early music, parlor and art songs, all on their ukeles. 7 p.m. on the lawn of the library.

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

##### WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

West Whately Chapel, Whateley: *Watermelon Wednesday - Della Mae*. All female bluegrass group. 7:30 p.m. sold out. Still tickets for 4 p.m. show. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu* (Southern string band) 8 p.m.

##### THURSDAY, JULY 16

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield Energy Park: *Abe Loomis. Zedeco Connection*. 6 p.m.

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

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Shawnee Kilgore* and guest *Daisy. Americana*. 8 p.m.

##### FRIDAY, JULY 17

ArtsBlock, Greenfield: *Comedy Night with Dave Yubruh, Andrew Mayer, and more!* 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Robin Lane*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

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

##### SATURDAY, JULY 18

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Videodrome*, movie starring Blondie's Deborah Harry. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adams*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love & Co. '60's and 70's Gold*. 9 p.m.

##### SUNDAY, JULY 19

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Liz Queler & Seth Farber*. Folk, bluegrass. 2:30 p.m.

Mohawk Trail Concerts, Charlemont: *Babar the Elephant*. Andrew Rangell, pianist, narrator, and illustrator July 19 at 3 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Marris Otter*. Folk Rock. 8 p.m.

##### MONDAY, JULY 20

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Whiskey Treaty Roadshow*, with *The Walking Guys*. 7:30 p.m.

##### THURSDAY, JULY 23

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield Energy Park: *Jim Eagan, Joe Graveline, Daniel Hales*. 6 p.m.

##### FRIDAY, JULY 24

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*. Hick rock. 8 p.m.

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## SCENE REPORT

## Wildcat O'Halloran Bluesfest in Wendell

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Rain was no match for the fans of the blues as they gathered for the second annual Bluesfest being held at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell on Saturday night, June 27. How could it miss with Wildcat O'Halloran as the headliner, bringing his own upbeat, rockin' blues to the pub, along with so many talented musicians for a crowd just so ready to dance the night away no matter what the weather.

Deja Brew owner Patti Scutari made sure folks would stay dry by putting up a big tent on the grass behind the pub with folding chairs and a few tables arranged under it, so people could bring their drinks and food outside and sit while being entertained by a never ending stream of incredible musicians.

Wildcat played guitar and sang backed by his own band, with Devin Griffiths on guitar, Dave Kendarian on bass, and Joe Fitzpatrick on drums. Joe Dulude and Jeff Turcotte also appeared in backing roles.

The Wildcat O'Halloran Band backed up many of the night's other musicians and singers, including Dangerboy, Dave Boatwright, and Buddy McEarns as they performed, and mixed it up throughout the night. Wildcat joined many of the other musicians onstage as they performed a mix of old time blues and original music.

Among the musicians joining O'Halloran were Charlie Scott, a strong singer and bluesman who performs with energy and a feel for the old-time blues. Scott is a member of the Reprobates band.

Otto Lenz performed with Wildcat, singing and playing blues harmonica. His style is more intense as he seems to become part of that harmonica and bends his slim body with the music.

Joining Wildcat in a second outdoor set was Kait Squires, who sings with a powerful voice that shakes up the room. She did a humorous musical back and

forth with Wildcat that was very entertaining.

As the evening got cold and the audience moved indoors, Wildcat and his band set up inside to keep the music going. There, his daughter Sarah Halloran joined him and showed her vocal skills are a fair match for her father's. Strong and smooth, Sarah sings with heart.

Others playing that night were Eva Capelli, Phyllis Lataille and Ken Kucza, plus cameos by Karen Powers (with Weldon Hendricks), Mary-Kate McNulty and Doug Smith.

Wildcat O'Halloran will be returning to the Deja Brew in Wendell on Saturday, August 15, for a special show to benefit the Montague Reporter. Watch these pages for more information, and we hope our readers will join us.



Otto Lenz (at left) plays harmonica with Wildcat O'Halloran (right) at the Bluesfest on Saturday, June 27 at the Deja Brew in Wendell. Performing on this covered stage, musicians kept dry while fans danced on the grass in the rain. Weather didn't stop a crowd filling the pub and tent outside to enjoy the music.

87-year-old Jane needs to visit a specialist. Due to her mobility issues, Jane will not be able to travel on her own.  
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## July 18: "Raise the Roof" in New Salem

The 1794 Meetinghouse, North Quabbin's Center for the Performing Arts, needs to repair its roof by next winter. The organization has planned a series of fundraisers to bring in the needed money and, if possible, repair aging shutters.

At this year's New Salem Old Home Day, they are doing a chicken barbeque dinner at 6 p.m. Beer and wine will be available on a donation basis. Lisa Dewitt, who will be preparing the spread, is known locally as the cook behind the Continental Plate, which has put on fantastic

meals to raise money for many other non-profits.

Tickets, which need to be purchased in advance, are \$15 and are available at the New Salem General Store or by calling (978) 544-7490.

In the evening, there will be a concert of Scottish and Irish music at the Meetinghouse by The Jolly Beggars at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for that event are \$10 for adults, \$5 for 13-17 year olds, and free for children.

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