



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 39

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 23, 2015

Hot Stuff on Display at Sawmill River Arts

By NINA ROSSI

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Sawmill River Arts Gallery perches on the second story adjacent to Greenfield Road at the Montague Book Mill complex. The gallery is larger than it looks on the outside; the space has been cleverly optimized for wall space for its 15 member artists and 25 consignors.

This summer, a members' exhibit called "Hot Stuff" fills the gallery with a wide variety of bright and colorful works. It seems like almost every artist works in two or more mediums, and the array of talent is very impressive at the Sawmill.

The small cooperative gallery has attracted many local artists and crafters, and the 15 members share gallery responsibilities. This means you will always meet one of the artists, no matter when you visit.

Potter Jaye Pope of Montague was on duty Sunday afternoon



Acrylic paintings by Kerry Stone, at the Sawmill River Arts members' show.

when I visited. She was happy to share information regarding her own work, and was also very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the other artists at the shop.

Pope teaches ceramics at the Eaglebrook School and has dishes, bowls, mugs and other functional items on display. Lately her motifs are crows, bicycles, and gears, which she draws on the items with a glaze pencil, giving expression to

see SAWMILL page A5

Gill Elementary Discusses Change, as Principal Leaves

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Kathleen Bailer, principal of Gill Elementary, has resigned effective July 30, and the Gill-Montague school district is beginning a search for her replacement.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan invited interested members of the community to meet with him at Gill's town hall on Monday evening, July 20, to discuss what qualities they would like to see in a new principal. The meeting was well attended, with parents, teachers, school board and community

members participating in a lively and frank discussion.

Sullivan began by asking those in attendance to fill out a questionnaire about what qualities they thought were most important in a new principal. He said the results would be collected and used by the search committee.

In the discussion, teachers and parents emphasized several specific qualities they would prioritize. Many found it important that the principal be open, fair, trustworthy, and support both teachers and students.

see GILL page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Two Very Busy Meetings

By KATIE NOLAN
and MIKE JACKSON

In the wake of Tom Sharp's retirement, the Erving selectboard scheduled an extra meeting to deal with an unexpected volume of summertime business. On July 13, it appointed the senior and community center's interim director Paula Betters as its director for one year, and also increased the hours for the position from 30 hours per week to 40.

On July 21, it discussed its priorities, complained the anti-pipeline article passed at town meeting prevents it from taking timely action, decided to publicly release Sharp's retirement agreement, approved an

energy audit and boiler replacement at Erving Elementary, and authorized the purchase of the Lavallee property later this month.

Bettors Hired for 1 Year

Approximately a dozen people attended the July 13 meeting to support appointing Bettors as director. Selectboard chair William Bembury said the board had received a petition supporting Bettors signed by "25 to 30" people, and that several individuals had written letters of support.

Thelma Downs, 96 years old, told the board that Bettors "has demonstrated her ability to run the center... she is very talented... we want her

see ERVING page A4

County Transportation Planners Publish Two Major Studies; Hope for Funds

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Occasionally, we need to fix the bridges that we use to cross the rivers in our private automobiles. This has been the bottom line of transportation planning in our rural county for about the past century, after the decline of horse, rail and electric trolley transit, as the population has gradually climbed from 62 all the way up to 102 humans per square mile.

The next century is likely to look a little different. At the same time, funds are not exactly streaming in to overhaul our infrastructure. So planners – such as those at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the successor to the now-disbanded county government, and the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA), which runs bus routes in 8 towns and provides rides around the county for the mobility-impaired – must be very strategic in how we develop it.

The COG's RTP

The FRCOG has released a 191-page draft of its new Regional Transportation Plan, which can be reviewed at frcog.org. This is updated every four years, and contains very thorough analysis.

The most dangerous intersection

in the county is apparently at G and 11th streets in the Patch neighborhood of Turners Falls, when you consider both the rate of crashing and its severity. Route 63 at North Leverett Road ranks a distant third (Montague accounts for eight of the

see STUDIES page A7



Both the FRCOG and FRTA are now headquartered at Greenfield's Olver Transit Center, the county's bus and rail hub.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Progress Made on Bar Band Noise

By JEFF SINGLETON

The problem of sound generated by outdoor bands at Hubie's Tavern in Turners Falls, which has been the subject of neighborhood criticism and could violate Montague's noise ordinance, may be in the process of being resolved. Shawn Hubert, the new owner of the bar, and local residents have been meeting, developing compromise policies and checking decibel levels.

They came to the Montague se-

lectboard last July 13 to suggest some modifications to the policies proposed by the board two weeks earlier.

"We got off to a rocky start," said Mike Thorn, who owns an apartment building on Third Street that abuts Hubie's patio.

"If we could have had these discussions previous [to the last meeting], I think some of these things could have been ironed out," stated Hubert.

Thorn said he had talked to

neighbors, and "for the most part we thought it was fine," adding that there was a group that lived next to the patio that, while thankful for the reduced sound level, felt "it's still sort of loud."

He suggested further monitoring and a number of options to reduce sound levels. These included requiring drummers to use "bundle sticks."

Thorn said he had checked decibel levels of bands on July 4, 9 and

see MONTAGUE page A6

Planned Avenue Market Opens Its Doors for Upper Valley Music Fest

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – A retail food marketplace the owners of Great Falls Harvest restaurant hope to open in downtown's former VFW building (*Montague Reporter*, "Fresh Local Grocery Planned for Avenue A," March 13, 2014) is still

in its planning stages, but renovations to the 1,000-square-foot storefront are underway, and the space will serve as one of the Upper Valley Music Festival's five venues this Saturday, July 25.

"I was thinking of trying to potentially serve food, but it's not there yet," said Harvest owner Chris

Menegoni, who has been renovating the space with helpers including his family and building owner David Jensen. The team has exposed the original tin ceiling, and is installing lighting bought at Madison on the Avenue.

Menegoni points to where he envisions a deli preparation case, register, a bar with stools for eating on site, and large square windows on the Avenue storefront side. He calls himself "a year and a half wiser as to what it's going to take" to realize the business's vision.

"The unfortunate thing is," he says, "it costs money to make good food... That's one of the things that we're going to try to work with small local producers on."

Menegoni describes a workshare model designed so "farmers can make a living, people working in the market can make a living, and the people who come in to get food don't have to waste their whole paycheck on it."

"I'd like to get up and running for this harvest season," he continued. "The idea is taking stuff in and having it for the winter."

see HARVEST page A8



Great Falls Harvest restaurateur Chris Menegoni and his daughter Velouria begin a mural on the building's Avenue A storefront on Wednesday.

The Montague Reporter

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Every Other Week!

The *Reporter* continues its long-standing tradition of taking every other week off in July and August. There was no July 16 edition, and there will be no July 30 one.

In keeping with this spirit of exception, we've decided to hand over this lead editorial column to a submitted news article we found more thought-provoking than anything we had on tap.

If you can do so, go swimming.

Unist'ot'en Camp Continues Resistance to Pipelines

By W. OOTEGHUM

WET'SUWET'EN TERRITORY – As the FERC continues its hearings for the proposed Kinder Morgan gas pipeline which would cross Franklin County, the Unist'ot'en People are in their sixth year of maintaining a direct action camp that has continually and successfully discouraged similar industrial development on their land.

First formed in 2010, the camp is on Wet'suwet'en Territory (in what is known as British Columbia, Canada), and is currently resisting pipeline proposals from eleven companies. Three of these are Kinder Morgan, Pembina Pipeline and Endbridge, all of which would transport fracked gas.

In response to the proposals, the Unist'ot'en People held the first of many action camps in 2010 in an effort to build infrastructure and solidarity, and encourage supporters to follow the lead of Indigenous peoples impacted by resource extraction and colonization.

The action camps have led to the construction of multiple physical structures, which provide not only places to live and stay but also act as blockades to the proposed pipelines.

Along with the goal of building a healing and cultural center on the land for the Wet'suwet'en Peoples, the Unist'ot'en state: "We are determined to protect this land for future generations, and in the process do our bit to shut down the toxic fossil fuel infrastructure that threatens all forms of living life on this planet."

On June 16, at an All Clans Meeting, the Wet'suwet'en unanimously agreed to not allow any pipelines to come through their territory.

The land being defended is unceded territory, meaning First Nations Peoples never signed treaties, sold or lost the land in war. This makes it necessary for the pipeline companies to get approval from the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to begin surveying or construction.

Despite this, the federal and provincial governments routinely approve resource extraction projects on the territory. Because a single bridge provides the only entry into the territory, Unist'ot'en People and supporters have been able to monitor traffic attempting to come in or out. They have kicked out surveyors and helicopter crews, and refuse access to anyone who is from the government or the oil industry.

On July 13, the Pacific Trails Pipeline Management Inc., operated by Chevron, met with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en to inform them they would begin surveying on July 15. On that day, officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) tried to enter a camp checkpoint, but were prevented from doing so. Supporters of the camp informed the RCMP that they did "not have jurisdiction to enter".

The following day, the RCMP threatened to arrest supporters at another checkpoint. In response, a gate was built to maintain the resistance.

The head of the RCMP detachment has stated to the camp's spokesperson that they intend to "ensure the work crews can do their work safely." A helicopter has also been sighted, flying low along the route of the proposed PTP pipeline.

The Unist'ot'en People have said their situation is moving toward an escalation point, and are calling for outside support to maintain their resistance – sharing information, hosting movie screenings and organizing solidarity actions, and lending both physical and financial support. Readers can visit www.unistotencamp.com for more information.

A fundraiser to support the camp is being planned locally for sometime in early August, location and exact date to be announced. Watch for fliers!



Dog Days of Summer: Existential Nightmares

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Tom Sharp: One of a Kind

I am writing to express my admiration for Tom Sharp, former administrative coordinator for the town of Erving, and for his principled stand in refusing to continue doing his job under the gaze of a recently installed town hall surveillance camera.

I had the pleasure of meeting Tom for the first time outdoors on a sunny day in July of 2003, when he had just been hired to replace the outgoing administrator, Deb Rousel. Tom met me for a photograph for the *Reporter* at the Welcome to Erving sign near the French King Bridge. He beamed with pride at his new job, and I was immediately impressed with his openness, his affability, and his consideration for the request of a stranger – not even a constituent – who was asking him to go out of his way.

First impressions are often true. Over the years I found those same qualities always evident in my dealings with Tom, who made me feel more welcome coming to Erving than any combination of roadside signs along Route 2 could ever do.

Erving is blessed with two of almost everything. It has two village centers, two fire stations, two tax rates. Yet with all this wealth of resources, the town has often seemed plagued by factionalism, petty feuds, and a parsimonious approach to spending public money.

For twelve years, Tom managed to stay above the fray and steer a middle course, and he did so with a professionalism and an unfailing courtesy that was a credit to the community.

As Edward Snowden has shown us, at considerable sacrifice to his own life and livelihood, Americans are now the targets of government surveillance twenty-four hours a day, and the right to privacy has become a quaint relic of a nearly forgotten democratic past.

If that democracy is still alive and well in any corner of America, it is here in New England, where all citizens have the right to come together in open town meeting to frame the policies and procedures by which they govern themselves.

Tom Sharp has taken a stand for openness, trust, and accountability in an era where those virtues are observed more often in the breach than in practice in the halls of government.

In a town with two of almost everything, he was one of a kind.

Thank you, Tom Sharp.

David Detmold
Montague

CORRECTION

Contrary to our article in our July 9 issue (Something's New at the 2015 Farmers Market), and the sign at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street, the Great Falls Farmers Market in Turners Falls is open from 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, not 3 to 6 p.m.

Unusual Courtesies Displayed

Ever since my friend Rodney Madison opened his shop, Madison On The Ave, here in Turners Falls, it has been my pleasure to witness the overwhelming hospitality of our local police and town officials on his behalf.

Committees have been formed to help regulate his gardening activities, officers are often present to make sure that he does not steal anything from his own store, and our police chief even displayed the unusual courtesy of making sure that everything was alright between Rodney and the IRS.

Recently, when Mr. Madison called the police to report the harassment of a neighboring shop owner, they were even kind enough to offer him the greatest honor that a citizen of our incredible republic can be granted: the opportunity to be housed and greatly refined by the largest, most expensive and populous prison system in the history of civilization.

You see, when the officer – a friend of Mr. Madison's antagonist – arrived on the scene, he was able to see that Mr. Madison needed much more help than he could possibly know.

At one point, their bellies even bumped – much like in an argument between an umpire and a ball player – which was enough to prompt the suggestion from another officer arriving on the scene that they might as well charge him with assaulting an officer: a much worse crime than assaulting an ordinary human being, as we all know by now.

I used to be jealous of Mr. Madison's apparently magical ability to attract such concern and attention, but I've begun to accept that his black skin may afford him some privileges that are simply out of my reach.

Be that as it may, many of us now consider Rodney to be a part of our family here; and the attention he receives from local authorities has done something to awaken our sense of community.

Luke Michael Buckham
Turners Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Upper Valley Music Festival** is returning to Turners Falls on Saturday, July 25, from noon to midnight 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.

Explore one of **Northfield's hidden treasures** with the woman who wrote the book on American ferns. Nationally recognized fern expert and botanist Elizabeth Farnsworth will lead an exploration of the abundant fern life on land protected by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust adjoining the Satan's Kingdom Wildlife Management Area.

The walk will take place on private land on West Road (please RSVP for directions) on Saturday, July 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. This event is free and open to all.

Advance sign-up is required. To RSVP, please contact Mount Grace Development Manager David Kotker at (978) 248-2055 x19 or kotker@mountgrace.org.

The **RECOVER Project**, a community-driven, peer to peer program that aims to enhance the lives of people in recovery, will host T.I.M.E. in Concert, on Saturday, July 25, from 3 to 5 p.m.

From 5 to 6 p.m. there will be a candlelight vigil and balloon release to honor the lives of all those who have been recently lost to the disease of addiction. This event will take place, rain or shine, at Greenfield's Energy Park on Miles St. in Greenfield.

The **Young Shakespeare Players East** present "Shakespeare One-on-One: Great Scenes from Shakespeare" on Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26, starting at 7 p.m.

The plays will be performed by dedicated young actors, ages 11 to 18, at the Brick House, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls.

The run time is about 1 hour 10 minutes. Doors open 15 minutes prior to show. All ages are encouraged to attend and the performances are free and open to the public, no tickets necessary.

Also on Saturday night is the annual "**Christmas in July**" fireworks and decorated boat parade. The Franklin County Boat club sponsored this yearly event.

As darkness begins to fall, Christmas-decorated boats will leave the yacht club near Barton Cove and head over to the shore of Unity Park, Turners Falls. The boats circle around the area for about a half hour with music blasting away.

At about 9 p.m., the fireworks skyrocket off with great cheering from hundreds of viewers. Get to Unity Park shore area early, because river side spots fill up fast. Remember to bring a chair and bug spray.

The **Lego Club** meets Wednesday, July 29, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library where children can imagine, build and play. Legos are provided and stay in the library. Children's creations will be displayed in the Children's Room. Lego donations are always appreciated.

Local historian Ed Gregory will give a multimedia presentation on **The Flood of 1936** on Thursday, July 30, 6:30 p.m., at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Bringing your questions, and own family memories or mementos, is optional.

Preceded by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries' Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. For more information, call 863-3214.

The second annual **Pocumtuck Homelands Festival** will be held at Unity Park on the waterfront, First St., Turners Falls on Saturday, August 1, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is a celebration of Native American art, music and culture, with activities for all ages.

Enjoy outstanding Native American crafts including baskets, pottery, jewelry and demonstrations of primitive skills and live music. Even sample Native American food.

One of the featured music performers is Grammy and Grammy award-winning flute player Joseph Firecrow on the solar-powered stage with breathtaking views of the Connecticut River. Loril Moondream of Medicine Mammals in Wendell, an Apache storyteller, will be on hand with two sessions of storytelling.

For more event times and info, visit nolumbekaproject.org or turnersfallsriverculture.org.

It's time to get started at **Greenfield Community College**. Upcoming enrollment days are August 4 and 22. One visit can get you ready to begin the Fall semester. Walk-ins welcome, no appointment necessary.

Learn more at gcc.mass.edu or (413) 775-1810.

The **Giving Tree School**, at 3 Wood Avenue in Gill, is hosting an open house for parents and children ages 3 to 4 to come play on a newly-certified Outdoor Classroom on Wednesday, August 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The area features a water trough, nature art area, swings, garden beds, straw and log area, stepping stones, building platform, hammocks, and more.

For more info, please contact Christina Postera via www.giving-treeschool.org.

It's time for the 11th annual **Fill the Belly Bus Food Drive** in Franklin County. Community members are invited to bring non-perishable food items and personal care supplies to the following locations on Friday, August 7th: Stop & Shop in Greenfield from 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Food City in Turners Falls from 9 a.m. to noon; Yankee Candle Village in South Deerfield from noon to 1 p.m.; Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; and the Greenfield Town Common from 3 to 5 p.m.

This food drive is scheduled in August because most summer meal programs end before school begins, leaving low-income families without access to food. Donations benefit five emergency food programs in Franklin County.

No Strings Marionettes will present "Handsome and Gretel" at Peskeomskut Park, across from the Carnegie Public Library on Friday, August 7, starting at 10:30 a.m. The show will be held inside the library if the weather does not cooperate. Designed for children of all ages and their caregivers.

Writing for Healing, facilitated by Carla Robbins is a free 6-week writing workshop at MCSM Women's Center (formerly known as Turners Falls Women's Resource Center) at 41 Third Street in Turners Falls for women who have experienced any kind of trauma in their lives.

The group meets Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, beginning August 7 and running through September 11.

As program facilitator, Robbins says, "We did not get to write our own life beginnings, but we do have a chance to understand how experiences have shaped who we are. And with that understanding, we are empowered to decide who we will become."

The objective of this workshop is to get to know yourself by writing and connecting with other women through shared experiences to increase respect and value for your life's path.

For more information or to sign up for this workshop, please call Christine at (413) 863-4804, ext. 1003 or email christine@mcsmcommunity.org.

The "**White Elephant**" Tag Sale for Montague Old Home Days on August 15 is now accepting items. Donations may be brought to the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If a pick-up is needed and for further information, please call (413) 367-9422. Furniture and electronics will not be accepted.

The next edition of the *Montague Reporter* is Thursday, August 6. Continue to have a fun and safe summer.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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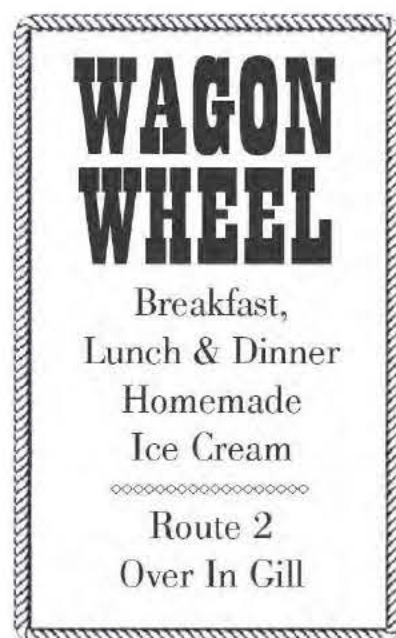
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Call for Images: Millers River Scroll Painting

By REPORTER STAFF

MILLERS FALLS – The Millers Falls Arts Bridge is sending out a call for images relating to the Millers River. These will be used as inspirational source material for a scroll painted by Chinese artist Tang Yuhan. The Arts Bridge hopes community participation will result in a hundred images to send to Yuhan's studio in China.

Yuhan's project "will depict the life and history of the river, the village of Millers Falls, and the people who call it home," according to the MFAB website.

The scroll may be several meters long, and will be shown locally at the conclusion of the project. Yuhan expects to complete the scroll by October of this year.

The artist invites all residents of Millers and surrounding area to share images "which people think represent their village and their lives, whether attractive, happy or miserable."

The pictures may be historical or contemporary, involving personal or public situations and views. They may take the form



The Arts Bridge organization hopes to revitalize the former St. John's Church in Millers Falls to host contemporary artists from China in an effort to build bridges between our cultures.

of photographs, digital images, or short videos.

The Millers Falls Arts Bridge will scan original photographs for participants at their center at 5 Church Street in Millers. Call (413) 423-3234 to arrange a scan. If you already have digital files, you may send them via email to intern@mfabridge.org. The deadline for submissions is August 15.

Tang Yuhan started painting at a very young age and studied with two well known contemporary Chinese artists, Sui Jianguo and Zhan Wang. She currently teaches at Hubei Academy of Fine Arts in Wuhan.

According to their mission statement, MFAB seeks to join the "creativity of artists from China, the USA and around the world with the local community" to contribute to the "cultural and economic rejuvenation of Millers Falls."

Stay tuned to for more articles about the MFAB this summer. They are hosting two artists-in-residence right now, and renovations to the old St John's church are progressing.

Earlier this year, the arts organization paired conceptual works by five Chinese artists with sites in the Connecticut River as part of the collaborative regional arts initiative *The River's Song*.

This project began in response to that call, but required an extended timeline to complete.

Details and documentation of these projects can be seen online at www.millersfallsartsbridge.org.

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ERVING from page A1
for our director.”

Council on Aging (COA) member Joseph Bucci said, “The reason people are supporting Paula is that she is energetic, knowledgeable, and she is doing an excellent job.”

Bembury’s motion to appoint Betters as senior center director resulted in discussion about the process for hiring the interim director last February. Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said that the selectboard was given only one choice for interim director, and that other qualified applicants were not considered.

COA chair Sara Meuse, who chaired the screening committee for the interim job, said they read the resumes submitted to the town, compared them to a set of criteria provided by Sharp, and sent the names of three candidates who met the criteria to the selectboard.

According to Meuse, one of those three dropped out before the interviews, and a second told the board during her interview that she did not want an interim position without benefits, which had not been offered in the advertisements for this position. This left Betters as the only candidate. She was appointed on a vote by Bembury and then-selectboard member Margaret Sullivan.

According to the minutes of the February 13 meeting when Betters was hired, Johnson “expressed disappointment that the Select Board did not interview more than two of the 11 candidates. He repeatedly stated that ‘the process was flawed.’ He was astounded that after the board had spent both the time and the energy to update the interim director job description that a candidate with only a high school education and no nursing experience was being hired.”

In March, the board voted to provide health insurance benefits to the recently-hired Betters. Sullivan said that when the selectboard interviewed Betters for the interim position, benefits were not discussed. But the question arose as to whether the Affordable Care Act requires the town to provide health insurance for a full-time employee hired for more than three months.

On March 2, Sullivan said she had contacted town counsel, the state Department of Revenue and the town’s insurance provider to get answers. She reported that while town counsel Donna MacNicol and Hampshire Insurance felt that an interim employee should have health insurance benefits, the state Department of Revenue told her that an interim employee not eligible for retirement benefits is not eligible for health insurance.

During the discussion July 13, Johnson said his wife, who met the educational and experience criteria for the position, had applied, but her name had not been forwarded to the selectboard for an interview.

Bembury said that the selectboard wanted the center open for some evening hours, to allow the more frequent community use of the center, and that increasing the director’s hours to 40 per week would allow her to be present at the center for evening programs.

Johnson suggested that the town would “get the best bang for our buck” by keeping the director at 30 hours per week, and hiring an assistant for 20.

Sullivan told the board, “Paula has done a superb job. I would like to see you hire her at 40 hours per week.”

After discussion, Bembury and selectboard member Jacob Smith

voted to appoint Betters for a year at 40 hours per week, at a rate of \$18.50 per hour (\$38,480 annually). Johnson abstained.

The Next Six Months

During a discussion July 13 of the town’s cell phone policy, the board was asked whether Sharp was still included on the town’s service plan.

“He’s still technically an employee for six months,” Bembury replied. He added that the retirement agreement, negotiated in executive session, has not been released to the public.

Sullivan commented that contracts should not be signed in executive session. Bembury told her town counsel Donna MacNicol was present at the session and approved the action.

Sullivan said that as treasurer, she knows that the current payroll includes a check to Sharp, and that payroll is public information.

Debra Smith told the board that she understood that some citizens had “numerous questions” about Sharp’s retirement, and that they planned to attend the July 27 meeting to ask them.

Bembury replied, “There’s nothing to talk about. Tom retired.”

Bembury also proposed that for the next six months, unless the town decides to hire an interim administrator, he would be present at town hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to cover some of the administrative coordinator duties. Assistant tax collector Ann Petrain may also fill in regularly to do administrative work.

Bembury proposed that the town hire the University of Massachusetts’ Donahue Institute to review the town’s administrative needs and make recommendations. He called the present lack of administrative coordinator “a good opportunity to get professional help,” and said hiring Donahue would “take the politics out of it.” He agreed to contact Donahue for more information.

When he returned on July 21, he said Donahue had told him they didn’t usually do that work, and referred the town to UMass-Boston’s Collins Center for Public Management.

The Collins Center has done similar work for Northfield, Princeton and Deerfield, and would send the town more information.

The center’s “A to Z” package would cost around \$14,000, and take three months. Its first phase would develop a job description and design a package, and its second would advertise for the position and screen candidates down to three finalists.

The board discussed how to fill a seven-person hiring committee for the process.

“I think it would be great if we could get a couple of department heads on that committee,” said Johnson.

Bembury said town counsel had advised him that Sharp’s retirement agreement did not have a confidentiality clause, beyond content concerning health, and that it could be made public upon request.

The board decided to release it before its Monday, July 27 meeting, when residents are scheduled to discuss concerns about the circumstances of Sharp’s abrupt retirement. They voted to release it the next day, and announce that it was a public document available for review at town hall. “Get the copier warmed up,” Jacob Smith joked to municipal clerk Besty Sicard.

Setting Goals

The July 21 meeting, which passed the 3-1/2 hour mark before it went into executive session, was weighted down by discussions over procedure and communication.

“It’s clear that we can’t do everything that this town is looking at at the moment, but it’d be nice to have a direction, rather than just putting out fires as we go along,” said Bembury, following a long discussion of the board’s goals over the next few years.

All agreed that they wanted to find a way to televise their meetings, and work out a capital improvement plan.

The sharpest disagreement of the evening came when Johnson said that his “number one concern” was to build housing for Erving’s seniors, expressing his worry that a current library feasibility study would inevitably lead to a spending decision that would crowd out that priority.

Debra Smith, of the library trustees and feasibility committee, stressed that the library process was open-ended, and that input from residents like Johnson is essential. “There is no set plan,” she said. “People have Erving’s interests at heart.”

But Johnson said he felt the town’s purchase, scheduled for July 31, of the property between the senior center and elementary school at 54 Northfield Road would force the question, and said he thought it should go to a vote.

“I don’t think it necessarily has to be one or the other,” said Jacob Smith. “The feasibility is to decide what to do.... We could get to the same stage with senior housing.”

Debra Smith said that, even if the town is offered a grant to build a library, town meeting would have to approve the proposal.

Johnson said that
he was not “against
libraries,” but wanted
the town’s library needs
assessed so it does not
become “overlibrari-
ed”
at the expense of
other projects.

“I just feel like there’s a lot of things going on, and the people don’t know exactly what’s going on,” said Johnson, likening the process to a “slow-moving bus” that at some point would be forced to take a turn.

He said that he was not “against libraries,” but wanted the town’s library needs assessed so that it does not become “overlibrari- ed” at the expense of other projects.

Gas Pipeline

The town’s Board of Health is planning a public meeting in September at which Kinder Morgan representatives will be invited to discuss the proposed pipeline’s health impacts. The selectboard was asked July 21 to sign a letter in support of the event, but was at first unsure if it was allowed to do so after a recent town meeting vote that prohibits it from making decisions about the project without holding a public vote.

“We’re damned if we do, and damned if we don’t,” offered Jacob Smith, when Bembury pointed out that not signing such a letter would be construed as support for the pipe-

line. But after re-reading the article, he changed his mind, saying he did not feel it was making any “decision” about the project.

“They said that we couldn’t do anything,” objected Johnson, abstaining from signing the letter.

A second issue highlighted the difficulty the town meeting decision creates. Correspondence from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, postmarked July 2 and reaching the selectboard at its July 13 meeting, had invited the town to participate in a scoping hearing in Greenfield on July 29.

“For the record, we didn’t have enough time from when we received it to even engage the public to have a vote to do anything, one way or another,” said Jacob Smith.

“That’s the way they wanted it – they tied our hands,” said Johnson.

Highway and Fire

The board signed a contract for state Chapter 90 roadwork money for re-paving Mountain Road, High Street and Lillian’s Way. Highway foreman Glenn McCrory said preparation work was to start on High Street July 15 and on Lillian’s Way the week of July 20 and final paving the first week in August.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka presented a job description for deputy chief. The selectboard decided to comment on it at the July 27 meeting.

Wonkka said that he was the town’s last deputy chief, and that he would like to appoint one in the future. He also reported that the new fire truck was at Station #2 being outfitted, and that firefighter training on the truck was scheduled for July 20.

Erving Elementary Energy

Engineer Bart Bales of Bales Energy Associates met with the board July 13 to clarify the scope of his contract with the town. The board had earlier approved a contract with Bales to study how to improve energy efficiency at Erving Elementary School, but added the task of writing specifications for replacement or repair of one of the school’s two boilers to the scope of work. On July 13, Bales provided a revised contract, with writing of specifications included, for an extra fee.

Bales said he was originally asked to do a study of how to make the building’s heating system more energy efficient, and that developing performance specifications would require an enhanced study. He said he would study the boiler and control systems, and provide recommendations for systems that would pay off in energy savings. He said he would do a heat load calculation and recommend how to reduce energy costs. He said he would provide the report to the town by the end of August.

After Bales left the meeting, the board asked McCrory’s opinion of how to proceed. He replied that Jamrog, the town’s HVAC contractor, designs and installs heating systems, and could provide specifications at no cost to the town. He said he would check to see if they do energy audits and heat load calculations.

The board decided to ask McCrory to follow up with that contractor, and to delay consideration of Bales’ revised contract until the July 21 meeting.

McCrory returned July 21, and shared an email from Lon Isaacson of Universal Electric, who does energy audits for Jamrog, recommending steps the town can take. McCrory

see ERVING next page

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ERVING from prev. page

said he felt the town could make its own specifications based on a free initial review by Isaacson, without paying for an engineer to give a full audit of the building.

One area of improvement he recommended is for the installation of carbon monoxide detectors that would trigger the building’s exhaust fans. Currently, building staff manually turns on the fans in the morning and run them all day. Schools like Frontier and Leverett Elementary have installed these computerized systems, McCrory said, and have seen big savings.

The board unanimously agreed to authorize McCrory to move forward with the energy evaluation, and to prepare bid contracts for replacements to the boiler and hot water heater.

Cell Phones

The town’s cell phone policy provides two options: the designated employee buys a cell phone and service and is reimbursed \$100 annually, or the employee buys a cell phone and joins the town’s service plan. Jacob Smith observed that this seems unfair to those choosing the first option.

During the July 13 discussion, Bembury revealed that he benefited from a third option, not spelled out in the policy: the cell phone he was using was purchased by the town, and he was covered by the town’s service plan.

Smith commented that Bembury’s situation was “water under the bridge,” but should not be repeated. The board voted to increase the reimbursement to \$75, paid quarterly.

At Smith’s request, the term “designated employee” was clarified to read “employee designated by the selectboard.” The board approved this change. McCrory said that, when the policy was written, designated employee meant on-call employees – such as highway and water and wastewater department employees. However, other town employees, such as the former administrative coordinator, were added as cell phone users.

Council on Aging

The board re-appointed Joseph Bucci to the COA and appointed Dennis Wonsey, Gary Betters and William Meuse as new members. The appointments for Bucci, Robert Turner and Annemarie Newton expired July 1. The appointments for Turner and Newton were delayed until changes in COA rules take ef-

fect. Currently, members who have served two terms must take a year’s break before serving another term. Turner and Newton have served two terms.

Meuse said that the COA has had trouble recruiting members, and needs Turner and Newton in order to have a quorum to conduct business. The new rules do not require COA members to take a year’s break. Sara Meuse, Kathy Cumick and Denise Maynard are current members with unexpired terms. Marjorie Clark recently resigned from the council.

Other Business

The board appointed McCrory, Johnson, Debra Smith, Robert Turner, Bucci, Betters and Sullivan to the committee to screen candidates for the senior/community center maintenance position.

They discussed the need to build up the IP Mill reuse committee. “I would like to see the people who are so often concerned, and so vocal, on these big projects – who have commitment, compassion and all that – would step forward,” said Johnson. “We need true leaders on the IP committee. This is going to be huge for this town.”

The board signed an agreement for sludge hauling with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and appointed Pete Sanders to represent the town to the district.

They also approved slight changes, required by the state, to the town’s CORI check policy. Deb Smith asked why the library trustees, who have hiring power over library employees, don’t see their CORI reports.

Bembury said he would make sure they were included in the review process. Smith said she felt that any concerns over applicants based on CORI checks should lead to conversations involving both the trustees and selectboard.

The board approved a new business license for Shannon Hatch, d/b/a The Rail Yard, for the historic diner most recently called the A&R Boxcar Restaurant, which closed last month. The owner of the A&R Boxcar, Robert Pollock, passed away on June 23 after a sudden illness.

At least two people are required to reconstitute the town’s cable advisory committee. So far only one has come forward. The board hopes the committee could figure out how to televise its meetings, as well as negotiate the town’s contract with Comcast when it comes up for renewal in two years.

The board’s next meeting is July 27 at 6:30 p m.



SAWMILL from page A1

her love of fine art within her chosen craft.

Looking around the gallery, the colors in the “Hot Stuff” show are appropriately vibrant! Flowers and landscapes as well as interior scenes cover the walls, with groupings by each member (indicated with a red hot pepper by their name).

Do you love poppies? I noticed that many of the artists have used them in their work. Chris Pellerin’s hooked wool wall hanging of poppies scattered on a green background stands out as one of them, as well as Kerry Stone’s paintings.

Stone studied painting with Louise Minks, a mainstay of the gallery and someone who is well known for her colorful landscapes. I was very taken with her sewn paper collages. The different textures and pattern of the cutouts, combined with the stitching, gave a lovely tactile sense to each scene, and she obviously has a fine eye for composition.

Roy Mansur’s framed photo-

graphs were stunning. From crisply outlined, delicate magnolia blossoms to textural depths mysteriously achieved in the “Hellebores” print, there is a magnificent slice of the local world spilled through his discerning eyes.

Chris Mero of Montague has a display of wall art as well as shrines and boxes, or “enclosures,” as she calls them. Mero’s paintings and prints exhibit her love of cats; she is expert at depicting the special relationship between two cats, in particular, as they play, comfort or groom each other. The enclosures are box-like structures covered in fabric. Their crisp and precise geometry contrasts nicely with their flair and sense of fun.

Lana Fiala works in paint, collage, and has a balm and salve sideline named after her three year old twins. Some of her scenes are set at the Book Mill. There are also quiet and subtle works by other member artists, such as Patricia Czepiel Hayes’ delicate paintings of birds,

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Financial Management, and Hydro-Raking

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

As part of the discussion around the budget at the June 14 Leverett selectboard meeting, the board members set a goal to have some draft of a formal, written policy around the reserves and debt levels come fall. This came out of the concern over a lack of guidance in decision-making in these areas. The board pointed out what seemed like poor planning around the new fire truck, where the town reserves took a large hit.

Board member Tom Hankinson pointed out while the new truck was important for safety, budgetary concerns cautioned against a large expense without more investigation into the condition of the old truck. “There could have been better decision making over the fire truck,” he said.

Julie Shively agreed.

“More long term planning was needed,” said Shively.

While the discussion over the fire truck was focused, at the time, on how much the new truck was needed and what could be done with it, board members discussed more modern ways of fund raising to help with the current needs of the town. Both Hankinson and Shively suggested websites like GoFundMe, where money can be raised through an online campaign.

Broadband internet has landed in Leverett, but the board raised a few concerns regarding the process of bringing broadband to the town. Hankinson pointed out the problem with a rented property where the subscriber is not the homeowner.

“There is a difference between someone who is the home owner and the person who lives there, but the person who lives there is the subscriber but the home owner has to respond,” Hankinson pointed out.

Another issue is the few homeowners who opt out of having an ONT put on the house. If the house is sold, and the new owners want the ONT, they will be charged for it.

“Anything new as of two months ago is paid for independently,” Margie McGinnis pointed out.

Mitch Mulholland made an appearance to discuss hydro-raking

and the possibility of extending the hydro-raking of the pond by one hour. An herbicide may be used to minimize plant mass, but Mulholland said the hydro-raking works best.

“The hydro-rake is really working well. We have tried other things, this seems to work the best,” Mulholland told the board.

Hankinson brought up the concern of how much the two hours of hydo-raking currently cost, and how much it would cost to fund the hydro-rake for another hour. Mulholland said the rake costs \$185 an hour, and three hours would cost more than \$500.

An herbicide is used in the brook, with any leftovers going into the pool. While the cheapest way to clean is to use an herbicide, Mulholland cautioned against using chemicals.

“The cheapest way to do it is to use chemicals, but we don’t want to go there. If you could put another hour into that pool, you would get more out of it,” said Mulholland.

Mulholland said he had met with the conservation commission, and together they decided against the use of chemicals. The board was split as to whether chemicals were safe to use.

Peter d’Errico was a bit skeptical of the proposal, suggesting the use of some less harmful chemicals may be appropriate given the high expense of hydro-raking.

“I won’t say they are harmless, but it’s the closest we can come to harmless, in my opinion,” said d’Errico.

The option of purchasing a hydro-rake was briefly discussed, but a pre-made rake would cost \$80,000 to \$100,000.

“We’re talking about a business that has to go along with that,” Mulholland cautioned.

Hankinson asked whether boaters bring in algae from other ponds, and whether the town could prohibit boats that have been in another lake. Mulholland told the board there is no law that would allow this, and currently the signage encouraging boaters to clean their boats is the only measure taken against cross-lake contamination.

“People who use motor boats

flowers, and water.

There is not enough room to mention every artist by name, but suffice it to say you will not find an exhibit anywhere else with so many familiar local scenes interpreted by area artists. Read the information about each artist and talk with the artist while there. It will inspire you.

If you need a gift, or a treat for yourself, there are textiles galore, such as colorful hats and scarves, and a great variety of beaded, woven, and metal jewelry. There are matted prints available starting at only 15 dollars – very affordable way to get some local art on the walls.

An afternoon’s outing browsing the books (Book Mill), music (Turn It Up!), and art (Sawmill River Arts), and dining and drinking at the Lady Killigrew or Alvah Stone, can be had all in one place. Pick up produce at a farm stand on your way home and call yourself a true “localvore!”



Submissions to the “Stone Structures & Artifacts Road Show” Invited

Experts in archaeology and Native American/historic stone structures will be at the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on Saturday, August 1, to interpret and analyze actual and submitted photos of stone structures as part of a full day of events at Unity Park Waterfront in Turners Falls from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Archaeologist Dr. Kevin McBride and researchers James and Mary Gage, experts in pre-contact and colonial period New England, will illuminate the significance of the evidence brought to them.

McBride and others are working with the Town of Montague, several historic commissions, and five Northeastern tribes to gather information about the Great Falls/ Wissettnewag-Peskeompskut area.

The research of Mary and James Gage has focused on Native American ritual stone structures in the Northeastern United States since 1992.

The Battlefield Protection Program seeks to compile information about King Philip’s War.

Part of the mission of the Nolumbeka Project, the non-profit organization hosting this event, is “to promote a deeper, broader, and more accurate depiction of the history of the Native Americans/American Indians of New England before and during European contact and colonization.”

The annual festival aims to entertain, educate and to reveal more of the often unrepresented side of the early history of the Native civilization. The full schedule can be found at www.nolumbekaproject.org.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Broadband Institute Offers Help; Brush Truck May Head to Auction

By JOSH HEINEMANN

In spite of dual distractions of a bowl of yellow and red raspberries, picked by selectboard member Dan Keller's 8-year-old grandson Alion Sarr, and a bag of fresh snow peas brought in by selectboard chair Christine Heard, the Wendell selectboard was able to hold its July 15 meeting in a professional, business-like manner. By the meeting's end the raspberries were gone and the snow peas had been decimated.

Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) representatives Eric Nakajima and Christine Hatch, were waiting when the meeting opened, and when their scheduled time arrived, they were joined by Wendell broadband committee members Ben Schwartz and Wanita Sears, and Shutesbury's town administrator Becky Torres. Later, town facilities engineer Jim Slavas and fin com chair Doug Tanner came in.

Nakajima said the MBI's role is to help Wendell navigate the process of establishing and building its fiber optic network, and to define clearly the liabilities and obligations of parties involved. He said that he has an open door for questions and help as Wendell goes through the process.

He said that MBI will conduct the first steps, a pole survey and assessment, which involves locating every pole in the towns that will be served, and the "make ready" process of preparing poles for the cable, possibly moving wires, replacing or moving poles as necessary.

While that is happening, towns can use MBI expertise and planning grants to determine what provider to use, and make legal agreements that clearly define any obligations with a transparent operating plan for network sustainability.

The WiredWest model would have the towns being operators of

the system through their membership in WiredWest, but the charter for WiredWest as an operator is not in place yet.

When Schwartz asked what other players there might be other than Axia, Crocker and Matrix, Nakajima said it is a small pond with few fish, but he acknowledged that MBI has not broadcast an RFP (request for proposals). He said that MBI would provide consulting and planning grants for towns working independently or through a cooperative like WiredWest.

Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser asked about considering a smaller group of contiguous towns which have shown early and significant popular interest in getting a fiber optic system – such as Wendell, Shutesbury, New Salem, Northfield, Warwick, and Leverett, though Leverett already built their system on their own.

Backing Up Stacking Up

In the 15 minutes before Nakajima's and Hatch's scheduled appearance, Pooser said that in speaking with Left Click about their service backing up and maintaining Wendell's town office computer network he learned that they would increase the cost of that service from \$3,500 to \$13,000 for this year.

They were largely absent in fiscal 2015, but showed a flurry of activity at the end of the year that brought the systems back up where they should be. He suggested that Slavas could do the job better for \$5,000.

Fire Truck, Roads

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came to ask the board to comment on cemetery commission chair's request to take over the fire department's old brush truck, a 1971 four-wheel-drive International, to the cemetery commission as a utility vehicle.

Noting that the fire department is spending money now, Cuneo said that the International might bring the town "serious money" at auction – \$1,000 to \$17,000, if the auction is publicized well.

He said he has had contact from several interested individuals already, and that there is an International Harvester society.

What the town can get for the truck depends on who shows up for an auction, and how far away the sale is publicized. As an old fire truck it may bring money, the red light on the roof should stay on for now. The earliest possible date for an auction of surplus property is in September, and even that is tight.

Cuneo also said that the state is de-escalating its maintenance of roads in the state forests, which is making access by firefighters into woodland fires more difficult.

There are fire ponds, water stor-

age for fighting fires, but Heard said that she does not remember them being maintained during her time as a citizen of Wendell.

While road maintenance may be falling onto the towns, state payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) has also been falling.

Sign Can Stay the Week

Wendell has a bylaw that forbids signs from staying on the town common unless someone is staying with them. The agriculture commission has a sign for the Saturday farmers' market that is heavy to move, and so it has stayed in place from week to week between Saturdays' markets.

Ag commissioners asked for it to be allowed to remain in place, not just because it is heavy but to remind people of the farmers' market as they pass by during the week. Board members approved that request unanimously.

Other Business

Selectboard members accepted Orange Oil's bid, \$2.25 a gallon for heating oil and \$50 an hour for service calls, the lowest of three bids the town received.

The town office building is growing mold on its north wall, and needs washing. Paint is chipping off the building where water splashes up from the walk onto the siding. The tree between the building and the road is growing large enough to drop debris onto the roof, so the tree should be trimmed.

Keller said that the state may be abandoning CAMA, the tax and assessment program that Wendell had to adopt recently, and which tax collector Penny Delorey had to learn.

Heard said that to her untrained eye, the town hall floor does not look bad, in spite of complaints about how the job was done. Keller said if she looked closer she would see that the floor was sanded across the grain and is rough as a result. He thought that if the contractor is alerted to the problem, he should give the town a lower price the next time the floor needs refinishing. Given the town hall's heavy use, that refinishing is only a few years away.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich got a call from Dave Thomas, the town's contact at Seaboard Solar, which is contracting to build 8 MW of solar panels with Wendell as host. Seaboard sold its first facility in Tewksbury, but Wendell is still host and got a credit of \$33,000 from National Grid.

Pooser said that his friends with solar panels get similar notices and when they call National Grid, they receive checks.

Aldrich thanked board members, both for not installing a surveillance camera in the office, and for being so nice.

MONTAGUE from page A1

11. In general, he said that sound levels "seemed reasonable" and below the 80 decibels set by the selectboard for that time of day.

He and Hubert did measure decibel levels of between 86 and 92, which is "a little above what it should be, but in my house it wasn't so bad, honestly."

Selectboard members Michael Nelson and Richard Kuklewicz had also made sound checks outside the Tavern. They both seemed to feel that decibel levels generally conformed to the town ordinance, although Nelson had measured occasional levels above 90 dB.

Thorn and Hubert proposed that Hubie's book outdoor bands a maximum of eight times in a given month, and that patio music should end at 10 p.m.

Nelson moved that the board adopt the decibel regulations approved at the previous meeting, and the policies suggested by Hubert and Thorn until the end of the summer. The board approved Nelson's motion.

Kuklewicz noted that he had driven past the Tavern one night both before and after the 10 p.m. cutoff. During the latter trip he could see "a significant number of open parking spaces, and before ten there were no parking spaces along that area, so you are bringing a group of people in, which is great to see in downtown." He also suggested revisiting the town's sound ordinance, which was designed for indoor bands.

Downtown Events

In other sound-related news, the board approved a request by Thomas and Jessica Byrnes to allow "busking" during the Upper Valley Music Festival, between 12 p.m. and 12 a.m. on Saturday, July 25. Thomas Byrnes explained that busking is "musicians performing on the street," which in this case would be Third Street and Avenue A. He stated that the music would be "non-amplified", and was designed "just to add a little atmosphere" to the events of the day.

The board approved the busking request. The music festival returns to Turners after a one-year hiatus due to a scheduling snafu at the Shea Theater last summer.

Suzanne LoManto of the Turners Falls RiverCulture came before the board with two requests. One was to provide town insurance for a Mr. Couture who owns the parking lot on First and L street for the day of the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on Saturday, August 1. The lot will be used for events at the festival.

Her other request was to guarantee or reserve two parking spaces for Basically Bicycles on Third Street during the day of the festival. Both requests were approved.

Downstream Effects

Bob Trombley, Superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Fa-

cility, requested that the board sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for sludge hauling.

Trombley noted that while the facility is processing most of its own sludge and had not needed the service in two years, it was "prudent" to have an MOU.

Car Barn Endgame

Under the category of the "Town Administrator's Report," the board discussed the possibility of the town selling its share of the car barn currently owned by the Greenfield-Montague Transit Authority (GMTA), to Greenfield.

The facility, according to Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, is currently owned by the GMTA, whose routes were absorbed by the Franklin Regional Transit Authority in 2007.

Montague currently owns 30% of the value of the building, which has been appraised at \$575,700. However, the GMTA currently has a significant outstanding debt, so Abbondanzio estimated the net benefit for Montague may be only \$105,210.

He argued that the sale presented an opportunity to augment the town stabilization fund, as well as end town responsibility for an old building, of which the town has many.

The board indicated it was interested in pursuing the sale.

Other Business

The board reappointed Peter Golrick to the airport commission. His name was mistakenly omitted from the list of appointees approved by the board at the previous meeting.

It also approved a change of manager request on the liquor license at the Thomas Memorial golf club.

The board approved a request by Bruce Hunter of the regional housing authority, which administers the expenditure of federal Community Development Block Grant funds, to disburse \$6,400 to Mountain View Landscape and Lawncare, the firm executing the Avenue A Streetscape project. The funds will finance a performance bond.

Abbondanzio also requested that the board endorse the transfer of \$3,000 from the town reserve fund to the Colle office building fund for awning repair. The transfer will need to be approved by the town finance committee and, according to Abbondanzio, can be reimbursed from Colle receipts by a fall town meeting.

During the meeting's initial public comment period, Betty Tegel announced that July 26 was the anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act. She stated that this would be the ideal time to update the town's plan to improve handicapped access, last revised in 2004.



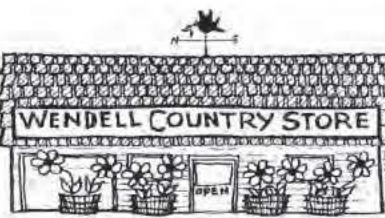
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STUDIES from page A1

county’s top 24). And the most dangerous one with a traffic signal is Gill’s Main Road at Route 2.

Over the next quarter century, the organization estimates nearly \$800 million will be available to the county in highway funding, and nearly \$35 million for public transit projects.

Last Thursday, FRCOG transportation program manger Maureen Mullaney and planner Megan Rhodes ran through the report with a small public audience.

“The focus on the last 15 years has been alternative transportation,” said Rhodes, pointing out that the majority of the report’s “Top 25” recommendations benefit non-automobile transit. These include “Construct a bikeway to connect the downtowns of Orange and Athol” and “Create additional Park and Ride lots throughout the county.”

The list also includes “Rehabilitate the General Pierce Bridge in Greenfield/Montague.” That crumbling structure, Rhodes says, “needs to be fixed, but the issue is funding.... the Avenue A bridge had to get done first.”

The report also calls for a regional commuter rail system between Greenfield and Springfield. “There is definitely planning underway right now, as we speak,” said Rhodes, “five or six trips a day,” but details are still being hashed out, including, once again, funding.

Topping the COG’s list of priorities for pedestrians and bicyclists is the hazardous Turners Falls Road, which connects Greenfield with the White Bridge into Turners Falls. Greenfield planning board member George Toulountzis said that the town is arranging for better signage

urging drivers to share the road.

“It’s the most direct way for people who have no vehicles to commute. In Greenfield and Turners Falls there are what we call environmental justice areas, in which there are high populations of poverty, and people with no vehicles. They need a transportation option,” said Rhodes. “Buses can’t make that turn.”

Attendee Louise Amyot, who identified herself as an environmentalist, asked the planners about freight trains carrying hazardous materials, such as oil and chemicals. Rhodes responded that the last publicly available studies are outdated, and that “they don’t have to tell us,” but that regional emergency preparedness staff have been running through simulations of various types of train spills.

“Can you imagine if there was an explosion right under Main Street?” Amyot asked, and the room fell briefly silent.

The comment period for the draft ends on July 24.

The RTA’s CSA

Last year, Massachusetts legislators, wondering how to more effectively fund public transportation throughout the state, mandated that every Regional Transit Authority conduct a Comprehensive Service Analysis (CSA) to look at riders’ long-term needs. The RTAs banded together to hire consultants to conduct these studies.

According to Mullaney, the FRCOG helped with the public outreach parts of the Franklin County study, and “overall... supports it very much... It really does look at, in a systematic way, what the needs are – in terms of increasing the frequency, extending the evening hours, and

adding weekend service.”

The consultant, AECOM, has published its draft recommendations, and the comment period ends on August 4, so final revisions can be submitted to the legislature September 28.

“If we could just project our character a little more strongly, it may change some minds in the legislature.”
Jonathan von Ranson,
Wendell’s FRTA rep

The study’s major recommendation is to modify existing fixed bus routes first, and then add Saturday and Sunday service in two future phases.

There is, of course, a hitch. “We don’t have enough funding to implement Phase I recommendations,” said FRTA administrator Tina Cote at a public hearing on Tuesday. “We need to make sure that the legislature hears us loud and clear, in terms of what it is that we need.”

The projected cost for the full service expansion the study recommends is nearly three times the current cost of the county’s fixed bus routes.

“That just goes to show you how little service we have now,” FRTA assistant administrator Michael Perault pointed out. “It’s a big pill to swallow, talking about actual funding.”

AECOM transportation planner Krystal Oldread said that the various

RTAs plan on “going to the legislature with a unified voice.... there’s huge disparities across the state, and it’s not okay; and environmental justice issues that you have as well. And here’s what it would take to bring everybody up to an equal level.”

Cote added that Dukes, Nantucket and Franklin counties are funded from a different pot than counties with urban portions.

Wendell’s FRTA representative, Jonathan von Ranson, suggested that the state should view Franklin County as “one of the gems of Massachusetts” due to its “rural character, and strong local communities that are fairly stable... We’re an asset to the state that they should treat as such.”

He suggested a model that incorporated “little feeder routes” from outlying towns into the county’s core. “It might take more subsidy per rider than in one of the more populated counties,” he said, but it could have an inherent value to the state.

“If we could just project our character a little more strongly, it might change some minds in the legislature.”

Strategic Debate

Montague’s alternate representative, Jeff Singleton, took issue with the draft study. Singleton said he was “struck by the narrow base of the transit system” when he moved to the county – “primarily low-income people who don’t have cars,” such as himself, but should be paying more attention to people with cars who want to reduce their environmental impact.

Montague had recommended a plan, intended to be revenue-neutral, to increase ridership between Montague and Amherst by consolidating Routes 22 and 32.

“The main policy proposals from the second-largest town,” he said, “somehow didn’t get in this report.... What we proposed did not depend on a huge influx of state money.”

The report recommends expanding Route 32 to an hourly route, at a great increase in expense. Singleton said this seemed like “a political strategy here of asking for things that are way over the top.”

“The only way to attract choice riders, which are people who could get in their car and drive,” argued Oldread, “are to make the service more attractive and have higher frequencies.... As your ridership goes up, you get more money.”

“People wanted service every hour, on the hour,” added Cote.

“It’s not fiscally realistic,” said Singleton.

“Shoot for the moon, and if we get halfway done, we’re still making progress.”
Tina Cote,
FRTA administrator

“Realistically, this funding probably isn’t going to take place for at least two or three years,” Cote responded, saying that in the short term, the RTA had a limited amount of money to make incremental changes. “I’d rather go in asking for too much than asking for too little.”

“We’re doing our best to project to the legislature what we’d like to see,” Cote said, “what our best-case scenario is. Shoot for the moon, and if we get halfway done, we’re still making progress.”



GILL from page A1

One teacher expressed hope for someone “professional” and “predictable.” Consistency and predictability was something some said they felt has been lacking.

Another issue raised during the meeting was the school’s loss of teaching staff over the last several years. Sullivan said there will be four new teachers in the school next year. There will also be a new administrative assistant, working with the new principal. This elicited some concern, but Sullivan assured the community that Bailer has been training the new administrative assistant, and has promised to make herself available to the incoming principal.

Parents said they wished newly-hired teachers would come into the school with the intent to stay, as others have in the past. They said some teachers remained in the school for 20 to 30 years. Even if that is unrealistic for today’s world, they hoped teachers would come to stay, so students can feel connected and the staff, students and parents can build the kind of community that supports student learning and promotes a feeling of belonging.

Sullivan asked teachers what they need to make them want to stay. Answers given included a positive, respectful atmosphere, with praise and positive feedback to balance the criticism meant to help them improve, and with respect and trust.

When Sullivan asked parents what good things they would like to see continued, one parent said they appreciated the school’s na-

ture-based learning programs.

Sullivan said he has learned as superintendent that adaptive leadership is more important than technical skills, and that strong relationships are most important.

Asked what they thought, ideally, they would like to hear children say when they go home from school, attendees answered in a variety of ways. One said, “Everybody likes me,” and another said “Teacher helped me work it out.” Others said they’d like to see their kids get their hands dirty at school, and that their children come home excited about learning something new.

“I love it there,” was another hopeful answer, to which someone added that things are going well when the bell rings and the kids don’t want to leave. And another parent added, “When they’re mad when it’s a snow day.”

One parent recommended the school adopt an all-school recess, where students of all ages can interact, so older and younger students get to know each other and the school really does become a community.

Sullivan said he will be assembling a search committee over the next few weeks. He assured those gathered that it was possible to find a good candidate for principal in August, and complete the process in time for the beginning of the school year.

Asked if they would show up in August to meet candidates on a site visit, the Gill Elementary community assured him they would.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Police Chief Contract Under Negotiation

By TIA FATTARUSO

Gill’s selectboard met in executive session last Monday with police chief David Hastings to renegotiate Hastings’ contract. Before entering executive session, Hastings updated the board on the condition of a broken down cruiser.

“It went down the last week of the last fiscal year,” Hastings said of the department’s 2005 cruiser, carrying 112,000 miles.

The vehicle has no reverse, according to Hastings, who said that meant it also has no overdrive and a shot transmission. A 2009 transmission rebuild in the same vehicle cost \$2,400.

Another community may be getting rid of an ‘05 cruiser, creating the possibility of Gill’s acquiring it.

“I don’t want to see us spending too much money trying to band-aid through when we could be putting it to better use,” Hastings said.

The department’s 2008 cruiser, with 96,000 miles, has also broken down twice since recently being put into part-time use.

The board is taking a “wait and see” approach for now.

Returning to open session, town administrator Ray Purington told the board that the town’s new LED streetlights were ordered July 9. Tupper Brown from the energy commission is working with the Eversource representative to get a new utility incentive amount, after which the purchase and sale, li-

cense, and agreement with the town of Amherst for installation can be finalized.

The air-source heat pump project proposal for the Riverside building was submitted Friday to the Department of Energy Resources, which, Purington noted, tends to respond quickly.

There was to be a project meeting with the architect and roofer for the Safety Complex the next morning.

The elementary school well UV water treatment agreement with engineers went to the USDA for review July 6. Purington said that the changes made to the agreement were not significant, and that he would check in the following day with the USDA.

With no update in sight on the Mariamante solar project, selectboard member Greg Snedeker said he would look into the possibility of using the second round of Green Community grant money in that vein.

A highway truck with a “bright yellow cab and a black body,” according to Purington, was delivered July 6. The paperwork for the title and registration are in.

The board approved an exemption for Janet Masucci, who records the selectboard meetings and is also a member of the Cable and Energy Commissions, to be paid \$25 per meeting, amending it to include town meetings.

Purington received a Sub Recipient Title VI/Nondiscrimination As-

surance form from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. As the state receives federal highway money, it is necessary for all subsequent recipients of funding to be in compliance with federal non-discrimination policy, which Gill is, according to Purington.

Gill-Montague Regional School District superintendent Michael Sullivan requested the use of the town hall for a meeting on Monday, July 20, to get input from the community on the qualities desired in a new elementary school principal (see story, page A1).

“I think it’s wonderful he’s getting the input,” said board chair Randy Crohier.

“I’m sorry to see Kathleen Bailer go,” said Snedeker.

Crohier reminisced that in days of old, a principal remained at a school for much longer than is common now, and said that he hopes to see that former trend of continuity return someday.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien turned in a list of his department’s annual expenses. The board accepted it with little issue, though selectboard member John Ward pointed out a \$700 per vehicle annual service, leading him to wonder if problems that arose with the rescue vehicle at the end of the fiscal year could have been identified earlier.

Ward’s concern reinforced the board’s recent conversations about keeping better track of town vehicle maintenance.

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION *Annuals & Perennials*

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY — This summer seems to be streaming by; sure it is only a third over if we go by the calendar. But we know that the growing season extends from May through August and by that measure, we are halfway there.

Mid-July, and the peas have been eaten, the asparagus is in full fern and we have picked the first of the tomatoes. The beans and potatoes are in flower. The bed of greens has bolted. The garlic has been harvested.

The dry season of May was followed by the rainy weather of June. Plants blossomed and the weed crop did too. The requisite annuals — pansy, petunias — are winding down, not from too much water or lack of sun but from sheer exhaustion. Forced early, to feed the flower-hungry at the end of winter, they've done all they can.

We bought some too, tired of the lingering cold and the mud, but generally we prefer the perennials which step through the season, each in their turn: the spring bulbs, the peonies and roses, the daylilies, the butterfly bush and the false indigo.

Although I've weeded out most of the bee balm from the perennial bed, I gave it back to the wild at the edge of the yard.

Like any other mint, it has taken hold and is a bold splash of red in the otherwise monotone green of weeds and brush. Now that the honeysuckle has moved on, the bee balm delights

the hummingbirds, who are so cunningly adapted to feed from these tubular blossoms.

The first of the local corn is in at the farm stands. What a long anticipated pleasure that is, akin to taking the first sweet, tart bite of a vine ripened tomato!

Every garden season, we wait for the annual garden candy eating of the fresh peas, then the slicing of the first ripe tomato and the buttery succulence of a fresh ear of corn.

There is a special taste in the fruits of your own labors, but we are all so fortunate in this verdant, prolific valley.

We can all enjoy the fresh fruits of our local soils right from the stem or plant instead of waiting for several day old crops to reach us from afar.

This happy circumstance needs guarding. We are beset by the perennial clouds of concerns: our changing climate, the purity of the water and now, the likelihood of an industrial pipeline few of us feel is necessary — we do not trust that this pipeline highway will serve us at all, except in ways we do not want to see.

In the meantime we tend to those battles we lose daily in our own yard, although we fight with natural foes. The war with the invasive bitter-sweet vine is unending.

Whether we cut the vines or treat them with a sickening cocktail of salt and vinegar, the vines return next year, sometimes it seems two fold, but we will not use a chemical poison, as we imagine we consume

see GARDENER'S page B3

PASSIONATE ABOUT PLANES

By LAURA RODLEY

TURNERS FALLS — Four fathers rode in a single wing, single propeller Piper Warrior last Sunday afternoon. One was the pilot, Philip Corrinet, resident of Greenfield. The other fathers were Plainfield's Olan Thompson; his father-in law, James J. Rodley III, of Buckland; and Gill's very own beloved Joseph A. Parzych.

The ride was a Father's Day surprise for the trio, and July 12 was the first day that worked for everyone. It even worked for the clouds, since the weather was perfect.

There may have been a fifth unseen father riding. It is easy to imagine Rodley's father, James J. Rodley II, sitting on the tail of the plane, or moving inside through its metal, alive and riding in spirit, as the first anniversary of his passing will be August 14, two days after his son's birthday. Rodley's father, also called Joe, was very interested in the same style of single wing, single engine plane as the one they flew in, as opposed to jet engine commercial airplanes.

"He was interested in war planes," said Rodley III. "When they were first making planes, they were biplanes, or triplanes. They would have a second wing, like what Snoopy flew, making believe he was a fighter pilot." Indeed, a Snoopy decorated a parked single wing plane at the Turners Falls Airport.

"When the Wright brothers made their plane, it was a biplane with a wing on top. Later, they made engines strong enough that they only needed one wing, didn't need the second wing to get them up. At a point during World War I, and in the 1900-1920s, they usually had more than one wing, gradually changing over to making one wing."



The Piper Warrior single engine, single propeller, single wing plane leaves the ground.

His father's passion for planes led to his making 50 to 60 model planes as an adult. "When he first started, he made them out of clay, then graduated up to Balsa wood, with authentic decals, and carved and painted little pilots all himself. He made the planes as lifelike as possible, painted on dirt to show they were worn, didn't want them to look like new, that they were in use. I don't believe he was in one of the planes while he was in the service in the Navy on a Coast Guard icebreaker," during WWII.

He later visited museums, like the Smithsonian, which have preserved aircraft, and attended air shows.

Rodley II's love for single engine planes and wanting to have wings is shared by many. Corrinet

is one of 15 members of the Franklin County Flying Club (FCFC) who share the four-seater circa 1976 plane, great for double flying. "Flying is an expensive hobby; the FCFC is the way to go to make it affordable," said Corrinet.

FCFC membership offers "Good maintenance, having a resource and plane to fly, and monthly meetings; it's a good setup for someone to fly who isn't rich." Scenic flights are called "going out for a \$100 hamburger." "Some pilots fly to Turners just because of the Creemee."

Safety is paramount and the plane's engine is replaced every 2,000 hours, with regular maintenance, like maintaining a car. Most

see PLANES page B6

Gogh to the Clark!

By RICHARD and
DIANE LYN ANDERSEN

WILLIAMSTOWN — One of the advantages of going to almost any van Gogh collection is that there is always a lot to look at.

Although his career was short — a mere ten years — Vincent van Gogh never sold a single work of art. His complete works remained intact for many years after his death.

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) had failed as a stock boy, a lay preacher, a student, and a missionary working among coal miners in Belgium before he reluctantly turned to painting at the suggestion of his younger brother, Theo — the only person in their family to believe untidy, undernourished, undisciplined, and underperforming Vincent would ever amount to anything.

Van Gogh's life as an artist is often divided into three periods, each of which is represented in the exhibit running this summer at the Clark Museum in Williamstown. The first period begins in 1880.

Vincent is 27 years old. He's teaching himself from books how to draw and paint, and it's obvious he has a long way to go. In spite of his clumsy brushwork and



"The Sower," painted in June of 1888.

struggle with proportion, his works display a significant emotional power.

Some would say his lack of formal training and his inability to correctly place objects on tables or people on chairs increases the intense, almost mystical feelings of respect, admiration, and love he has for his impoverished and weather-beaten but noble, almost dignified, subjects.

Even his material objects exemplify the senses of decency, integrity, and commitment to work and family that Vincent sees in the people who ate from these bowls and stepped into these shoes.

Enter Theo again. The year is 1885. He's working in an art gallery in Paris

and wants his brother to see what a group known as the Impressionists are up to. To say the works of Monet & Co. are an eye-opener is an understatement.

For the first time in his life, Vincent looks at the possibilities inherent in vibrant colors. In most of his previous landscapes, you'd think a storm was constantly approaching all of Northern Europe. The interiors are even darker.

Never again. The paintings van Gogh produces during his two years in Paris blaze with color. When you enter the part of the Clark exhibit devoted to this second period of Vincent's career, the room seems suddenly brighter, even though

see GOGH page B8

THEATER REVIEW:

"AIDAN'S GIFT"

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD — What is sin? Most of the time we think of the major sins — stealing, killing, adultery. What about those we might consider lesser sins, or not even sins at all? What of the sins of pride, or envy?

In the Silverthorne Theater Company's premier production of *Aidan's Gift* in the Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community College last week, playwright Elizabeth Orndorff offers the audience an opportunity to consider these feelings. What of the guilt some may feel over their own pride at having such a special gift?

And what of the envy of others who lack such talent? Is there not a mixture of jealousy and admiration of someone who has the smarts or talent we aspire to but are sure we will never achieve?

And confronted with that envy, do not gifted people often feel selfish or embarrassed by the praise they receive, even while still feeling pride in their achievements?

Orndorff presents this dilemma for our consideration through the interaction of cloistered monks living in a closed community where faith is the center of their lives. Specifically, two monks, one older, with many years at the

Abbey, and a young novice seeking guidance.

The play begins with a conversation between the Abbot, played by Daniel Popowich, and Father Aidan, played by Steve Henderson, a monk who was once the Novice Master until a crisis of faith caused him to reject his role as teacher and guide. For ten years he has languished in the Abbey, doing as little as possible, rarely attending services, no longer contributing to the community.

In the opening scene, the Abbot challenges Father Aidan to face his demons. He assigns him a novice, Brother John Mark, to be his personal guide. Brother Mark has a special gift, a beautiful clear

singing voice, and the Abbot makes clear this is important to the Abbey.

Father Aidan rails against this. He wants no part of it. He is unfit, in his own opinion, because he has been lost "in the desert" for ten years. He feels he has nothing to offer this young novice. The Abbot insists, and young Brother Mark shows up looking for guidance.

The Abbot has put these two together in the hope they will help each other, but it is not easy for either one. The dynamic among these three characters is what makes this drama so compelling. This is a story, fundamentally, of human need and personal

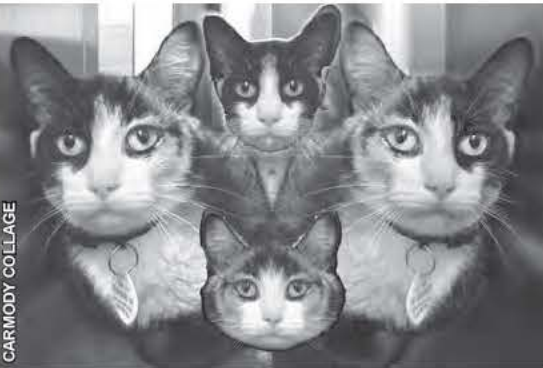
see THEATER page B5



Cast members of "Aidan's Gift" following their performance on Wednesday, July 14, at the Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community Theater. Left to right, Daniel Popowich, who played the Abbot, Julian Findlay, who played Brother John Mark, and Steve Henderson, who played Father Aidan.

Pet of the Week

Hello there! I'm Honey Bee and I am just the prettiest girl around. I'm two. I was found as a stray during a thunderstorm, scared,

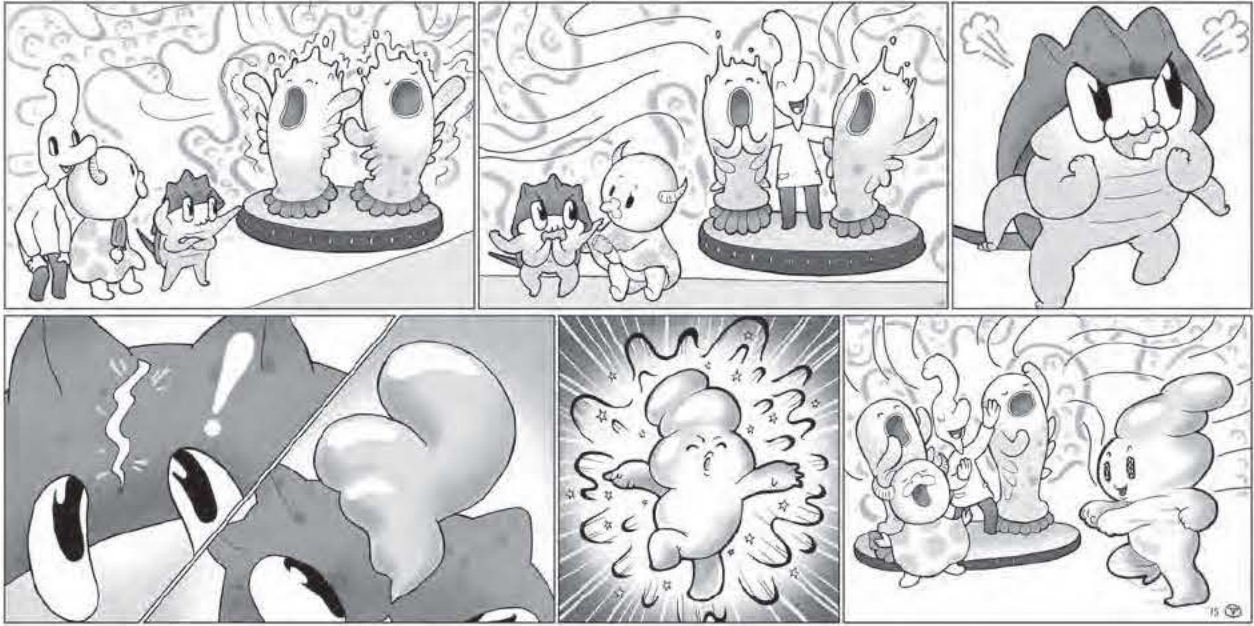


CARMODY COLLAGE

soaking wet and all alone. I prefer to live without other cats. Mellow dogs may be ok. I am a skilled hunter and can keep your home safe from small intruders. I also like to snuggle and give head butts. If your looking for a Queen Bee...then I'm just the "bee" for you! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

"HONEY BEE"

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out overture.org.

Senior Center Activities: July 27 to August 7

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 7/27
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 7/28
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Lunch
Wednesday 7/29
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 7/30
9 a.m. Veteran's Outreach,
9 a.m. Tai Chi
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns
Friday 7/31
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch at Poet's seat
August 3-7
Contact the center for schedules
ERVING
Erving Senior Center, **1 Care Drive,** Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in ad-

vance. 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 7/27
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
Tuesday 7/28
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 Sandwich Tuesday (sign up)
12:30 p.m. Friends Business Mtg.
Wednesday 7/29
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 7/30
8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
6:30 p.m. Garden Club Meeting
Friday 7/31
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza, Movie & Snacks
Monday 8/3
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
Tuesday 8/4
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 Sandwich Tuesday (sign up)
12:30 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday 8/5
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
1-3 p.m. Veteran's...
Thursday 8/6
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
Friday 8/7
9 a.m. Quilting
9:15 Bowling
Noon Poet's Seat Picnic
LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
WENDELL
Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.



THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Everyday Poison

By FRED CICETTI

Q. What do the warnings on the bottles under my kitchen sink mean? I find them confusing.
Many of the household products we use contain poisons. These include pesticides, oven cleaners, detergents, polish, paint and drain uncloggers.

Manufacturers use a low-medium-high system on labels to alert you to hazards. The following are brief descriptions:
If the label on a container says "caution," that means the contents could hurt you. For example, the product's fumes might make you sick.
If there is a "warning" on a label, that means you could be injured seriously if you don't handle the product properly. A "warning" on a label can mean that the contents are flammable.
"Danger" indicates that you should handle the product with extreme care, because it can be lethal. A possible explosion is among the hazards that require a danger label.
If you have an emergency with a household product, here are some steps you can take. The order of the steps depends upon the severity of the problem. You can call 911, call your poison control center at (800) 222-1222, read the label for instructions and an emergency phone number.
The following are some general first-aid instructions.

• If you get a poison onto your skin or in your eyes, rinse the affected area in the shower for at least 15 minutes.
• If you inhale toxic fumes, get to fresh air immediately.
• If poison is swallowed, do not use an emetic medicine such as syrup of ipecac to induce vomiting. Doctors no longer recommend using these medicines because there is no evidence they prevent poisons from entering the bloodstream.
And now for some tips to prevent exposure to dangerous substances:
• Don't keep flammable products inside your home.
• Check household products regularly for loose caps.
• Keep products in their original containers; this prevents confusion and keeps the labels around for reference.
• Don't store toxic household products near food or medicine.
• Never throw these products in the trash cans where children can get to

them. Call your local government to find out where you can dispose of these products properly.
The following is some information about the dangers in common household products.
• Paint can irritate the eyes and skin. Paint fumes can give you headaches, nausea and dizziness.
• Clothes detergents, if ingested, can cause nausea, vomiting, shock, convulsions, and coma.
• Ammonia fumes can irritate eyes and lungs. Never mix ammonia with chlorine bleach because the combination produces a potentially lethal gas.
• Oven cleaners that contain lye can burn you and are potentially fatal if swallowed. Spray cleaners pose a threat to your lungs.
• Toilet bowl cleaners rely on acids that can burn.
• Mold removers can cause breathing problems.
• Drain cleaners contain lye and sulfuric acid that can blind you if they splash in your eyes.
• Carpet cleaners that contain

perchloroethylene cause dizziness, sleepiness, nausea, loss of appetite and disorientation. Carpet cleaners that use naphthalene can damage your liver.
• Furniture polish is an irritant that, if ingested, can cause nausea and vomiting.
• Air fresheners contain chemicals that can irritate skin and eyes, cause fatal lung problems and brain damage. They can be highly flammable, too.
• Mothballs can cause headaches, dizziness, irritation, cataract formation and liver damage.
• Weed killers can irritate the eyes and skin, and cause vomiting and diarrhea.
• Insect repellents can depress the central nervous system and cause forms of mental illness.
• Rat killers contain warfarin, a blood-thinner. If you swallow a lot of it, it will create internal bleeding.
If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

GARDENER from page B1

these unbeknownst to our understanding.

We have ceded the fight over the sweet corn to the squirrels, and rather than watch the saucy buggers sit on a fence post or worse yet on the garden furniture to eat the first ripe ear, we take our trade to one of the many local farms who can afford to share the crop.

For the first year we have a bountiful crop of apples on the McIntosh and can only hope the squirrels will content themselves with the drops.

Unfortunately, I also surmise that this hope will have the same reality bite as the hanging winter feeder, on which I love to watch the birds but which I also end up filling to feed the regular furry visitor.

He or she is not fooled by an oiled pole, nor the sound of the mis-aimed BB gun, and short of trapping or eating, there is no human recourse but to share.

I am grateful for Ken's sturdy fence around the vegetable garden especially since we've found the unmistakable front or back door of a woodchuck's abode at the far edge of the yard. We've had good success moving them along before with a splash of castor oil in the entryway, so we'll use that again as there are crops in the raised beds (chard and bolting greens) that they haven't ea-

ten yet. We don't even want them to get a notion about it and goodness knows there are so many leafy greens in the wild they should find plenty of fodder.

In the words of garden lore, an annual is a plant lasting for one season and a perennial one that continues to grow each year. The edges on these meanings blur as soon as we take them out of the garden.

Think of the "first annual" event of any kind which becomes a perennial, returning every year. Well, we are taking our annual trip to the Oceanside again next month so I guess we go perennially.

In any case, we look forward as always to a break from the chores, to experiencing new adventures, all in the surround of the water which ebbs and rises without any concern for us.

The ocean is indeed a perennial power, permanent and to be relied on regardless of human follies. There's a great comfort and solace in that. The strong pull of the tides is forever whether we travel annually or perennially.

That's a great and powerful thing beyond us. It is restorative and challenging, a wonderful tonic for the heart and soul. Fit some ocean time into your life if you can, and as always, happy gardening!

MB

**The Brick House seeks a
Parent & Family Services Coordinator**
15 hours per week, \$15/hr, Prorated benefits

The Brick House seeks a part-time **Parent & Family Services Coordinator** to assist in identifying needs of local parents and families, determining ways to increase access to existing services, and building relationships with organizations and individuals to strengthen the network of community-based services.

Position Description:

- Help to create and supervise parent programs, and recruit participants
 - Assist in organizing and supporting public events and programs
 - Assist in the continued development of the Gill-Montague Parent Council, a group of parents that meet regularly to assess the needs of youth and families in the area, and work toward addressing those needs
 - Represent the Brick House to families, the school system, other non-profits, and the community at large in order to develop partnerships that support our goals and mission
 - Provide transportation to participants as needed/possible
 - Report on activities to the Board of Directors, including as needed, gathering and analyzing of data on program usage
 - Volunteer recruitment, coordination, and supervision.
- Attend bi-weekly staff meetings

Required qualifications:

- Experience facilitating groups
- Professional proficiency in English/Spanish
- Experience supporting parent and/or family programs
- Willingness to perform door-to-door outreach in the neighborhood
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, manage time effectively, and maintain proper boundaries with participants
- Work with Brick House staff and board to ensure parent programs align with Brick House mission, vision, and values

Preferred qualifications:

- Knowledge of services available to families in Franklin County
 - Intermediate/advanced computer skills
 - Experience in community organizing

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to
The Brick House Community Resource Center
P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376
OR director@brickhousecommunity.org

No phone calls, please.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hot Air Balloons; Highly Intoxicated Subjects; Break-In at the Burger Bar; Tent City in the Patch; River Corpse

Monday, 7/6
9:23 a.m. Report of female shoplifting two 30 packs of beer from Food City last night. Subject identified from surveillance video. Summons issued.
10:37 a.m. Caller reports that a male party walking near Scotty's is screaming really loudly that he has pills and everyone can come get them. Responding officer advises that subject is OK, not having a good day.
1:13 p.m. Officer requests second officer to Avenue A, where a male party is reportedly acting disorderly.
[redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery on a police officer.
2:44 p.m. Caller from Davis Street reports that a male party just approached her behind her residence and asked her "Do you want to buy these?" while holding 2 prescription bottles. Referred to an officer.
3:58 p.m. Caller reports that his sons were getting off the bus at Griswold and Dell Streets and were approached by a white male who asked the kids where they lived and followed them a short distance. Officer spoke to caller and kids; unable to locate male.
4:03 p.m. Caller from Plains Road reports two 11-12 year old males operating four wheelers on her property in an unsafe manner. Referred to environmental police.
6:51 p.m. Party into station to report that earlier today he was assaulted by the owner of Gary's Coins. Officer spoke to party and advised him of his options.
Tuesday, 7/7
7:24 a.m. DPW reportedly causing a hazard mowing on Unity Street; no signs are posted, and traffic is going into the other lane. DPW notified.
12:12 p.m. Officer approached by a party who found a hypodermic needle on Avenue A; disposed of same.
3:50 p.m. Salvation Army employee reports that a couple came into the store last night and gathered up about \$700 worth of items; at checkout, male party could not find his wallet. Couple left items behind, returned later, and again gathered up \$700 worth of items. This time, male party offered a credit card but could not produce ID. Couple left store stating they would be back once they received money via Western Union. Couple is currently sitting in their car in the parking lot. Responding officer

reports that same story was given by all involved parties; male did lose wallet and is expecting money from his father in VT via Western Union in the next 20 minutes.
6:47 p.m. Caller reports seeing an injured Canadian goose at the Gill boat ramp today. Environmental police dispatch advised.
6:55 p.m. Report of flooding on Montague City Road. DPW contacted. Road left open, but barricades placed to slow motorists down.
8:56 p.m. Officer off with vehicle parked near entrance to Plains. Male and female just walked back to vehicle. They were picking berries in the plains.
9:15 p.m. Report from Millers Falls Road that neighbors' dogs are constantly crying/screaming/barking. Referred to animal control officer.
Wednesday, 7/8
10:33 a.m. Caller reports noticing a couple of tents and a camper by the old Railroad Salvage last night; it appears people are living there. Responding officer checked on party, who is putting together a trailer at this location. Party advises that it will be a few days before he can move.
7:10 p.m. Caller reports intoxicated male outside a front porch on Fourth Street; party has a liquor bottle in his hand and was causing trouble with the caller's kids as they were riding their bikes in the area. Responding officers found situation not exactly as described; subject had a water bottle in his hand only.
Thursday, 7/9
6:52 a.m. Report that two trailers stored on Eleventh Street were broken into and items stolen. Report taken.
8:33 a.m. Report that people are camping out behind Railroad Salvage. Officer has been checking in with the subject periodically to make sure he is making progress on removing his items.
12:34 p.m. Caller observed a male riding his bike back and forth behind the Salvation Army Thrift Store. When subject approaches the rear of the store, he has numerous items and a shovel with him, but when he leaves, he has only the shovel. Caller suspects that the subject is taking items from his truck and burying them behind the plaza. Area checked; unable to locate.
9:34 p.m. Caller advises that his neighbor saw somebody enter his apartment; \$50 and a set of rims are now missing. Re-

port taken.
Friday, 7/10
1:40 p.m. K9 unit assisted Leverett PD with search for a missing boy. Child found to be at Hampshire Mall with grandmother.
3:41 p.m. K9 unit assisted Deerfield PD with locating a subject, who was taken into custody without incident.
4:10 p.m. Caller stated that there was a little Corgi type dog with wheels for his back legs walking down Greenfield Road. Caller attempted to catch the dog, but it ran away. Dog picked up by owner.
6:35 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.
7:13 p.m. Caller reports that two white males with their dogs inside a van on Second Street were whistling at people as they passed by; caller noticed that one of the men appeared to be "passed out" and the other man was pulling him up attempting to move him. Now both parties are up and walking around the van, seemingly impaired. Unable to locate; will be on lookout.
11:37 p.m. Officer came upon an assault in progress on Avenue A. Several people on scene deny anything happening. Some minor scrapes and bruises noted. Parties separated for night.
Saturday, 7/11
2:34 a.m. Report that a highly intoxicated operator just left the Fifth Street area headed up the hill past F.L. Roberts in a green Chevy blazer. Unable to locate.
3:45 a.m. Party requesting transport to Millers Falls Rod and Gun. Courtesy transport provided.
7:16 p.m. Hot air balloon landed in a yard on Dell Street.
7:24 p.m. Officer checking on a low-flying hot air balloon approaching the high tension lines on Depot Street.
7:33 p.m. Hot air balloon attempting to land in Walnut Street area. Traffic hazard caused by vehicles stopping to look.
7:39 p.m. Hot air balloon landed in a yard on Linda Lane. All appears to be fine.
7:42 p.m. Hot air balloon landing in roadway on Bulkley Street. Shutting down the road.
7:47 p.m. Officer keeping an eye on another hot air balloon that appears to be about to land near Vladish Avenue.
8:38 p.m. Caller from Central Street requests to have it noted that her upstairs neighbor just left with another male in a vehicle that has an expired

inspection sticker.
Sunday, 7/12
6:48 a.m. Caller advises that her husband was walking at the end of Poplar Street this morning and noticed that people have set up tents along a path that leads up toward a small beach. He is concerned as he noticed a lot of toilet paper on the trail; it appears people are using the area for a toilet. Officer spoke with subjects, who are packing up their items and moving along.
11:52 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a probation warrant.
Monday, 7/13
8:50 a.m. Report that Black Cow Burger Bar was broken into sometime since they closed on Saturday night. Back door kicked in; food items missing from basement. [redacted], and [redacted] were arrested and charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime for felony; larceny from a building; and malicious destruction of property worth +\$250.
8:55 a.m. Caller reports storage unit broken into at Kustom Auto Body on Randall Road. Report taken.
10:57 a.m. Caller found a hypodermic needle on the steps of the Carnegie Library this morning. It has since been placed into a plastic bottle. Officer retrieved item.
11:32 a.m. Fire chief inquiring about the party that has been at Railroad Salvage with a tent and a camper; chief spoke with the property owner, who was not aware of anyone camping there and does not want this person on the property. Area search negative; tent still there with belongings. Officer will check back.
Tuesday, 7/14
2:03 a.m. Caller from Avenue A complains of chemical smell and loud noises from apartment below. Loud noises have been an ongoing issue, per caller, but chemical smells are new within the last few days. Officers responded to apartment, where music was audible, and advised party to quiet for the night. No unusual smell detected.
3:51 p.m. Caller advises that there is a needle on the ground in the parking lot at Pesky Park. Services rendered.
7:30 p.m. Caller advises that male party walked into his apartment and tried to take his laptop. Fistfight ensued. Party now will not leave caller's

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3
apartment. Responding officers contacted MedCare for male party with sore eye and sent roommate on his way.

Wednesday, 7/15
10:23 a.m. Report of a leak from the propane tank outside of Aubuchon Hardware. Store evacuated; caller had already contacted Amerigas. TFFD and officer advised.

3:10 p.m. Caller requests that an officer respond to escort a female party and her lawn mower off his property. Caller has fixed party's lawn mower multiple times; it keeps coming back with water in the fuel line. Female is "disgruntled" about situation, refusing to pay caller, and threatening to take him to court. Parties advised of options.

5:45 p.m. Caller reports suspicious party on Fourth Street; male walked up to caller's cousin, asked if he knew where he could "get any shit," and made a motion towards his nose. Cousin told him no and male walked away. Referred to an officer.

6:12 p.m. Multiple reports of what appears to be a house fire on School Street. Shelburne Control contacted for MCFD. Fire chief and officer on scene; appears to be a furnace issue.

9:32 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (third offense), disorderly conduct, and operating to endanger.

9:35 p.m. Caller from Railroad Salvage reports that a male party known to him who lives in the Patch drove by where he has set up his tent and was revving his engine. Caller politely asked the party not to do so, and the party became belligerent, calling him names and threatening him. Advised of options.

Thursday, 7/16
7:32 a.m. Party into station stating that the contracted killer he believes is looking for him was at the bus station in Greenfield

this morning and tried to come after him. Referred to Greenfield PD.

8:02 a.m. Caller and friend report that a subject spoke with their children at the bus stop at Avenue C and Griswold Street this morning, saying hi and asking them about which camp they were going to. When the subject saw the caller standing nearby, he tried to shake her hand and introduced himself. Caller states that this is the second time they have reported this subject talking to children at the bus stop. Officer spoke with male subject, advised him of the complaint, and advised him not to speak to the children anymore. Subject stated that he was just saying hello but agreed not to do that anymore.

10:04 a.m. Third-party call requesting assistance for a skunk in a pool on Sunset Drive. Animal control officer advised and responding. Skunk removed.

2:03 p.m. Caller reports that he was cutting trees for Asplundh and was threatened by a resident on Taylor Hill Road; a female reportedly came out of the house and accused him of cutting down cedar trees. Caller tried to assure female that he was not cutting any cedar trees, but she proceeded to threaten to get a gun if he did not stop cutting trees and leave the area. Officers spoke with female, who does not own a firearm, and advised her that the trees that Asplundh was cutting down were the proper trees. Female advised regarding her involvement in this incident.

2:57 p.m. Multiple reports of motorcycle vs. vehicle accident near Cumberland Farms. Motorcycle operator showing status suspended/ no endorsements listed for motorcycle. Female passenger, who had left scene, contacted and found to be en route to hospital. Officer advises that motorcycle appears to have been traveling too fast and struck the other vehicle. Operator transported to hospital.

3:57 p.m. Water Department superintendent reports receiving multiple complaints that people are swimming in Lake Pleasant after hours and on the weekends; requests extra patrols in area.

5:15 p.m. 911 caller advising that he and a friend are kayaking in the river and just came upon a body floating near the embankment in the area of East Camp Road. Officers and TFFD advised. Body recovered.

Friday, 7/17
12:15 p.m. Report of a male subject behind 15 Fifth Street yelling at people in the area and hitting various objects with a baseball bat. Subject later reported to have gone up the ledge into the woods. Extensive search conducted; negative contact. No victim located, no one threatened during incident.

Saturday, 7/18
10:34 a.m. Caller reports that someone just slashed his tired near the high tension lines off of Turners Falls Road as he was surveying. K9 unit on scene for track. Incident remains under investigation. Summons issued.

11:10 a.m. Report of 4-5 tents set up at Railroad Salvage and several subjects in the area. Per officer, if property owner reports trespassing, an officer will respond.

5:05 p.m. Caller reports that her father and "the Russian neighbor" are fighting outside; the neighbor reportedly has a hammer. Not physical at this time. Issue mediated; conflict over some equipment in the house.

Sunday, 7/19
1:17 p.m. Caller reports something suspicious she observed while at the Shady Glen today. Referred to an officer.

7:20 p.m. Report of a man yelling on G Street and what sounded like a gunshot or BB gun go off shortly thereafter. Subject was heard threatening to cut someone's throat. Peace restored.



OYSTERGIRL'S GUIDE TO REAL LIVING

By VANESSA QUERY

I celebrated the 4th of July by helping to kill a chicken, thereby invoking my freedom to further opt out of the Factory Farm Industrial Complex and become more self-sufficient. Actually it wasn't intentional but just coincidental that it happened on the 4th – well the 3rd – of July.

The plan had been in the works for a while. A neighbor had a chicken that decided, in chicken menopause, that it would start crowing like a rooster. This was a problem because we live in a densely-populated residential neighborhood, and one complaint from a sleep-deprived neighbor could have cost her all her chickens.

She asked me if I would help. I'd never killed livestock before, but it's something I've wanted to participate in. Wanting to more be part of my food production, if I'm going to eat meat I want to be part of the process, etc.

I considered just looking it up on YouTube for about five seconds. I wanted to do it with someone who knew what they were doing; my fear was that I would botch the job and end up prolonging a traumatic, painful death. Since I want to be humane, that potentiality didn't settle well with me.

Discussing this with other neighbors led me to find out that a friend and neighbor of ours, Prof, was skilled in the art of chicken killing and would be willing to help. Prof grew up in Ghana and has been processing livestock since he was a kid.

So we met at our neighbor's house with a sharp knife and a bucket of boiling water.

My 4-year-old, who the neighbor was going to watch during this, was at once freaked out and interested. He didn't want to see it, then he did, then he didn't. (He ended up witnessing it, with my mom, who took pictures, while the neighbor stayed away.)

The actual killing of the chicken was a one-person job that I didn't participate in. Prof captured the chicken from the coop, expertly holding her in a way that made her sort of catatonic. He brought her over the small hole he'd dug in the ground, kept her head back, and made a small incision in her neck. He held her down as she bled out; the chicken didn't react at all, save for a few spasms, contained by Prof's grasp.

It was over quickly. We took the still chicken to the pot of boiling water, and placed it inside. The hot water loosens the feathers so they are easily removed.

This was something I could help with and had done before. Years ago, when I was living in Ohio, I came home to find my housemate on the back porch with two freshly-killed geese and a pot of boiling water. A friend had gotten them

hunting and brought them to her by surprise, so she'd had to drop what she was doing to process them. I said, "Let me help." She – raised a farm girl – eyeballed me – a city slicker – and said, "Really?" "Yes."

So years ago with the geese, as last week with the chicken, I de-feathered.

If the water's good and hot, the feathers just slide right out. When you get down to the smaller, tougher feathers, you need to pick and pull at them more. It's the sort of meticulous work that's highly rewarding; by the end, your hands are cramped but you've got something to show for it.



De-feathering the chicken.

After the chicken was skin-bare, Prof sliced off the head, and finishing draining the blood. Then he dismembered her, saved the edible organs, and put it all into a stock pot for me.

I'd promised to make a broth with the chicken – which was otherwise inedible, at her age – that my and Prof's families would share. I took great care to make a rich, fatty, gelatinous broth using a traditional method.

Prof was grateful to me when I made him the broth, and I am grateful to him (and to our neighbor) for providing the chicken, and for a great learning experience!

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the paleo/ancestral movement. She writes about food and philosophy and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

Ant Man: Big or Small Hit?

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I went to see the movie *Ant Man* at the Garden Cinema on its opening night, July 16. The movie is what I call offbeat.

The only thing I really knew about Ant Man is this character is supposed to be some kind of scientist and inventor, with a wife who dresses up in a wasp-like suit. This turn out to be Michael Douglas's character, Dr. Pym. In his backstory, he did have a wife who wore that suit, who gave her life to stop a missile attack.

But the movie is about the Ant Man suit being handed down to the next generation, as a thief becomes the Ant Man.

Dr. Pym has always had certain concerns with a particle connected to use of Ant Man's suit which shrink the person wearing to the size of an ant and allows that person to have super strength while like that. Because of the danger of a person losing their mind due to the particle, he has not let anyone else get near the suit.

So when Pym's former protégée, a man named Cross, manage to put together a suit called Yellow Jacket which he wants to shrink like Ant Man, the inventor and his daughter Hope (played by Evangeline Lilly of the TV series *Lost*) get together to stop him.

They need a new Ant Man to help with this goal. That honor falls to a just-out-of-jail thief named Scott Lang, played by Paul Rudd.

Lang isn't exactly a fighter, but he does have a Masters in Electrical Engineering. And he wasn't always a thief. A former whistle-blower who lost his job, Lang got caught trying to steal money from his former company to give it back to the people it had stolen from. Now he's just a man trying to be a better person for his young daughter, trying to get his life together so he can share custody of her.

But when things go south for him again, he goes back to his old habit of thievery, which

leads him to the Ant Man suit.

The scenes where he has shrunk for the first time with the suit on is hilarious.

His training consists of maneuvers and using the shrinking action at the same time. He learns to be a fighter and how to communicate,



and therefore work with, different types of ants, including ants that can fly ones and others that build structures like bridges.

There is a very interesting cameo experience that happens when Lang has to break into a storage facility to get a certain device. The facility turns out to belong to the Avengers. Lang comes face to face with the Falcon, a character introduced in the second *Captain America* movie.

When their central mission becomes more difficult, Pym, Hope and Lang decide to call in three of Lang's offbeat fellow thieves, due to needing people with their skill sets for the mission to have a chance.

I won't give away too many details about what goes on next. But Lang's daughter is used to get to him, and he becomes involved in a situation which he may not come back from. It seems he would need a miracle for that to happen. It's a good thing his daughter Cassie is there.

I found this movie to be solid, and it held my attention very well – better than the other latest Marvel-related movie I have seen, which was *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

Someone is shown to be looking for Scott Lang at the end of the movie, hinting that we will see more of this generation's Ant Man.

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THEATER from page B1

relationship. The close cloistered community creates a perfect forum to examine this because there is no distraction from the outside world. It is all about how one person’s feelings and actions affect the rest of the community.

This performance of “Aidan’s Gift” and the play itself are of a quality that rivals those presented on the New York stage. Steve Henderson, who played Father Aidan, was impressive in the expanse of his emotions and the intensity with which he approached the character. His was a verbally rich part, with a lot of lines following Aidan’s complex thought process.

As the central character, Father Aidan is on stage for much of the performance.

Clearly up to the task, Henderson brought Father Aidan to life, exploring the deep struggle he suffered in facing what he had done and how he could learn to live with it.

Daniel Popowich, who played the Abbot, was the perfect counterpoint to Henderson’s emotionality. Strong, firm, persistent, he argued with even intensity without ever stepping over into anger, yet demonstrating how powerfully he wanted to push Father Aidan into activity and pull him out of the malaise he was so invested in.

The most dramatic relationship is between Father Aidan and Brother John Mark, played by Julian Findlay. As a young monk blessed with a voice that even he says is something outside of himself, perhaps even the voice of God, Brother Mark struggles with the sin of pride and wants Father Aidan to help him resolve his feelings.

Findlay’s performance is strong, expressing a range of emotion as Brother Mark struggles through his tangled relationship with Aidan, the two of them confronting each other’s hidden demons and secrets. A resolution can only come when each admits the truth. The younger member of the cast, Findlay shows his ability as an actor in this difficult, complex character facing some hard truths.

fort, David Rowland. Together they have created this theater company with brings such wonderful summer programs to our community.

Kentucky playwright Elizabeth Orndorff’s play was selected through a competition last winter with 425 entries. Veteran Valley actors Steve Henderson of Westfield and Daniel Popowich of Greenfield are both members of Actors Equity. Julian Findlay is from Warwick and has many theater credits to his name, including working with Shakespeare & Company in Amherst.

Director Carmela Lanza-Weil must be commended for her excellent work in directing this interesting and complex drama. Stage manager Robert Moore also had a small non-speaking part as Brother Luke. Other members of the stage crew, Raymond Lanza-Weil for sound design, John Iversen for lighting design and Reva-Jean Shaw-Pichette for costumes.

This is the second of three plays to be offered this season by the Silverthorne Theater Company. Starting this week, “Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World,” a romantic comedy by Yussef El Guindi, will be presented at the Sloan Theater in Greenfield. The show runs July 23 through 25, and July 30 through August 2. Start times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on the Sunday.

The Sloan Theater is at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Entrance is on the ground floor. For more information go to or call www.silverthornetheater.org or (413) 768-7514.

“I’m Not Who You Think I Am”: A Public Discussion

For those interested in the development of live theater in our community, Lucinda Kidder, Managing Director of the Silverthorne Theater Company, will be offering a symposium on Saturday, July 25, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community College. Presentations by area theater artists and playwrights will be followed by a discussion of theater’s power to influence opinion, and question assumptions about cultural identity and immigration. The event is free, refreshments will be served.

Presentations include:

“Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Meet Abdallah and Ahmed: Musings about Arabs and Muslims in American Theater” by Yussef El Guindi, playwright; “Directing Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World” by Kim Mancuso, director and member of MIT Department of Theater; “Unexpected Journeys: Plays by Women from Islamic Cultures” by Lucinda Kidder, artistic associate, Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco; and “Writing (a) Character, or ‘I’m Not Who You Think I Am’” by Ellen Kaplan, playwright and Smith College Theater department chair.

Following the presentations, break out groups will discuss such topics as play selection, appropriate casting, audience development and the benefits of bringing a wide range of plays to the local stage.

The Silverthorne Theater Company presents drama and comedy in a professional summer theater. This is their second season in the Pioneer Valley. Producer and managing director for this play, Lucinda Kidder, has a long history of work in the theater, as does her partner in this ef-

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was July 28, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Measuring Strontium-90 in Baby Teeth

Local activists participating in a study on the levels of radioactive isotope Strontium-90 in baby teeth around the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, VT released preliminary results at a news conference at the Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield on Tuesday, July 26.

A research associate for the New York-based independent, non-profit Radiation and Public Health Project, admitted the number of baby teeth collected from volunteers in the Wyndham County, VT and Cheshire County, NH areas near the Vernon reactor – 9, compared with 17 teeth collected from areas further away in those two states – was too small to make a statistically significant sample.

Still, the preliminary findings showed elevated levels of Stron-

tium 90: 61% higher, on average, than the baby teeth sent in from areas in Vermont and New Hampshire further from the reactor.

NMH Construction Concerns Aired

Former highway superintendent Ernie Hastings brought concerns to the selectboard on Monday, July 25 regarding the progress of construction at the Mount Hermon campus of Northfields Mount Hermon.

Responding to the sight of earth-moving equipment preparing the ground on the east side of Main Road for playing fields, Hastings said, “It was farmland six months ago; it won’t be farmland again.” He said he was unaware of hearings before the conservation commission or planning board for a change of use on the land.

Town administrative assistant Deb Roussel assured Hastings there had been a hearing before the planning board, to which other departments had been invited, about a month ago.

Hastings, who had spoken in favor of paving roadways at a recent two meeting “without an act of Congress or a meeting with the environmentalists,” said he felt the scope of construction at NMH should have required an environmental impact study.

Wendell Meetinghouse Gets a New Roof

Wendell resident Ed Tolzdorf and his crew removed the old leaky roof, replaced all of the sheathing, put down a layer of cedar breather and re-roofed the Wendell Meetinghouse with beautiful cedar shingles in June of this year.

The extra sheathing added \$1,000 to the project, which Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse would have had to raise, but Tolzdorf waved the extra cost as a donation from his firm.

Appreciation also goes out to community contributors and the Mass Historic Commission who made the new roof possible.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Three Alleged Trespassers Arrested

Monday, 6/22

2:05 p.m. Report of erratic box truck on Route 2. Unfounded.
3:30 p.m. Call in to station regarding a stolen woodstove. Found to be in Warwick, referred to Warwick PD.
4:40 p.m. Report of disabled motor vehicle in area of Route 2 bypass. Not a hazard, will be removed.

Tuesday, 6/23

9 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at the Erving Senior Center.
9:40 a.m. Took report of a past breaking & entering at West High Street.
1:10 p.m. Walk-in complaint about traffic on Strachen Street.

Wednesday, 6/24

9:40 a.m. Assisted Orange PD with crash on West River Street.
12:05 p.m. Report of gunshots on North Street near Church Street. Patrolled area, nothing found.
3:15 p.m. Report of suspicious van on Gunn Street. Unable to locate same.

Thursday, 6/25

12:20 p.m. Report of tree down on Mountain Road, blocking the road. Assisted highway department.
3:56 p.m. Report of breaking & entering and larceny at Moore Street residence. Took report, under investigation.

Sunday, 6/28

9:40 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle at Ridge Road residence. Found to be delivery.

Tuesday, 6/30

3 p.m. North Street resident into station to report youth causing past disturbance.
5:20 p.m. Took report of destruction of

property on Church Street.

8 p.m. Assisted Erving FD with report of illegal burn on Lester Street. Same unfounded.

9:25 p.m. Noise complaint at French King Highway. Spoke with subject, peace restored.

9:37 p.m. Criminal applications issued to

and all of [redacted], each for trespassing and larceny under \$250.

11:25 p.m. Noise complaint at East Prospect Street. Same found to be quiet.

Wednesday, 7/1

2:01 p.m. Report of suspicious persons selling alternate electricity on Forest and Central Streets. Unable to locate same.
9:10 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, and no license in possession.

Friday, 7/3

11:19 p.m. Report of suspicious activity on Old State Road. Was tow company dropping off motor vehicle.

Saturday, 7/4

8:45 p.m. Report of loose dog walking down Route 2 in area of Mountain Road. Animal control officer advised.

Sunday, 7/5

8:45 p.m. Report of medical emergency on River Street. No emergency found.

9:45 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle and subject at Route 2 rest area at French King bridge. Same found to be sleeping.

10:30 p.m. Report of

suspicious vehicles at cemetery in Erving Center. Pulled off Route 2 due to heavy traffic, sent along.

Monday, 7/6

2:30 a.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant. Same found to be secure.

Tuesday, 7/7

10:10 a.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash on Route 2, Farley flats.

1:10 p.m. Report of credit card fraud on Mountain Road.

Wednesday, 7/8

10:15 a.m. Several reports of a suspicious vehicle on Old State and Ridge Roads. Found to be Jehovah’s Witnesses.

4:40 p.m. Trespassing at railroad track bridge in Farley. Two subjects fishing off bridge. Same advised of trespass. Railroad police on scene and handled same.

10:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicles heading in and out of Laurel Lake campground. Advised same of park rules

Thursday, 7/9

7 a.m. Walk-in report of larceny from motor vehicle on French King Highway.

5:48 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Mountain Road cemetery, marked on grass. Advised to park in road.

Friday, 7/10

2:10 p.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash, Route 2 and East Prospect Street.

Saturday, 7/11

9:05 p.m. Noise disturbance regarding fireworks at North Street. No fireworks upon arrival. Advised home owners to keep noise volume down, and not to shoot off fireworks.

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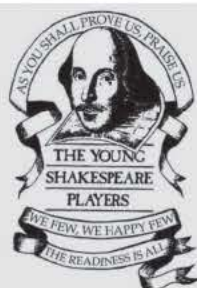
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PLANES from page B1

planes are old, he noted. A new Piper Warrior might cost half a million; theirs is worth about \$65,000. Cruising speed is 120 mph, with take-off at 70 mph, depending on wind and weather conditions.

Corrinet got hooked on flying 17 years ago. "I met a guy who does maintenance at the airport. He offered me a free flight. Eight thousand dollars later, I got my license," he joked, referring to Bruce Bohonowicz, who runs Pioneer Aviation, across the field from FCFC.

Corrinet's license is a visual flying restriction (VFR). He also has an instrument flying restriction, (IFR), for flying in bad weather. He recommends allowing yourself a year between flying and groundwork before getting your license, which includes a written test.

Depending on the instructor's OK, it's possible to fly solo after roughly 20 hours, flying in a fifty mile radius communicating via a two-way radio with the instructor on the ground.

"The average person needs a minimum of 60-70 hours before they get checked out." He doesn't recommend flying schools down south that offer licenses after 20 hours.

The FCFC is always looking for new members. To fly as a FCFC member, you must be a licensed pilot, current, able to fly, checked out bi-annually with a medical exam and by flight instructor Bill Bonnette. They host an annual summer picnic, and helped organize the 2nd annual Fathers' Day airport event held June 20 and 21, that brought in 700 to 800 participants.

People worry about the plane's



Left to right, Joseph A. Parzych of Gill, James J. Rodley III of Buckland, and Olan Thompson of Plainfield listen to Philip Corrinet of Greenfield discuss flight patterns at the Franklin County Flying Club in Turners Falls Airport prior to takeoff.

single engine. After clocking 670 flying hours, Corrinet finds it very safe: it's constantly checked out. "Any accidents in flying usually are related to weather or pilot error. If you have engine failure, you glide to the nearest field or cornfield."

On July 12, as the Piper Warrior flew over Quabbin Reservoir, "Instead of it being one long connected body of water — on a map, it's like a U, with a peninsula in between — it looked like a series of lakes with gentle hills rising up between them, like Scotland," said Rodley III.

Trying to locate his home from the air through the thick tree canopy was challenging.

Flying west towards Plainfield, a neck of the woods that Corrinet doesn't normally fly over, Thompson helped guide the way visually. "Olan was great, he knew everybody's

farm, everybody's house, every road, and he knows the history."

Canopy cover hid his wife, Lily Thompson and their two children, Ettalynn and Trevor, who saw the plane circling overhead from the ground and were waving, "Hello Daddy! Hello Poppa Jim!"

Parzych, an expert in taking aerial views for reporting, said, "The ride was great."

Corrinet considers flying to be a great educator. "Many kids in Franklin County have not had opportunities to travel much. They have no conception that there's a big universe until they get up in the air."

Toss in their lack of fear. "Kids love the thrill of going up in the sky. Most of them become very good pilots. I encourage young people to go flying. The beauty is price- less."



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Music, Meetings and More

By PAM KINSMITH

Each week MCTV is pleased to bring local, live music to you in both our regular schedule and for streaming via the Common People Concerts filmed by Janet Masucci. Organized by Steve Damon of A Natural Music School with refreshments by the Friends of Gill, concerts are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and are held on the Gill Common or at the Gill Congregational Church during inclement weather.

Steve started the music series at Gill's Slate Memorial Library in 2007 and it has been going strong ever since. "We've had everything from jazz to punk to blues, and drum circles; you name it. It happens no matter what." The event is open and free to the public.

The July 14 concert is now available for viewing. It features the Impromptu Trio comprised of saxophonist Zack Jakub originally from Greenfield and now from Leyden, trumpet player Gary Maynard formerly the band director at the Eaglebrook School, and Keene guitarist Jeremy Milligan. Upcoming performances include the New Eng-

land Flute Orchestra Piping Hot!, Off the Grid, and barbershop group The Romeos. This event is funded by the Gill Cultural Council. Check out the Latest MCTV Videos page or the TV Schedule for more.

Stay up to date with government policy and planning. Each week videotaping of the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings are uploaded to keep you informed. In addition, programming regarding landowner rights, the Opioid Task Force, fracking and the pipeline expansion, and the Montague cable advisory and Gill energy committees can be

found in our regular TV schedule.

Have a little fun and learn something local by catching the latest episodes of the Fat Detective and The Madison Show. New episodes are up now!

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



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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:

Artspace, Greenfield: *The Works of Elice Mimi Davis Pieropan (1931-2013)*. Retrospective of her work from oils, etchings and woodblocks, to watercolors. Opening Reception 7/24 5:30. Through 8/20.

Deerfield Arts Bank: S. Deerfield: *JUST VISITING: Chirico Was Here*. Still-lives by Ron Chirico. 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. Through 7/31.

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: *Trunk Show*. International collection of fashion by Sylvia K. Clothing and jewelry, all for sale. Plus work from local artists that you've come to expect at the Nook. July 23 - Aug 1.

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.

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. 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.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to

exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us

CALL FOR IMAGES

The Millers Falls Arts Bridge is calling for images relating to the Millers River. To be used as inspirational source material for a scroll to be painted by Chinese artist Tang Yuhan. The Arts Center will scan original photographs at their center at 5 Church St. in Millers. Call 413-423-3234 to arrange scan, or send digital file to intern@mfabridge.org Deadline is 8/15.



Xopo plays traditional dance music from the Balkans, in many styles, at the Montague Bookmill on July 31 with Gawain and Lysander.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 23

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

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

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* 7:30 p.m. Music by Daniel Hales and Frost Heaves at 7 p.m.

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

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *The Snaz. Indie Rock*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mark Nomad Band*. Blues and beyond. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

UPPER VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL, Turners Falls: 5th Annual Festival, over 30 performers in 5 venues around town. Fundraiser for fight against cancer. From noon to midnight. For schedule and more details, see <http://www.uppervalleymusicfest.com/>

Ja'Duke Blackbox Theater, Turners Falls: *The Fairy House*. Ja'Dukes Summer Show of the Season, complete with fairy houses that children can build before the performance, and go for a walk along the Fairy House Road. Performances at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?* 7:30 p.m. Music by Daniel Hales and Frost Heaves at 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Trailer Park*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Chickenyard*. Roots Rock. 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Sami-rah Evans' Annual Leo Party with Rebecca Holtz*. Birthday party and music jam. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Side Street Blues*. Harmonica driven R&B. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Prestons*. Pop folk. 2:30 p.m.

1794Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Jacqueline Schwab*, pianist for Ken Burns documentaries, plays Americana. 4p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: John Shelton. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JULY 27

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

TUESDAY, JULY 28

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week it's skunks! See *Ongoing Events*. 10:30 a.m.

Gill Commons, Gill: *New England Flute Orchestra*. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Coop Concert Series, Greenfield Energy Park: *Lexi Weege, Russ Thomas, Austin & Elliott*. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*. Jazz/Blues. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Wonders: Dinosaurs*. Story hour with activities. Ages 6 - 8, with a parent or guardian. 2-3 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *The Salvation Alley String Band*. Country Western Swing. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *True Love Will Find You: A Night of Daniel Johnston covers*. 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Xopo, Gawain & Lysander*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Juggler Meadow String Band*. Americana 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Unity Park Waterfront, Turners Falls: *2nd Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival*. Sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and Turners Falls RiverCulture; free all day celebration of Native American culture and history. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Show of Cards*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Sherman Ewing*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Freestone. Boogie Blues & Rock*. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week it's dragonflies! See details under *Ongoing Events*. 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday

July 24 & 25, 7:30 p.m.

"OH BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?"

Music at 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday:
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MON 7/27 8pm FREE
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GOGH from pg B1

the artificial lighting has remained constant.

From Pissarro, van Gogh learns about light, and from Gauguin, asymmetry. He even experiments with Seurat's pointillism.

But something's still missing. None of the Impressionists' techniques can help him fully capture on canvas the almost religious emotions that Vincent carries in his heart for people, places, and things.

This frustration, compounded with what today we call bipolar disorder, makes him very difficult to get along with. When he follows Toulouse-Lautrec's suggestion to move to Provence in Southern France, all who know him breathe a grateful sigh of relief. None more so than Theo.

It's in the sun-drenched, unremarkable, sleepy little village of Arles that van Gogh begins his final years of creativity. Nothing he previously produced can compare. Working under a Mediterranean light that somehow reduces shadows and even gradations in tone, he sees the town and its surroundings not as

permanent forms, as Cezanne did, but as moving dynamos.

Wheat fields stemming from Vincent's imagination look like yellow stormy seas, cypress trees spring from the earth like green flames, and clouds billow with the visceral sensation of what it means to be alive. Really alive.

In his letters to Theo, Vincent says he's developed "a constant fever for work," that he's "going like a painting locomotive," and is "thrilled, thrilled, thrilled with what I see."

So are we. Somehow, Vincent was able to integrate his almost mystical belief in the presence of God in the world with the creative force he saw emanating for all forms of life: nature, people, even the room he slept in. As he tells Theo, "I want to paint men and women with the something of the eternal which the halo used to symbolize." The former missionary is now a prophet.

Gogh to the Clark. Be blessed with the miraculous surge in creativity that lasted only three years before Vincent ended it with a bullet in a beloved field outside an asylum in Saint-Remy.


Contrary to popular opinion, the

mental illness that plagued van Gogh all his life didn't drive him to produce the great masterpieces of his final years; it reduced his ability to capture emotion on canvas for months at a time. When the time came that he believed he was no longer able to paint, Vincent, as he signed all his paintings, was no longer able to live.



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