



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 12 – NO. 37

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 3, 2014

## Avenue A Building Changes Hands, Major Rehab Planned

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

**TURNERS FALLS** – On Monday, June 23, a company with the name of RUSERIOUS, LLC, bought a three-story building at 102 Avenue A, on the corner of Third Street.

Buildings change hands in downtown Turners from time to time, but it's not always the case that the new owners live downtown themselves.

But this is the case with 102 Avenue A. RUSERIOUS is a partnership between John McNamara and Erin MacLean, owners of the recycled industrial artifact shop Loot, and long-time Montague resident and investor Steven Vogel.

McNamara and MacLean, who opened Loot in December 2011 in a building they completely rehabbed over four years, are active participants in efforts to revitalize the downtown business district.

McNamara serves on the cable advisory committee, MacLean is a town meeting member, and they are members of the Montague Business Association. The couple frequently work with RiverCulture and others to plan downtown events.

MacLean said that she and McNamara had met Vogel even before they opened Loot. "When we opened," she said, "he was one of our first customers, and very



102 Avenue A

complimentary about what we were doing."

The three quickly became friends. The more they discussed the downtown revitalization efforts, the more they felt they should play an additional role in helping the town. "Steve's a big fan of Turners and what is happening here," she said.

About a year ago, the three formed a partnership with the intention of buying a building downtown.

She said they looked at a number of buildings before deciding to purchase 102 Avenue A. "It was a prime location," she said, and the three agreed that it was the building with the most potential.

Prior to buying the building, they had it inspected by a structural engineer, an architect, and contractors. "We knew what we were getting into, but we also knew what we could do with it," said MacLean.

MacLean said that at this time see AVENUE A page A4

## Facing Loss of Homes, Third Street Tenants Assess Options

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "I'm not the only family with children in here," said Brianna Gabry, who has been sharing a one-bedroom apartment on the top floor of 42 Third Street with her three young daughters. "We're all just trying to get by."

Last Wednesday morning, Gabry, along with all of her neighbors, received a one-page Notice to Terminate Tenancy signed by a Greenfield attorney, ordering them to clear out by August 1.

"If you fail to vacate," the letter read, "I will commence appropriate action in court to evict you."

The building, it turned out, had been sold that Monday, to an entity only identified to the residents as "RUSERIOUS, LLC, Landlord."

By Saturday, garbage was piling up on the building's porches, where the old landlord, David Karkut, used to collect it.

It was no secret that Karkut had been trying, for several months, to sell the building. The store downstairs at 102 Avenue A, Madison on the Avenue, was given notice, and moved to the building next door at the end of April.

But the eviction orders came as a



Brianna Gabry says she is unsure where she and her daughters, Lailah, Jadis and Kylee (clockwise from top) will go next.

surprise to residents of the four upstairs units. All said they had been led to believe that they would be able to stay on after the sale.

Now, they find themselves racing – against the clock, and against each other – to find new homes in a tight local rental market, and to gather together the resources necessary for a move.

### Apartment 1

"It's just rotten. They could have given us a heads' up," said Nicole Delisle. "Dave came more than

see THIRD ST. page A4

## Gill Selectboard Gill Calls For Suicide Prevention Upgrade at French King Bridge

By DAVID DETMOLD

After eight confirmed suicides from the French King Bridge in the last five years, and reports of up to nine more "possible jumpers" in the same time span, Gill's selectboard chair, Randy Crochier, believes it is time to take action to prevent more loss of life, and the attendant risks to emergency responders.

It is 141 feet down to a rocky gorge from the deck, and police and fire departments from Gill, Erving and other nearby towns are all too familiar with the call to search and recover bodies from the river below the bridge's scenic cantilevered arch.

"I'm just tired of people using that bridge to jump off of," said Crochier on Monday. Crochier's colleagues on the selectboard authorized him to represent the town in an upcoming meeting he has arranged, with the help of representative Denise Andrews, with the state Department of Transportation.

The purpose of that meeting will be to discuss remedial measures that might be taken to reduce the risk of suicide at the French King.

Crochier pointed out that the authorities in charge of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, one of

see GILL page A7

## Montague Water Pollution Control Facility Cleans House

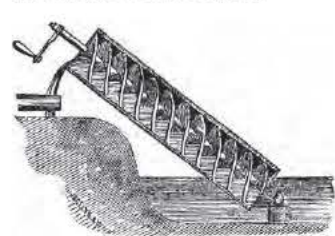
By ANNE HARDING

Not long ago, the operators at the MWTF approached Superintendent Bob Trombley with their concerns about the two internal screw pumps.

When you drive by the facility, these are the huge rotating tubes visible from the road.

Normally one of them is rotating at all times to lift the wastewater uphill from the primary treatment tanks to the aeration tanks.

The tubes contain a cork-screw-like mechanism that rotates inside the cylinder cavity, with the vane or "flight" moving the effluent along the screw's axis from the intake to the outlet.



Archimedes' screw.

The system was beginning to "burp" at times of high flow causing effluent to cascade back down the pump and the operators thought the internal flights might be corroding.

Another idea posed by staff was a possible blockage in the discharge line. When



Left to right: Tim Peura, Mike Little, and Anthony Suprenant.

the effluent leaves the screw pumps it flows through a 400 foot long, 2 foot diameter iron ductile pipe to the tanks.

First noticed about 18 months ago in the wet well area, the events appeared to be happening when the flow was more than 1.5 million gallons/day – higher than the average of 1 million gallons/day, but well under the system rating of 4.5 million gallons/day.

It typically happened during significant rain events, and the backflow made it more difficult for the MWTF to handle the combined sewer overflow by causing flow issues and affecting the general process control.

Further analysis of the collected flow data verified there was a problem.

The Siemens pumps are 32 years old and were installed

during the 1982 facility upgrade.

This type of pump is not typically scheduled for routine maintenance, because it can't be effectively dismantled and rebuilt – rather, it would normally be replaced at the end of its life.

Regardless of the root problem, a plan was needed to thoroughly investigate the system.

First, a temporary bypass pump system was set up to allow the shutdown of the internal lift pumps while keeping the essential water treatment process moving forward.

Unlike many businesses, the MWTF does not have the option of shutting down for maintenance reasons. They stopped taking in sludge from other Franklin County towns for the month of May.

see MWPCF page A8

## Cable Advisory Committee Considers Calling For New Local TV Proposals

By DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** – Montague Community Television staff, board members, and community supporters mounted a spirited defense of the local cable access station's programming and performance at a public review before the Montague cable advisory committee (CAC) on Wednesday, June 25.

Despite their accolades and endorsements, by the end of the hearing CAC members appeared to edge closer to recommending the Montague selectboard issue a request for proposals (RFP) to determine who will provide local cable access services for Montague, along with parts of Gill and Erving, in coming years.

CAC co-chair Eileen Dowd said, "I think an RFP can be very helpful. The RFP gives anyone the opportunity to think about how to reorganize and provide what people really want."

CAC members stressed that MCTV could apply for a renewed contract through the RFP process, and Dowd said she considered it important that a cable access provider be local to Montague.

Co-chair Garry Earles said, "Our job is to provide the best thing going for Mon-

tague." Earles said MCTV appeared to get high marks from the community for the productions they do air, including town meetings, selectboard meetings, and finance committee meetings.

**"If you were to recommend [we] offer an RFP... my guess is the only way MCTV does not get the contract is if there's a better offer."**  
Mark Fairbrother, selectboard

Beyond that, he said, "It seems to come down to how they do what they do. It's a leadership issue. It's how the organization gets managed."

"I think part of the problem we've been seeing and experiencing is the [MCTV] board," said John Reynolds, commenting, in part, on the lack of contractually required quarterly reports for MCTV programming since 2010.

Reynolds called the recent return of Montague Community Cable Inc. board member Veronica Phaneuf to the position of board treasurer

"a good thing," and added, "They are looking for specific board skills, and they are needed."

CAC member John McNamara said, "I'm a little concerned about the feeling that it's the community's fault there's not enough interest," in producing local programming.

But he added MCTV outreach staff member Cyndi Tarail appears to be "doing a good job trying to find some new partnerships."

"It's always been a challenge to do local access and get people involved. It's a challenge we all have to work on."

Speaking from the audience, Montague selectboard member Mark Fairbrother commented, "If you were to vote to recommend the selectboard offer an RFP to the marketplace, my guess is the only way MCTV does not get the contract is if there's a better offer."

"They just need to be sure they have the best offer. It's what we need to do for the people of Montague."

In the public comment portion of the meeting, Precinct 2 town meeting member Peter Golrick talked about a recent selectboard meeting where the sound

see CABLE page A6



# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## Supreme Court Declares Independence for Powerful

It seems more than a bit ironic that as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day the Supreme Court has ruled – again – against the independence of the individual and in favor of the powerful.

We’re referring, of course, to the decision handed down this week in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, in which the Court ruled that employers with religious objections can opt out of providing contraception coverage under Obamacare.

While we were disheartened at the ruling, we were not terribly surprised. It’s been clear for some time that the current conservatives on the court are decidedly opposed to the rights of individuals, no matter what kind of spin they put on their decisions.

Which brings us back to the Declaration.

Although for many Americans the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday is simply an excuse to barbeque and guzzle beer, and maybe take in fireworks, the real significance of the day is far more profound.

The Declaration of Independence was just that: a declaration of independence for the individual:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed....*

At the time, this was a highly radical notion. And perhaps it is again.

In essence, these current decisions follow the 2010 *Citizens United* verdict in which the same majority granted citizenship to corporations.

In our reading of the Declaration, we do not find Jefferson and company arguing for the rights of corporations against the King. What these radicals were saying is that all individuals are created equal in relation to each other, not in relation to corporations.

In his majority opinion, Justice Samuel Alito cited the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as a basis for championing the rights of corporations:

“The companies in the cases before us are closely held corporations, each owned and controlled

by members of a single family, and no one has disputed the sincerity of their religious beliefs.”

Passed by Congress in the 1990s, The RFRA was intended to protect religious liberty. Specifically the act says that the government cannot create a substantial burden on the exercise of religion unless it is using the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling government interest.

Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsberg in her dissent articulated the faulty assumptions on which the majority supposedly based their decision:

“There is little doubt that RFRA claims will proliferate, for the Court’s expansive notion of corporate personhood – combined with its other errors in construing RFRA – invites for-profit entities to seek religion-based exemptions from regulations they deem offensive to their faith,” she wrote.

Along with accusing the majority of misreading the RFRA, Ginsberg argued that while the court has recognized First Amendment protections for churches and other nonprofit religion-based organizations, no previous court decisions have ever recognized a for-profit corporation’s qualification for religious exemption from any laws.

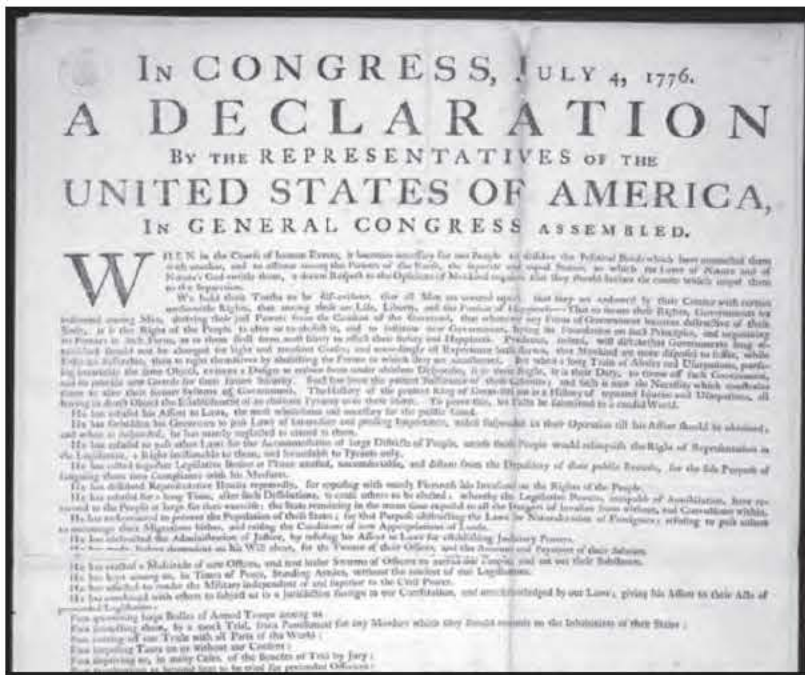
“The absence of such precedent is just what one would expect, for the exercise of religion is characteristic of natural persons, not artificial legal entities,” she wrote.

Ginsberg went on to note that religious organizations exist to foster the interests of people who believe in the same faith principles, but that’s not the case among for-profit corporations.

To bolster her argument, she noted that this distinction had been clear for centuries prior to the establishment of the Internal Revenue Service.

We fully agree with Justice Ginsberg’s careful logic. We are also aware that, were she to read this editorial, she would likely fault us for ignoring another facet of the Declaration: namely, that the notion “all men are created equal” at the time meant only that men, and only white ones, were created equal. Indians, slaves and women were not part of the “equality” equation.

That the Hobby Lobby decision is also a clear blow to women is perhaps in keeping with the “only white guys are equal” assumption embedded in the Declaration.



Happy Independence Day to our readers.

## Letters to the Editors

### No Animosity About Music Festival

I felt compelled to write a letter to the editor about the controversy surrounding the Upper Valley Music Festival, and its relocation to Greenfield, as well as the Shea Theater. I am the co-founder, along with my wife Jessica, of UVMF, and I am seeing a growing acrimony that I wanted to address.

When we relocated to Turners Falls in 2012, we felt that UVMF had found a home. We received support from local business owners who believed in our cause and goals, a town council that worked cooperatively with us, excellent ancillary venues, and the perfect Main Stage and festival center, the Shea. We felt like we made wonderful new relationships in town.

For the record, we still feel that way.

As far as the issue at hand: I am sure the scheduling conflict that arose was an accident. Jess and I never held any animosity or ill will towards anyone at the Shea, and still don’t.

That said, we were surprised, and a bit displeased, as this is an annual event that has been reserved with the theater board in the same way for two years previous. As we reserved this year’s date in January, we felt this was not very professional.

So, suddenly, at the end of May

we had a very large event and no main stage or center. We were then overwhelmed by the support from the town and their willingness to work with us to find a way to keep UVMF in Turners. As I said, we have developed strong relationships with a town we don’t even live in.

After a week, we realized it was not realistic to stay in town and still put on the kind of event we want to present. The clock was ticking. We decided to move UVMF to Greenfield out of necessity.

Our company, Sovereignty Music Services, has been involved in the music scene here since 1997. We treat our clients and plan our events with the utmost professionalism.

For this year’s UVMF we had all applications, licenses, insurance, cooperative agreements, two-thirds of a lineup of nearly 50 acts, and our advertising and promotion machinery in place by early March. We are very well organized.

The idea that we somehow did not go through proper channels or follow protocol in regards to our reserving the Shea makes me bristle.

The plan in the next couple of years is to expand the Upper Valley Music Festival to include Greenfield, Turners Falls, and other towns into a multi-day event that celebrates the whole of the Upper Valley’s amazing music.

There are many things in the works locally and regionally and we see a bright future for music as an economic engine for our area. How the Shea will fit into those plans is unknown.

We have had a proposal on the table for quite some time to present a concert series at the Shea with the purpose of attracting many of the national and international acts that no longer play in Northampton because of the music politics there.

Others also see the potential of the only theater in our area. It is a local treasure and a community resource. Think of how vibrant and prosperous our music scene could be if the Shea was known as a great tour stop. Think of how beneficial to business and culture to have this great old theater’s lights on 3 or 4 nights a week. We do.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that there are no hard feelings, and no animosity on our part. We hope the Shea and Turners will be involved in UVMF, and our music scene, in the future. At this point in what capacity I cannot say.

All we want to do is put on a great music festival, make sure everyone has a good time, and raise as much as we can to fight cancer.

Tommy Byrnes  
Sovereignty Music Services

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **GLASS/bash** exhibit will run from July 5 to August 31 at the Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls. It focuses on 11 contemporary glass artists from as far north as Brattleboro, as far west as Sheffield, with the majority of artists from the Pioneer Valley, including emerging artists known mostly to us here in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

The First Congregational Church at 4 North Street in Montague will host a **free jazz concert** on the front lawn (inside if raining) on Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. Come hear the Broken Cello Orchestra play and sing popular jazz standards by Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, and others.

Complimentary popcorn, lemonade and fellowship... Bring lawn chairs, blankets, friends and relax with some good summertime music!

Dr. Scott Key of the C.S. Lewis Study Center in Northfield will speak on **"Values of a Christian Higher Education"** on Wednesday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls.

Dr. Key will outline distinctions of a liberal arts education from a Christian point of view, and will inform the audience on the work of the study center and developing plans for a new college in our area. For more info, call (413) 498-0241.

French Press will perform traditional Québécois, Breton, and French Music, for fiddle, accordion, guitar and banjo at **Leverett Library's Music on the Patio Music Series** on Thursday, July 10, 7 to 8

p.m. Admission is free; please bring your own chair.

Bring your camera or flashlight to the Northfield Mountain Recreational Center on Friday, July 11 for an evening learning about and **observing moths** and other night-flying insects. The free program, from 8 to 11 p.m., will be led by a team from the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

The event is for all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Register in advance by calling (800) 859-2960.

Also July 11, there will be an informal **Five-Class Reunion** of TFHS Classes of 1972 at St. Kazimierz, Avenue A & 7th Street in Turners Falls.

The party starts at 6:30 p.m. and will feature music by the Tommy Fuentes Band, light hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, raffles, dancing, and fun. \$3 at the door or \$5 per couple; free for the Class of 1974.

On Saturday, July 12, the 2nd Street Baking Co. (on Fourth Street in Turners Falls) will throw a Hawaiian Luau fundraiser from noon and 8 p.m. to **raise funds for improved ventilation** at the cafe.

There will be costumes, live music, raffles, food, and beer from Element Brewing Company, which has a one-day license for the event.

That night, head out to the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem for a concert of **Moonlight and Morning Star** and **Miro Sprague**. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and is part of the 20th Annual North Quabbin Center for the Performing Arts' Summer 2014 Series.

The **Old Deerfield Sunday Af-**

**ternoon Concert Series** will continue its 65th season Sunday, July 13, at 3 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Museum, 8 Memorial Street, in Old Deerfield. Featured performer will be pianist Ken Forfia, who will perform an all-Beethoven program.

Admission is \$10; \$5 for students and seniors. For further information call the Museum at (413) 774-3768 ext. 10. See [www.deerfieldma.org](http://www.deerfieldma.org) for more information on the Series.

Join the Connecticut River Watershed Council at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, for a **River Walk: Tales of Rock and Sturgeon**, with geologist Steve Winters and international sturgeon expert Boyd Kynard in Turners Falls. You will explore the rocky formations in the Connecticut River below the dam and travel to a second site off Migratory Way to talk about geology and the life history and challenges of the endangered shortnose sturgeon.

Meet in the parking lot of the

Great Falls Discovery Center. Bring your own dinner or snacks to share at our second site (optional). You should have proper footwear and ability to traverse uneven terrain. Rain date is July 22. Pre-registration preferred but not required; contact Andrea at (413) 772-2020 ext. 205 or [adonlon@ctriver.org](mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org)

The Thomas Memorial Country Club in Turners Falls is holding a **Flags and Wreaths Golf Tournament** on Saturday, July 19. The TMCC is sponsoring the tournament to help the Veterans Administration pay for the flags placed on our veterans' graves in Montague on Memorial Day.

TMCC will also be placing wreaths in all 14 cemeteries in Montague this Veterans Day. For more info, call (413) 863-8003.

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

**Attention Montague residents and business owners!**

### PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC WORKSHOP:

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**TUESDAY, JULY 15 – 7 P.M.**

Montague Town Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

## Ways You Can Help

**TURNERS FALLS** – Sandy Facto tells our editors she is repairing the **flower box** on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street.

She is seeking donations of 8' two-by-fours, preferably pine, definitely not warped, as well as a loan of a drill and extension cord. Someone has given her screws.

Through Sunday July 6, she is running a **tag sale** on that site, offering large women's clothes for donations of \$1 per item toward the project.

Facto is also planning to ride her scooter up and down Greenfield's Turners Falls Road once every day most days, because it is dangerous, and asks the public to join her, though she does not specify a time.

On July 16 she will host a public spaghetti dinner at 1:30 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room at Town Hall, to thank our town employees for everything they do.

She left no contact info but can frequently be found downtown.

## Residents Across Massachusetts Plan March Against Gas Pipeline

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE** – Montague residents will join others from towns across Massachusetts to march along the proposed pipeline route on July 13. The March Against the Pipeline will originate in Richmond, MA on July 6, and end in Dracut on July 26.

The event is a relay march, meaning that people will march in their own towns and then hand off a baton to the next group of walkers.

Montague marchers will meet Greenfield Walkers in the middle of the Deerfield/Montague bike path bridge at 10 a.m. on July 13, follow Greenfield Road to Hatchery Road, cross the Plains to Lake Pleasant Road, cross Route 63 and end at the Millers/Erving bridge.

The 5.6-mile march is expected to end around 2 p.m.

Peter Hudyma, one of the Montague organizers, said the route follows the proposed pipeline as closely as possible, and also has

important symbolic significance to Montague.

Kinder Morgan LLC, the pipeline company, apparently plans to build the pipeline under the Connecticut River near where Montague will take the baton, and through the Plains, a precious natural resource – and also a site where local action has defeated proposals for both a nuclear power plant and a Nestle bottling plant.

At an organizational meeting on Monday night, Hudyma said, "We have a history of activism in this town. The march route honors that, and also the beauty and fragility of our landscape."

Organizers are calling on the public to get involved by marching, by signing up for a support role, or just by showing up along the route to cheer the marchers on.

Volunteers will be needed to shuttle walkers to the starting point, or back to their cars after the march has ended.

There's a Facebook event page,

*Montague Stop the Pipeline March*, where additional information can be found.

Volunteers and marchers can sign up there, but it will be fine for people to show up on the day of the event. There will also be additional media advisories as details emerge.

Another meeting about the march – and other strategies for defeating the pipeline – will be held by its opponents on July 7 at 7 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex in Montague.

The proposed pipeline is a high-pressure, thirty-six-inch gas pipeline that would carry natural gas, mostly produced in Appalachia by hydraulic fracturing or "fracking," through Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts.

Construction would require clearing excavation and blasting in some areas. Ruptures in pipelines of this size occasionally cause extremely hot, long-lasting fires.

Environmental groups have publicly questioned the need for addi-

tional gas, citing leaks in the existing systems and attributing winter spikes in electricity prices to problems with how the gas-electric market delivery is structured rather than to a shortfall in available gas.

The Audubon Society, the Franklin County Land Trust, the Mount Grace Land Trust, and other conservation groups have said the project would damage sensitive land designated for protection, and have argued that allowing conservation land to be taken for the project would set a precedent making it a target for future utility projects.

The company has not yet filed for approval of the project, nor has it applied to the state for permission to enter any of the hundreds of properties where it has been refused survey access, including a parcel owned by the town of Montague.

Additional information on the pipeline project, compiled by opponents, can be found at [www.no-frackedgasinmass.org](http://www.no-frackedgasinmass.org) or at [www.massplan.org](http://www.massplan.org).



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AVENUE A from page A1

their plans for the building are “evolving and organic,” but that the first floor will again be occupied by a retail business.

She did note, in response to rumors already circulating, that the business would neither be a “Loot II,” or as some have heard, a “Faces II.” Faces is the eclectic novelty, clothing, and poster store in Northampton managed by Vogel’s son.

Rodney Madison, whose shop, Madison on the Avenue, formerly occupied the first floor at 102 Avenue A, said he was aware a few months ago that he would likely be forced to move once the building was sold.

“Fortunately, I managed to negotiate a deal for the space next door,” Madison said.

MacLean said that the top two floors will be rehabbed for residential use.

Town building inspector David Jensen said that “there were no outstanding code violations, at present,” at the building.

He did note, however, that the former owner had received, and complied with, previous orders to

correct code violations.

Jensen also said he has issued a demolition permit for “incidental, non-structural items,” but none, as of this time, for structural demolition or building.

He added: “Everything that cleans up that building is good.”

Neither McNamara nor MacLean are strangers to rehabilitation. It took them almost four years to renovate the 1877 building at 62 Avenue A that now houses their shop and their upstairs residence.

MacLean said that the tasks awaiting them at 102 A are not all that dissimilar to what they had to do to rehab the Loot building. “We had to do everything here,” she said. “But we did it.”

**Not Delivered Vacant**

Getting to the rehab, however, has already enmeshed the new owners in controversy.

MacLean said that they had made it clear to the former owner David Karkut, through a broker from Sawicki Realty, that “we needed the building free and clear to do the renovations, which we knew would be extensive.”

MacLean explained why they

needed the building to be vacant in order to perform the rehab: “The amount of work needed is tremendous: new electrical, heating systems, plumbing, and much more.

“It would be dangerous to do the work while the building was occupied. And also very dusty, and loud.”

When RUSERIOUS made their initial offer for the building and put down a deposit, MacLean said, they stipulated that the building would be delivered vacant.

The final purchase and sale agreement they signed with Karkut, however, did not contain such a clause.

MacLean commented “that she had no idea” why the tenants would have thought they could stay.

“It’s sold, and that’s all I want to say,” said Karkut, when reached for comment.

Within days after the purchase of the building, those living on the upper floors – three families and one single man – were served eviction notices.

“We were advised by our lawyer that that’s how you begin the legal process to move forward to renovate a building. For that reason,

we started the process through our lawyer,” said MacLean.

She then added, “One of the challenges with buying a building and rehabbing it is asking tenants to relocate. Our intention is to listen to the tenants and make this transition as easy as possible.”

On Monday, June 30, MacLean and McNamara met with the tenants: “We wanted to get the conversation started so we can work together,” she said.

MacLean emphasized that the meeting on Monday was only the first in what she termed “conversations” with the tenants.

“It’s difficult to separate the human side from the legal side, but we’re trying to do that.”

She declined to say what she and her partners were intending to offer to those who also call the building home. For now, the eviction orders stand.

The timetable for opening a store downstairs, she said, depends on what can be worked out with the tenants.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting to this article.



Nicole Delisle and Robert Shook live in Apartment 1 with their daughters Olivia, Nevaeh, and Aleda, and Robert’s mother Chat (not pictured).

**THIRD ST.** from page A1

four times to show the building. We’ve let them in, even when they just knocked on the door.”

Delisle moved into the building in November with her fiancé, Robert Shook, and their three daughters – Olivia, 10, Aleda, 8, and Nevaeh, 5.

In February, she suffered a sudden and catastrophic illness, requiring emergency surgery that moved forty blood clots from her leg.

She lost her job, and Robert’s mother, Chat Shook, moved up from the South to help the family out. Since February, the six have been living together in a two-bedroom, making ends meet.

“This is an awful time,” Delisle continued. “I only just started getting transitional assistance.

“Obviously, this building is not a prize to live in. But if we had the money like that, where we could just pick up and move, we probably would have already.

“We just moved the girls from Greenfield to Turners schools last year. We want to to keep them in the

district, but now we don’t know if we can.”

Having lost their vehicle to impoundment, the family faces the additional challenge of searching for a new home without transportation of their own.

“Thirty days is just not realistic,” said Chat. “Finding housing is just as bad as the employment rate.”

Since the family does not receive housing assistance, she said, she did not believe they were eligible for emergency placement.

“When these apartments are done,” she asked, “can we have first option on one of the apartments? I’ve always paid my rent on time, been a good neighbor – and I like it here. It’s been a very convenient place to live.”

Robert said he had started searching for apartments in the newspapers and on Craigslist. “It’s hectic. There’s hardly anything for families out there. It would have been a lot better if they gave us 90 days.”

Karkut, he said, “was an awesome landlord. He worked with us in so many ways, and has helped

us out. He’s a really nice guy.... “He told me that they told him nobody was going to get evicted.”

**Apartment 2**

Next door, Bill Franklin lives by himself in a one-bedroom apartment. At eighteen months, he is the longest-running tenant.

“The thing is, I really want to stay in downtown Turners Falls,” he said. “I love this neighborhood, and I love my neighbors... I don’t want to live in some apartment complex out in the middle of nowhere.”

Franklin, who says he receives some housing assistance, has been checking the daily listings published by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and stopping by a nonprofit in Greenfield that has a computer terminal set up for those seeking jobs and housing.

“They knew they were going to do this. Why couldn’t they let us know? We only have one month’s notice, and now we’re all going to be competing for places to live.”

Franklin reheats a pan of coffee on the stovetop as he talks. On his easel, a locust looks on as a figure

drawn in medieval style passes through a forest.

“They gave us verbal representation they wouldn’t be kicking us out,” he says. “And here’s the thing. If it were a fire that put four families out on the street, the community would rally around them. People would say, ‘oh my god, how horrible.’

“But somehow, because it’s done by laissez-faire capitalism, it’s a different story.”

**Apartment 3**

“I’ve started to look. I have no choice,” said Ron Fisher, Sr. “Either sooner, or later... but with it being sooner, it leaves a lot on someone, especially being a single parent.”

Since August, Fisher has lived in an upstairs two-bedroom unit with his eight-year-old son AJ.

He said they had to access Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), a state fund that provides short-term aid to families at risk of homelessness, to pay the security deposit.

“And this was the only one close

see **THIRD ST.** next page



Bill Franklin lives in Apartment 2.

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**THIRD ST.** from prev page enough to bring a grocery cart,” added AJ.

“Yeah, my last moves have been by grocery carts,” explained Fisher, who had previously lived on Second Street.

Fisher expressed despair at the thought of raising the first and last months’ rent, plus security deposit,



AJ and Ron Fisher, Sr. live in Apartment 3.

needed to secure another apartment. “Even [for] a person working, there’s no way they’re coming up with 2 grand in a month... And it’s hard to get anywhere in the month of July. You know that.”

Fisher said that he, too, had been told his home was secure. “They reassured everyone, it’s changing hands, there won’t be evictions.”

As of Saturday, he added, “They didn’t even have the balls to knock on the doors and say ‘hey’.”

#### Apartment 4

Before moving into her apartment in February, Brianna Gabry and her three daughters – Jadis, 5, Kylee, 4, and Lailah, 2 – spent a period of time without a home.

Like many in her situation, Gabry was not counted among the state’s homeless. They were able to stay at her friends’ houses, and with her parents. She said she does not receive any form of housing aid.

“David has been a wonderful landlord,” she said. “He’s been respectful toward my kids, and understanding of my situation.

“I work two jobs – he was the only person who would rent a one-bedroom to me within my budget.

“When we were bouncing around, my middle daughter, who’s on the autism spectrum, really regressed.”

Along with the apartment, Gabry was also able to raise the money to get Kylee a trained and registered service dog as a companion.

“Being in a stable environment

has been great for her. She’s started talking again.”

Like the other residents, she expressed worry about finding a new place to live again on short notice.

“I work in Greenfield, so I need to find housing in the area. It’s impossible to find a place, having three children, on a teacher’s assistant income.”

buy it. They had people in here the next day, working downstairs...

“About all they really said was that they wanted to be ‘sensitive to our concerns.’ I have no idea what that means, except that they kept repeating it.

“I said, ‘well, you can change the 30 days to 90 days right now,’ and they went silent.”

Robert Shook said he was on his way to an appointment when the owners showed up. “They did talk to [Nicole]... She asked to extend the date, but we don’t think they’re going to go for it.”

Notified by Delisle that the previous owner had asked his tenants to leave their garbage bags on the porches for pickup, McNamara returned that day with bins to clear the piles out.

“I guess they felt like they screwed up,” said Ron Fisher, Sr. He was not offered more time either: “They said they’d lend a hand with a truck, if you want to get out.”

“I was so heated I just left. I didn’t want to talk to them,” said Brianna Gabry, who said she gave a cell phone number and asked for an appointment.

“I asked how they slept last night. [MacLean] said, ‘very good.’ Well, my kids have been waking up in the middle of the night... You’re kicking four families out and you say you’re sympathetic?”

#### Collecting Rent?

On Tuesday, MacLean met with Gabry. “She said the three owners wanted to sit and talk together about what to do,” said Gabry afterward.

“She apologized. And she told me everything is going to be all right.

“I looked at her and told her, ‘Don’t tell me that... You’re kicking us all out.’”

Gabry, who said she paid Kar-kut her last month’s rent when she moved in, said she was surprised that the letter the new owners distributed Monday reads in part, “Rent is due on the 1st of the month. Please make checks payable to RUSERIOUS LLC...”

The request appears to contradict the statement on the earlier Notice to Terminate Tenancy that “Any monies forwarded to the Landlord will be accepted for use and occupancy only and not as rent. A new tenancy will not be created.”

As of press time, Gabry said she had not yet paid July rent, and that she would be surprised if anyone in the building had.

Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno contributed additional reporting to this article.



## Residents Vow To Accept No Changes At Wendell Post Office

By SHARON WACHSLER

On Monday evening, June 30, over 25 residents of Wendell and New Salem packed the Hearing Room at the Wendell Town Offices to strategize about saving the town center Wendell Post Office.

This citizen action is in response to a letter and survey the United States Postal Service (USPS) mailed to town residents which asked residents whether they preferred the post office closed or the hours cut. A hearing with USPS is scheduled for July 8 at 5 p.m. in the Wendell Town Hall.

The meeting opened with participants introducing themselves and their reasons for attending. Beth Erviti’s comment was typical: “I’ve lived in Wendell over 30 years, and I need the post office. Period.”

Sarah Kohler of New Salem, who’s been going to the Wendell Post Office for 28 years, said, “New Salem doesn’t have a post office. I can’t imagine life without the Wendell Post Office.”

#### Post Office a Financial Necessity, Residents Say

Some spoke passionately about the post office’s necessity for business. Patti Scutari, owner and proprietor of Wendell’s only store and eatery, said that the deciding factor in buying the Country Store was the location of the post office:

“The only reason we said we’ll take a chance on this was the guaranteed rent [of the post office].... The store and [Deja Brew] pub [receipts] are not secure and stable... That the post office pays the rent without fail” is crucial to not losing her mortgage, Scutari said.

The presence of the store and pub struck a nerve. Lisa Hoag said that living in the rural town could be tough, but “the Wendell Post Office and Country Store are the beating heart of this community. Without those, it’s not doable.”

Scutari, with 22 employees – in a town of 870 people – is the town’s biggest employer. She added that over the years, she has had 300 or 400 people on her payroll. “But without the post office there, it would be hard to justify keeping the pub and store [open].”

Others chimed in that small business owners and those working from home require the security and safety of sending and receiving mail from inside the post office. A

rural delivery box on the road could not be used for business transactions, they said.

#### Rural Rights at Stake

A number of comments focused on the rights of rural people to access the same government services that people in urban and suburban areas can take for granted. Jim Thornley of Wendell declared, “The postal service was set up for the common man, for everyone in the country!”

Katie Chicorka, a Wendell resident for over 30 years and a former USPS employee, emphasized, “It’s the United States Postal Service. It’s a service.”

In a wry twist, Robbie Leppzer, lead organizer of the meeting and a Wendell resident for 25 years, had hoped to play on his laptop the channel 22 news story on the Wendell Post Office that aired that evening, but there was no internet access in the town building – a point many want the USPS to know.

“In Wendell, internet access is so bad, [USPS] may think we can do a lot more on the internet than we can,” said Chris Queen of Wendell.

#### Postmaster O’Dowd Is Rallying Point

Most spoke of their love for and reliance upon the Wendell postmaster, Charlie O’Dowd, who has held his post for 25 years, and who has confided in some residents that he will not be able to stay on if his hours or benefits are cut.

Lena Morimoto of Wendell declared, “Charlie and the Post Office are town treasures.”

Michael Idoine, a resident of Wendell since 1971, said, “I’ve had more than one call on Christmas Eve [from O’Dowd] saying, ‘You have a package here and you haven’t picked it up yet!’”

“When my husband was very ill,” Scutari said, “When [Charlie] got a box that sounded like pills, he would call me.”

Others mentioned the importance of receiving poultry, bees, and other livestock through the Wendell Post Office. Some said they had switched from other shippers because Charlie reduced the high mortality rate of hatchlings. Faith Diemand of Diemand Farm, which sells eggs, chicken, and turkey, was in attendance at the meeting.

see POST OFFICE page A8

I’m Lisa LaGue, cancer-free for six years, and a big believer in Baystate Franklin.

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**CABLE** from page A1

was inaudible during MCTV's broadcast. He said this was a rare occurrence, but noted, "There have been some sound quality issues over the last five years.

"There should be some way for viewers to comment from home that something is wrong," he said, suggesting that viewers could be given the ability to send a text message to the videographer in real time.

Jeanne Golrick commented on what she considered to be the insularity of the MCTV team over the years. "A lot of the same people are involved, which could be a good thing, but it might be a bad thing too."

She continued, "From the beginning, there has been a lot of top level mismanagement that has led it to become something of a social club."

Golrick said she has come by the studio on more the one occasion to find the door locked, despite posted hours indicating the studio should be open.

MCTV's Tarail said that was because the access station only has enough of an income stream to pay for the equivalent of 1-1/2 full-time staff members, and the station often shifts to a flexible schedule of open studio hours to allow for community event coverage, trainings, and videotaping night meetings.

Lisa Middents, development coordinator for Franklin Community Home Care, praised MCTV for their assistance in providing technology training and video equipment to post video on the FCHC website and to videotape the recent Walkathon for Meals on Wheels.

John Furbish, who described himself as "a low-income Turners Falls resident," said, "I would like to give a ringing endorsement of local cable access television," for keeping him more informed of the workings of local government, as well as for programming that promotes multiculturalism and an awareness of local history.

Janet Masucci, who volunteers for MCTV to videotape the Gill selectboard meetings and Gill town meetings, said, "I want to appreciate the help that MCTV has given me. All the electronics and technology is challenging for me. I get frustrated when I try to learn new things." She said the staff at MCTV has been patient and provided her with the support and training she has needed to get the job done.

"Is it fair to say that Gill's public access station is MCTV?" asked Earles.

"Yes," replied Masucci, who has consistently called for more volunteers to help broadcast meetings and events from Gill, which she pointed out are now available via the internet on Vimeo.

MCTV volunteer Don Clegg said, "People enjoy watching the channel, but they won't come in and pick up a camera." He said the fear of learning how to edit may be keeping community members from videotaping events at the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Montague Grange, or Montague Community Band concerts.

Clegg said, "It would be wonderful if we had an editing team," to assist community volunteers.

Kathy Lynch, station manager Easthampton Cable Access and the spouse of MCTV station manager Dean Garvin, said, "Every access station experiences technical problems. That's not how you judge an organization. I look at what they've

done."

Lynch lauded the station for co-producing a recent forum on a proposed natural gas pipeline in Franklin County, taping the Turners Falls softball team playoff games, and finding the money to replace and upgrade equipment at the station out of their "drop in the bucket" operating budget rather than wait for a much needed capital grant from ComCast, which will not arrive until the town signs a new contract with that cable provider.

She added, "I never saw anyone pull off three soapbox derbies," before MCTV initiated the event. "It took an inordinate amount of time to pull that off."

MCTV has announced it will not be sponsoring the soapbox derby this year, and the event was recently seeking a new sponsor.

Tarail, who has been the outreach coordinator for MCTV for most of the past three years, said, "We think it is very important to bring up the next generation to be involved in their communities... We are trying to think of any innovative way to work with children, because our community is graying. We are passionate about that."

**"People enjoy watching the channel, but they won't come in and pick up a camera."  
Don Clegg  
MCTV volunteer**

Tarail described working with homeschooled children, and a local youth circus to get their videos aired.

Annually, MCTV receives \$120,000 in dedicated funding from ComCast, from a 5% charge on individual cable subscribers' bills.

According to a budget provided by treasurer Veronica Phaneuf, more than three-quarters of that sum is spent on staff salaries, with \$33,700 paying a 30-hour-a-week station manager, \$26,000 paying a half-time tech coordinator, and \$14,000 paying a quarter-time outreach coordinator.

The station augments its revenue stream with underwriting and media sales, resulting in about \$6,796 in added annual income to help cover administrative costs and rent at their Second Street studio in Turners Falls.

Board member Michael Langknecht said the station would like to have a bigger facility to better accommodate larger meetings and groups of people who would like to have their events aired live.

The CAC will meet again on July 10 to consider the reassignment of Montague's local access contract.

Public comment in writing may be forwarded to the CAC through the town clerk, at 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Volunteer Don Clegg said on Saturday that the sound quality for the public hearing on June 25 was so poor that he had to pull it from rotation on MCTV's programming schedule until the audio problems could be corrected.

"There was no sound for the majority of that program," said Clegg.

**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

## Disability Access Issues, Strathmore Fixes, And Block Party Plans Top Full Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard, having commenced its summer schedule of meetings every two weeks, had an overflowing plate of complex issues to resolve on June 30.

These included a request for an update of the town's 2001 ADA plan, a proposal to construct a fenced-in electrical box on a sidewalk the town may or may not control, and fixes for the Strathmore building to comply with an order of the Turners Falls Fire Chief.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson was not in attendance, but provided written comments in response to most of the agenda items.

### Police Department

First on deck was Montague Police Chief Charles "Chip" Dodge. Dodge, who requested that the board sign a "memo of agreement" to participate in the regional dog kennel administered by the Sheriff's Department.

The agreement, which will last from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, is not impacted by the status of the current kennel, which is moving from Montague. Dodge said the fee is lower than what was anticipated in his recent budget. The request was approved.

Dodge also asked that Montague continue the mutual aid agreement with other towns in the region. Dodge stated that the agreement, which provides for assistance in emergency situations, is "going really well," and the board seemed to agree.

Audience member Jeanne Golrick asked for some data on the number of mutual aid calls, to which Dodge replied, "I can think of six calls. It's just sort of a safety thing more than anything."

The issue did not require a board vote, since the agreement simply rolls over to the next year in the absence of local action.

### ADA Compliance

Next on the agenda was Betty Tegel with a request for a review and update of the 2001 "Transition Plan" to comply with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Tegel came armed with photocopies of five selected pages of the 2001 plan to show that it was outdated, or that projects had not been completed.

For example, the plan called for a variety of upgrades to the Montague Center School, which no longer exists as such.

Tegel also stated that the Sheffield school had constructed a new parking lot without handicapped parking, and that parking spaces at the Department of Public Works had a logo on the pavement but that the sign was very small and covered with brush.

She also noted that town vehicles park in the handicapped spaces at town hall.

Tegel was accompanied by Jane Howard, who lives in a building

behind Peskeomskut Park. Howard discussed the dangers of crossing Seventh Street to get to the Food City plaza without a proper crosswalk.

Local activist Sandy Facto also raised a variety of access issues in downtown Turners Falls.

Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio then listed the progress that has been made since the 2001 report was produced.

He pointed to the improvements in town hall, which he said cost over one million dollars, the police station, which is totally accessible, and the various improvements at Unity Park including a special swing for the handicapped.

He also noted that handicapped access issues were central to the recent "Turners Falls Livability Study."

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother requested that Abbondanzio "issue an order" that town employees not park in handicapped spaces, see that the DPW clears the brush away from the sign in front of their building, and "inventory" the 2001 plan to find out what is left to be done.

"Just to let you know, we went through this exercise already," Abbondanzio responded to the latter request. Presumably this will make it an easier task to produce an inventory for a future meeting.

Tegel's request for a special committee to deal with handicapped access issues was not acted upon.

### MWPCF Hires

Water Pollution Control Facility Director Robert Trombley requested that the board approve two appointments, Nick Fisher to the position of laborer and Katharine ML Jones to Administrative Assistant. Both were approved.

**Betty Tegel's request for a special committee to deal with handicapped access issues was not acted upon.**

### Common Property

Ann Fisk of Montague Center came before the board to request a more consistent policy regarding the use of the village's common. She noted that in some cases a permit is required while in other instances, such as the annual May Day festival, none was issued.

Fisk stated that the town should either "dispense with the process," or require a permit of everyone. The board seemed favorable to the latter option, but took no vote.

Fisk also requested that the town consider constructing a fence around the Veterans Memorial, and place picnic tables on the common.

### Party Time; Excellent

Suzanne LoManto, the director of Riverculture, came before the board to register a block party on Avenue A between Third and Fourth streets for August 2.

This will be part of the same event scheduled for the same day at Unity Park.

Mark Fairbrother criticized the concept of block parties in separate sections of downtown Turners, but, in the absence of board member Michael Nelson, voted for the request so the event could move forward.

Dan Kramer of the Element Brewing Company requested a one-day liquor license for an event in Turners Falls on July 12.

The event will be at the Second Street Baking Company (on Fourth Street) between noon and 8 p.m., and is designed to raise funds for improved ventilation at the cafe during the summer months.

The request was approved.

### Common Property

John McNamara and Erin MacLean requested a license to place a fence on the Third Street sidewalk (at the Avenue A corner) to enclose an electrical box and several trash barrels next to their newly-purchased building. (See stories, page A1.)

However, it was unclear whether the town in fact had obtained the right of way to the space many years ago.

"Sorting out the legal issues is hugely complicated," stated building inspector David Jensen.

The board requested that McNamara and MacLean do more research on the issue.

### Other Business

The board approved a number of appointments to the town Cultural Council and to the Airport Commission.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio then requested that the board approve a number of appropriations from the Community Development Discretionary Fund.

\$10,000 was transferred to the "Unsafe and Unhealthy Buildings Account," while over \$35,000 was earmarked for a variety of projects designed to bring the Strathmore Building into compliance with the requirements of the Turners Falls fire chief.

These include funds to fix a sewer pump station, construct a working water line to the building, and fix the roof on the stair tower.

After Mark Fairbrother refused to vote on the request without more documentation, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio retrieved said documentation from his first floor office and read it into the record, the repairs were approved.

### Secret Squirrel

At this point, well after 9 p.m., the board went into executive session to continue to discuss negotiations over the status of the Montague Center School Building.

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# Meet the New Sheffield Principal

## (Surprise! You Already Know Her.)

By PATRICIA PRUITT

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Ms. Sharon Moberg is the newly appointed principal of Sheffield, but she is already well-known and well-established in the 2 through 5 grade elementary school, having worked for over a year as the assistant to former principal Mark Andrews.

Moberg characterized that first year as one of building relationships within all levels of the school community, from the administration, to classroom teachers, to students and parents. She is looking forward to continuing the work of community-building within Sheffield in the coming school year.

She says she has set several priorities for herself. A key one is to serve as a model of “Lead Learner” for her staff with whom she believes it is imperative to collaborate. This means she will solicit assistance and expect to learn from her teaching staff as well as administrative staff.

Parents are not to be left out of the equation and will also serve as a source of information and help based on each parent’s knowledge and understanding of his or her child.

She wants nothing less than to establish a community with



Sharon Moberg will begin as the principal of the newly independent Sheffield Elementary this fall.

pride in its elementary school. She hopes to see the fifth grade, for example, form a student council, and to begin thereby a new area of school responsibility and leadership which will pass on to the next year’s group of fifth graders.

As Moberg talks, her enthusiasm is evident in her face and her voice. She characterizes herself as a “people person.”

A Student Council, she says, “can be a major contribution to school culture.” She shows me a photo taken during the Seuss Stories and Bingo evening, where the

kitchen staff made cupcakes decorated as titles of several Seuss books. Those cupcakes, as well as the active participation and initiative of the cooking staff, are also meaningful parts of school culture.

Moberg hails from Springfield, where she attended public schools, and where she still resides. She is a firm believer in the importance of public education as a generator of learning and also, therefore, of opportunities for students.

She is herself grateful for the opportunities public school made possible for her.

She is very pleased that Sheffield will have the services of Sherry Wood, a teacher as well as a coach certified in responsive classroom techniques. She will work with teachers to answer the question: What does student engagement look like?

There will be a coach in literacy who will work with both students and teachers to intervene where reading problems are seen.

In short, Sharon Moberg is looking forward to the start of school and to engaging families, students, and staff in the vibrant community that is Sheffield School.

*More to Come: Meet the new Hillcrest Principal in the July 17 issue of the Montague Reporter.*

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Erving Town Departments Reorganized; Special Town Meeting Postponed

By KATIE NOLAN

At their June 16 meeting, the Erving selectboard voted to eliminate the combined highway/water/waste water department, eliminate the department director position, and place department director Paul Prest on administrative leave until the end of the fiscal year, when his appointment ends.

Prest was formerly highway superintendent before being appointed as director of the combined departments.

At the June 30 meeting, highway foreman Glen McCrory and waste water foreman Pete Sanders presented the Board with plans for staffing the reorganized departments.

McCrory recommended hiring an additional part-time seasonal person to mow town properties. Sanders recommended hiring a grade 4 certified water operator or someone who could attain grade 4 status quickly.

Town administrator Tom Sharp told the board that Pipeline company Kinder-Morgan may send a representative to meet with Erving residents and provide information

on the natural gas pipeline proposed to run through Erving and other Franklin County towns.

If the meeting is scheduled, it will be held at Erving Elementary school on July 8 at 7 p.m.

As of press time Sharp was unable to confirm that a Kinder Morgan representative would actually be coming.

David Brule and Cyd Scott were appointed as “interested party” representatives to the Northfield Mountain project re-licensing process.

### Special Town Meeting Postponed

The special town meeting, originally scheduled for June 30, had to be postponed because it had not been posted properly.

A new date has not yet been set since refiguring of free cash is necessary before a new meeting can be held.

Some appropriations in the June 30 warrant articles required the use of FY ‘14 free cash. These appropriations are now invalid as the new fiscal year has begun.

GILL from page A1

the world’s most universally acclaimed scenic bridges and the site of many suicides, voted just last week to install suicide prevention netting below the span at a cost of \$76 million.

No specific plan or cost estimate has been discussed yet regarding possible retrofits to prevent jumping from the French King Bridge, but Crochier said the time has come to take action to prevent further tragedy.

“This is about suicide prevention,” he said. “But it is also about resources. This is about preventing putting our firefighters in the water in February at night.”

Crochier proposed reaching out to the town of Erving to join the effort to persuade state authorities to reduce the risk of suicide at the French King.

The Erving police are generally the first to respond to the scene of an attempted suicide at the bridge, which is practically within sight of the Erving police station.

### Help Still Wanted

In other news, the town of Gill has been unable to find anyone to take a three-hour-a-week custodial position at the Gill town hall.

“It seems like there should be someone in town who would like to make an extra \$30 a week,” said Purington.

Selectboard member John Ward said a lack of public transportation – the lack of fixed bus route service to any part of Gill, despite its ongoing membership in the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority – probably prevented anyone for whom an extra \$30 a week would make a difference, from applying for the job.

### Smaller Waste Transfer

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board lower-than-expected numbers in the most recent month for gallons of sewage pumped from the Riverside district for treatment at the Montague wastewater treatment plant have allowed him to lower the estimate for the dollar amount that will be needed as a transfer from the sewer fund to balance the sewer account at an upcoming special town meeting.

Last month, Purington had estimated the sewer account would end the fiscal year about \$5,500 in the red. On Monday, he said the deficit will more likely total \$4,000.

### Locks at the School

In addition to transferring funds needed to balance the sewer account, town meeting voters will be asked to spend a yet to be determined amount of money, perhaps \$8,000, to install new locks on interior doors to increase security at the Gill Elementary School.

The move to tighten school security in Gill and Montague comes in the wake of repeated mass shootings at public schools and universities across America, including the slaughter of 20 elementary school students and six staff members at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in December of 2012.

Efforts to tighten the nation’s gun control laws have gone nowhere since that tragedy, leaving school districts to devise their own approaches to countering the rise of gun violence, and the recurrent targeting of students and teachers at educational facilities by deranged gunmen, from a one-room Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, PA to the pristine campus of the University of California in Santa Barbara.

### Boaters Continue, Unabated

The selectboard unanimously denied a bid by the Franklin County Boat Club to abate a percentage of the sewer bill for the Boat Club.

Last month, speaking for the Boat Club owners, Jeff Suprenant asked the selectboard to abate up to 68% of the sewer bill for the dock, which has a separate meter from the main clubhouse, on the theory that much of that water was used for washing boats, and ended up in the river rather than in the sewer system.

Board members were wary of setting a precedent on sewer abatements at a time when the small sewer district is experiencing an unexplained problem with inflow and infiltration, or other causes, driving sewer bills for the 114 member households to, in some cases, double the size of their water bills.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker said, “At this point in time, my hope is we could find a solution to the sewer problem,” to lower costs for all users. “It is not the right time” to grant a special abatement to the Boat Club, he added.

Later in the meeting the board did, however, allow Suprenant a \$27.96 abatement from his personal sewer bill, to take into account the amount of water he used to fill his swimming pool.

### Cell Tower

The board replied positively to an inquiry from Verizon about the possibility of erecting a cell phone tower to augment coverage in Gill at the Gill safety complex.

Before a cell tower could be built, town meeting as a whole would have to approve the plan, since Verizon normally requires a five-year lease for cell towers on municipal property.



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Gill To Hold Special  
Town Meeting July 8

Gill voters will be convening for a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at town hall. Two articles deal with year-end financial matters; a third seeks money to purchase and install locks for the interior doors at the Gill Elementary School.

Article 1 seeks to transfer money from the Sewer Receipts fund into the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget for the Riverside Sewer System. Without this transfer, estimated to be \$5,500 to \$6,000, there will not be sufficient funds to pay all of this year’s obligations.

Most of the sewer system’s expenses this year were right on track with what was budgeted.

The shortfall was caused by a rate increase from Montague last August after our budget was set; a very wet year (rainfall and snow-melt) that meant a higher volume of wastewater to pump to Montague; and higher-than-expected costs for repairs and maintenance (including work on inflow and infiltration).

Article 2 looks to fund a school security project requested by the Gill-Montague Regional School District for the Gill Elementary School.

An estimated \$8,276 is being asked to purchase and install locks on the interior doors at our school. The Education Stabilization Fund and/or the General Stabilization Fund are being looked at as possible sources to fund this article.

Article 3 asks voters to take money remaining in the FY14 operating budget for Building Maintenance and transfer it to the Safety Complex roof replacement project. The amount is approximately \$3,000.

As approved by Gill voters, the \$158,000 roof project has available funding of \$82,766. The remaining \$75,234 will be borrowed, and if Article 3 is approved, the amount to be borrowed will be less.

All voters are encouraged to attend.

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## POST OFFICE from page A5 Contract Post Office Rejected

When the focus turned to strategy, there was unanimous support for not accepting any change in post office hours or staffing.

Hoag and Chicorka explained the difference between a full post office, what Wendell has now, and a contract post office, that would have reduced hours and fewer services.

Leppzer said, "If there is any chance we can turn this around, it requires we rise up as a community and take collective action."

That is just what participants have been doing – by engaging support from their elected representatives.

After the Wendell Selectboard contacted US Representative Jim McGovern, he sent a letter to USPS district chief, David Mastroianni, asking that he hear the concerns of Wendell area people about retaining full USPS services in the town and asking that the time of the hearing, originally scheduled at 1 p.m., be moved to the evening.

The USPS agreed, and announced the new 5 p.m. time Tuesday.

Kohler read McGovern's letter aloud. McGovern's aide, Keith Barnacle, plans to attend the hearing.

Participants shared progress

made with other officials: US Senator Elizabeth Warren has pledged support and is sending aide Everett Handford. Representative Denise Andrews is also planning to come.

Many expressed indignation that relatively small but wealthy communities are not facing postal cuts – such as Templeton and Amherst, which each have three post offices (not including UMass mail services) – and that reduced hours and closures are slated only in rural communities with economic hardships.

Said Leppzer, "The Postal Service was founded by the federal government because a functioning democracy needs a democratic form of communication."

So, when they now say they need to run the USPS like a corporation, it belies the reason the post office was formed – to serve the people."

After the meeting, about a third of participants stayed to create posters which the group will use at the hearing at Town Hall. Slogans included, "Save Our Post Office," "Wendell Business Requires a Post Office," and "Charlie Is Wendell's Best Natural Resource."

Additional meetings are planned to choose further strategies to retain Wendell Post Office and its beloved postmaster.

## MWPCF from page A1

The entire discharge line was de-watered, flushed and cleaned of debris and sludge and a remotely operated camera was sent inside to document the condition of the pipes.

During the bypass pumping they also looked at the internal lift pumps to determine the level of corrosion.

Operator Tim Peura built a clever system to carry a digital camera and flashlight to ride the pump flights and create a video. The review of the video showed some corrosion and pitting, but no holes.

During the bypass operation, about 1.8 tons of debris were cleared from the 400-foot discharge pipe. The pipe was determined to be in good shape, and the remaining components were cleaned and inspected.

The #1 secondary tank was drained, inspected and cleaned. A modification was made to the plough collection system, changing the V shape to 2 angled parallel arms, on the presumption that the revised system will be less likely to plug the draft tubes and back up sludge.

Next the #2 secondary tank was tackled and the piping was cleaned all the way to the chlorine contact tank, with the high jet cleaning done by McVac Environmental.

In addition to the discharge pipe, the facility has cleaned another 150 feet of 24" lines, 40 feet of 18" lines, and about 60 feet of 8" lines.

The debris buildup may have more than one cause – the additional grit from the combined sewer overflow project; the age of the facility; and the collapse of the Industrial Boulevard sewer line which brought a lot of grit and debris through the system. The aerated grit removal system has not been able to keep up with the removal of small debris.

An outside consultant was hired to inspect the pumps and estimated



Tim Peura and Mike Little work on the rotating tubes.

they have 4 to 8 years of useful life remaining – not bad, given that the anticipated life of the pump is 15 to 20 years.

Trombley estimated a capital replacement of this scope would run about \$750,000, given that the pumps alone would be about \$200,000 per pump and a specialty contractor would need to install them.

As a result, Trombley and his team are investigating a submersible pump system to replace the current arrangement.

The submersible system would require more pumps but each would cost only \$25,000/pump.

There are no specialized lube oil or greasing systems and once the system is set up, the pumps can be replaced and maintained using in-house labor.

In addition, there might be energy savings because submersible centrifugal pumps have a variable speed based on flow while the current system uses a constant speed regardless of the flow.

Therefore, the MWTF could have a higher cost per gallon during times of low flow, and energy savings during times of high flow.

Both Northampton and Holyoke have replaced their internal lift pumps with submersibles so Trombley is checking with them to see if they have tracked the energy costs associated with the change.

Trombley noted that during general operations they use only a small portion of the facility capacity with the current system.

The lift pumps typically run one-at-a-time on a 24-hour rotation in warm weather, with a more frequent rotation during cold weather to prevent freezing.

In the meantime, Tina Tyler continues the daily, weekly and monthly lab testing, enters the data for the daily bench sheets, and maintains the paper trail to comply with all EPA requirements and a few extras.

In addition the sludge compost piles are being tested by the Soil and Plant Testing at the UMass Extension for Agriculture for phosphorous, iron, copper and lead in addition to pathogens.

It was noted that no sludge had been trucked off site since June 13, 2013 – since the advent of the process changes and composting experiment.



Joe Coll, Sylvia Wetherby, Beth Erviti, Karen Copeland, and Sarah Kohler make signs for the USPS hearing on July 8.

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## SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS: A FIELD GUIDE

By REPORTER STAFF

Okay. You're back from your epic Coachella – New Orleans Jazzfest – Bonnaroo – Firefly road trip. Sasquatch was canceled this year. It's months until Bumbershoot. And you don't want to risk running into *choose one*: (a) your embarrassingly perceptive and principled parents (b) your disappointing yuppie children (c) vampire-impresser Jack White at what's become of the Newport Folk Festival.

Thank your lucky stars you came across this newspaper at the laundromat while your sleeping bag dissolved into a cloud of sad warm feathers in a dryer. It's time to take stock of some choice local offerings.

### GREEN RIVER FESTIVAL greenfield • july 12 & 13

"It used to be the balloon festival," neighbor Nan Perwak recently pointed out, in a letter printed in a Greenfield newspaper. "... Now it's just plain loud music and people littering Colrain Road and other roads surrounding the college."

A cool \$250 will still get you a hot air balloon ride, but since its inception in 1986 the festival has indeed gradually turned its focus toward music, attracting national and international acts and still doing an admirable job of giving local ones a chance to make new fans.

Headliners this year include singer-songwriters **Josh Ritter** and **Grant Lee Phillips**, funksters **Trombone Shorty** and the **Dirty Dozen Jazz Band**, Norah Jones' country band **Puss'n'Boots**, and local heroes including **Heather Maloney** and the **Gaslight Tinkers**.

Reporter staff pick: Boston-based Ethiopian-American ensemble the **Debo Band** (above). They're playing Saturday. Boogie down.

Buying tickets a la carte at the gate will run you \$110 but weekend passes, advance, and one-day tickets are cheaper. (Best of all – it's free if you can get an ID showing you're under 10!)

See [www.greenriverfestival.com](http://www.greenriverfestival.com) for lineup and ticket information.

### UPPER VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL greenfield • july 26

There is a region that brands itself the Upper Valley an hour and a half north of here. Don't be confused. The UVMF is a concentrated, day-long, multi-venue showcase and celebration of talent mostly local to Hampshire and Franklin counties right here in Massachusetts. After two years in Turners Falls, it's taking another turn in Greenfield.

The festival is a steal at \$15 and the lineup this year will include sets from rock (**The Snaz**, **The Sun Parade**) to jammier stuff (**Mam-mal Dap**, **Groove Shoes**, the **Gaslight Tinkers** again) to reggae (**The Equalites**) to singer-songwriter folk (**Chris Scanlon**, **Russel Kaback**, and the **Women's Songwriters Collective**) and on through Celtic dance and all manner of traditions and fusions.

Reporter staff pick: **Sandy Bailey** (at left), but please support the scene by checking out bands you haven't heard of!

The festival is an all-volunteer benefit event for the American Cancer Society. More info at [www.uppervalleymusicfest.com](http://www.uppervalleymusicfest.com).

### NORTHERN ROUTES NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL turners falls • july 31 / new salem • august 1 & 2

We're not quite sure if the "New" is a modifier of "music" or "festival" in this case. The Northern Routes collective has been quietly booking bands they love over the last two summers at the stunning and spare 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem, with some scattered off-season dates at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. This year they're smushing it all into a three-day affair just to see what happens.

Most of the lineup for this festival can be described as "mellow," "exploratory," or, uh, both. The big names are **Peter Stampfel**, veteran of the Fugs and Holy Modal Rounders, guitar virtuoso **Glenn Jones**, gothic folkie **Marissa Nadler**, and a solo set from **Juan Waters** of minimalist garage-poppers The Beets.

Important tip: bring pillows for the pews if your butt is tired or boney.

Thursday night's show is \$5 and will be split between three quieter acts at the Brick House Community Resource Center and three louder ones at the Rendezvous. The Friday and Saturday shows at the Meetinghouse are \$20 each. A full weekend pass is \$35 at [www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org).

Reporter staff pick: **Village of Spaces** (right), returning to the Brick House, though we're feeling intrigued by **Glitter Pen**.



## NEW CO-OP TO OPEN

Quabbin Harvest Gears Up for an August Start

By JOE KWIECINSKI

ORANGE – For Julie Robinson, her new job as manager of Quabbin Harvest, the future headquarters and retail store for the North Quabbin Community Co-op in Orange, is the culmination of a long-held aspiration.

"I'm very excited about my appointment," said the enthusiastic Robinson. "It's a dream job. I've been working in natural foods for 25 years now, the last six at the Brattleboro Food Co-op, and this position seems like a natural extension of all my previous experience."

Quabbin Harvest is located at 12 North Main Street, at the onetime Workers' Credit Union Building. The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (MGLCT) purchased the structure in the middle of May. MGLCT serves a total of 23 towns situated in Franklin and Worcester counties.

Supported by federal, state, and private grants and by more than a thousand members, the trust has helped preserve more than 27,000 acres in the past 28 years.

At present, the North Quabbin Community Co-op is still quartered at the Orange Innovative Center, where it's been located since its opening in 2009. The Quabbin Harvest co-op is aiming for a mid-August start – five years after the organization's founding.

Robinson began her work June 23. She's currently busy getting ready for that grand opening.



JULIE ROBINSON PHOTO

The North Main Street building was purchased in May.

Amy Borezo, chair of the board of directors of the co-operative, notes that Julie Robinson will be an excellent manager of the 1500-square-foot new store. "Julie was the completely ideal candidate to manage Quabbin Harvest. She has all the qualities we needed in a candidate. Julie has fantastic ideas for outreach in our community, including establishing programs in the schools and helping young people eat more locally grown, nutritious food."

One of the big plusses, according to Robinson, is the fact that the new co-op will be a zero-net building.

see HARVEST page B4

## REGIONAL BOOKSELLERS UNITE!

The MARIAB is now the SNEAB.

By SHIRA HILLEL

MONTAGUE – Our corner of the country has a rich, deep book culture tradition. There are many booksellers in the Valley, but because some don't have walk-in stores, and sell from their homes instead, people may not know of them.

The Southern New England Antiquarian Booksellers (SNEAB) is working to change that.

This past spring, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Antiquarian Booksellers (MARIAB), an organization of self-employed independent antiquarian booksellers founded in 1976, decided to incorporate Connecticut into their fold.

Now representing 146 members from the three states of southern New England, the organization required a name change. Thus, the MARIAB has become the SNEAB.

According to local Montague Center antiquarian bookseller and newly pronounced SNEAB president, Peter Masi, "New England has probably more books per capita than anywhere else in America."

The region, he explained, was "settled earlier than others, and is the seat of higher education, which has driven a lot of publishing."

Masi said that, while it may be surprising, the eastern part of the state does not have a monopoly on bibliophilia. "SNEAB has as many members in Northampton as we do in Boston."

SNEAB's bookselling members include generalists and specialists, those with open shops, those who

sell by appointment, mail, catalog, online, or at fairs.

Members offer early, modern, collectible, rare, scholarly, fine, and used books, manuscripts, ephemera, prints, maps, autographs, postcards, and photographs in a great range of subjects.

The organization aims to promote their bookselling through mutually beneficial endeavors. SNEAB publishes and distributes

see BOOKS page B6



19th-century chapbooks from Peter Masi's collection. One, the Red Squirrel (lower row, center), was published in Northampton.

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: EARLY SUMMER GAZETTE

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – What's going on out there just beyond your window screens, air conditioners, and rotating fans on a morning like this? The creatures of the riverbank communities are getting along with their summery lives just the same as their human counterparts, never fear.

This reporter visited the high spots and low spots of that community just beyond the human world and has filed this report. Keeping track of this short glorious season, our New England summer, is a pleasant self-imposed task.

The cherry tree, under whose branches this report is being written, throws leafy shadows onto the page while quite a hullabaloo is going on in the cherry fruit crop just overhead.

Those cherries are ripe, red, and delicious, decorative, and disappearing fast down the gullets of every bird and squirrel for miles around. Do we have the only living cherry tree in the county? Seems like so few people nowadays have fruit trees, and ours is a magnet drawing in every catbird, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, woodpecker and jay possible.

We have to fight them all, plus the pesky squirrels, to



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

An immature green heron, *Butorides virescens*.

gather enough for ourselves to marinate in vodka for a dessert on our Thanksgiving table, months from now.

A green heron has taken to flying just over the roof ridge on his daily commute that cuts across the Flat from one meander of our river to the other. He cuts loose with his herony *quark!* as he wings over the yard.

Chimney swifts still streak and scream in their roller-coaster flight through the brightening air. Maybe our population has been increased by the Greenfield swifts that were kicked out of the courthouse last month. We at least, still have a couple of swift-friendly industrial-era

see WEST ALONG page B4



MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Programs at the Montague Libraries

A story time picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 9, at 10:15 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Children and their families are invited to bring their own picnic blanket and enjoy stories outside.

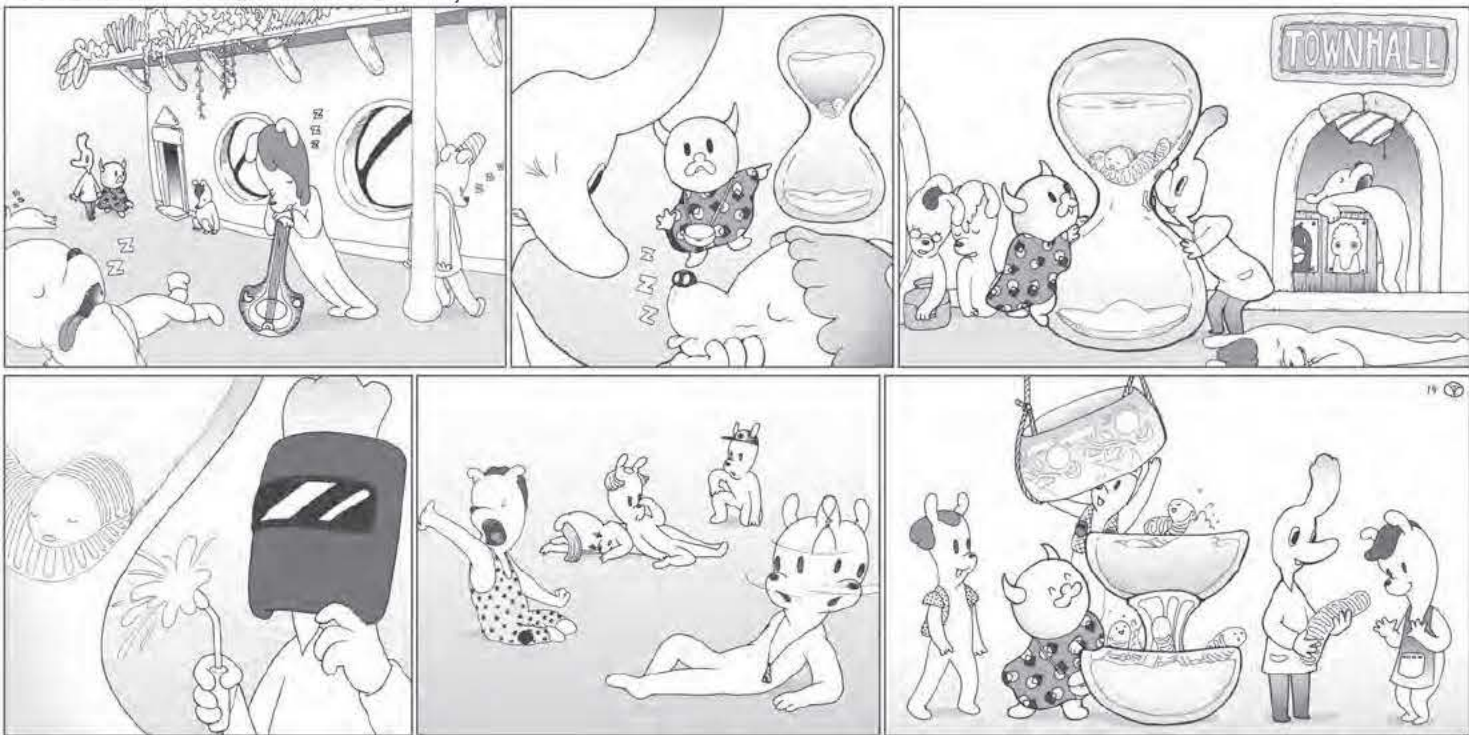
No Strings Marionettes will perform *Bully for the Three Big Pigs* at Peskeomskut Park, across the street from the Carnegie Library, weather permitting.

A cast of **hand-crafted marionettes** provide a feast for the eyes, ears and imagination of children of all ages and their families on Friday, July 11, at 10:30 a.m.

If the weather is unpleasant, the program will be held indoors, at the Carnegie Library.

Children from ages 10 upwards as well as adults are invited to join artist Ami Podlenski for the first program in the series of **basic jewelry making** on Wednesday, July 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Carnegie Library.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [overture.org](http://overture.org). We would like to know what you think! Why did cutting open the bourglass cause the people to wake up? Send us your thoughts at [info@montaguereporter.org](mailto:info@montaguereporter.org) with an address and they will send you an Overture prize!

Senior Center Activities  
July 7 through 11

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 7/7**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 7/8**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga (new time)  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Buckley Rehab Info Session

**Wednesday 7/9**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:55 a.m. Chair Exercise  
Noon Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 7/10**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation  
Noon Lunch  
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

**Friday 7/11**  
10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Aerobics

ERVING

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

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

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

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

**Monday 7/7**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise  
Noon Movie

**Tuesday 7/8**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Dance Fitness  
12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday 7/9**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo

**Thursday 7/10**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
Noon Cards

**Friday 7/11**  
9 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Out-to-Lunch  
Noon Beginner Quilting

WEDEL

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.

Pet of the Week

My eyes are guaranteed to mesmerize! Deep, golden pools of light, they'll draw you in and hold you hostage to my charms. While I may appear dainty and exotic, there's nothing out-of-the-ordinary about my past. I came to Dakin in Leverett with my four kittens from a home that had too many cats. Now I'm looking forward to finding a new family who can

give me the attention I crave. You can bet that I'll be the first cat at the door to greet you when you come to visit me in the cat colony room. If my eyes somehow fail to capture you, my gentle, friendly disposition certainly will!

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



"MOMMASITA"

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Acetaminophen and Your Liver

contain acetaminophen. The toxic dose of acetaminophen after a single acute ingestion is about 7 grams in adults. The at-risk dose may be lower in some susceptible populations, such as alcohol abusers. When dosing recommendations are followed, the risk of liver toxicity is extremely small. Acetaminophen is one of the most common pharmaceutical agents involved in overdose, as reported to the American Association of Poison Control Centers. One of the problems with acetaminophen is its widespread use. You have to check your medicine cabinet to see what products contain acetaminophen. Then, if you're taking more than one medication, be sure you don't exceed the maximum daily dose. Acetaminophen should not be taken for high fever, for fever lasting more than 3 days, or for recurrent fever without a doctor's supervision. There are basically two types of over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers. Some contain acetaminophen and others contain non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Examples of OTC NSAIDs are aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil), and naproxen sodium (Aleve). NSAIDs are associated with stomach distress. You should talk to your doctor before using NSAIDs if

you are over 60, taking prescription blood thinners, have stomach ulcers or other bleeding problems. NSAIDs can also cause reversible damage to the kidneys. The risk of kidney damage may increase in people who are over 60, have high blood pressure, heart disease or pre-existing kidney disease, and people who are taking a diuretic. You should talk with your health-care professional if you have questions about using an OTC medicine before using it in combination with other medicines -- either OTC or prescription medicine. Combining prescription medicines and OTC medicines can lead to problematic drug interactions. All older adults should consult their doctors before taking any OTC medication or herbal. Often, older adults use many drugs at the same time, including prescription and OTC drugs. They also process drugs differently than younger adults. This is why older adults need to be especially careful about drug-drug interactions. If you're a senior, talk with your doctor about all of the drugs and herbal health products you take. He or she can tell you whether you are at risk for having a bad reaction from taking an OTC drug.

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

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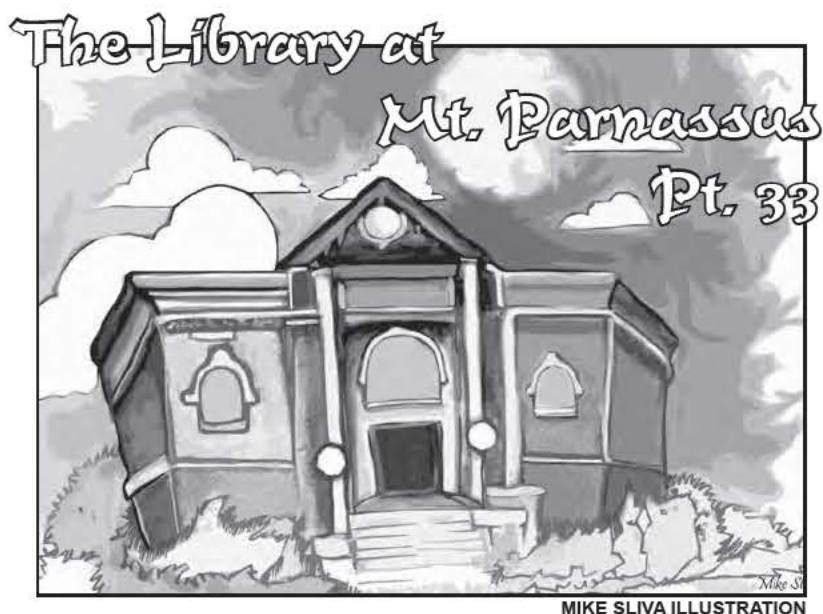
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Dreams of Summer, and Autumn at the Rock Dam.



By DAVID DETMOLD

I took another peek at my hole card, and took another pull from my beer. I was holding queens.

I tried to remember how it happened. Time passes unevenly after tragedy.

Was it just last summer? Or was it just last night?

“Let me see. I remember walking down a long sloping street past a tumbled down brick factory,” I said. “A humid night in early summer. To my right, fog lay on the river, twisting in the vines and tree trunks.”

Creon glared at me, his eyes hot with anger. The others were quiet, looking at the ceiling, looking at their cards, or pondering the silent deck neatly squared at Jack’s right hand, wondering what it held in store for them.

I went on.

“A dull indistinct landscape unfurled. At uneven intervals, beneath each working streetlamp, vivid cones of light illuminated hollowed circles of broken blacktop. Rills of graveled water ran in shallow gutters along the shoulders of the road.

“Two men in dark clothes were walking in front of me, one on the left, not far ahead, one on the right, a little further on.

“I had come down here to be alone.”

Sitting in the bike store, with the cold wind blowing through, waking memory became tangled in the half remembered dream. It was early summer by the Rock Dam. All the air was moving toward a single vanishing point. The water swirled in rushing whirlpools. The rocks reached out to form a crenelated sluice over which the water poured and tumbled.

The river was in full flood, rushing forward in a broad white flume, cresting and folding over and falling endlessly and pulling everything along behind it, pulling everything forward and down over the rapids.

The boys had walked down in daylight in their cutoffs and unlaced sneakers, beneath the old arched bridge with its florescent Teenage Wasteland tag.

They were lighthearted, by the river, talking about girls they knew and girls they wished they knew, talking about who had weed, and who had the money to buy it. They dove into the cool water, lay on the

rocks in the sun to dry.

Creon glared at me, and fingered a horse chestnut in his chip tray. I glanced at the others. They were watching me now with blank expressions.

“I heard a bell toll in the distance – ten o’ clock. Five minutes later, it rang again. I caught up to the man on my left. I tried not to look in his direction, but I couldn’t help it.”

That July day, the heat was overpowering. Lenny trailed his fingers on the surface of the water and watched the bugs skate by in their complicated contradance. They made it look so easy. Just stay in motion, skim the surface; it will hold.

They heard the sound of sirens floating downstream, above the noise of the river. Up around the bend, miles away, the metal doors had opened on a vast pooled lake of water. Now it all came sliding down, loose and ropy in treacherous currents, swollen and muscular like jungle snakes, adding to the flood.

Autumn, the pale one, did not like staying in the sun too long. He got up, pushed his wet bangs back out of his eyes, turned and walked in a zigzag pattern back to the brink of the rock.

“In the dream,” I said, “I was walking down the sloping road, above the river, in the fog, at night. I passed the man on my left, and his face was dark and featureless. However much I tried to mend my pace, I found myself catching up to the man on my right. I couldn’t help it. His hooded face was turned from me, until I came right up next to him.”

Creon crushed the horse chestnut to powder in his fist and scattered it across the poker table. He cursed and threw another log into the fire.

The weight of green water was calling. Everything was rushing to a point just there, below the rock dam.

Autumn dove off the rock pier into the river.

The water poured over him, pulling him instantly down and out of the languorous heat. He dropped lower, out of sight, his arms stretched out above his head, to touch his feet on the sandy bottom, where armored fish cut off from the sea for generations stirred and circled in the murk.

Once he had found an arrowhead

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Hominids Frightened by Three Species of Canid

**Sunday, 6/22:**  
No log provided  
**Monday, 6/23**  
9:56 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with failing to register as a sex offender.  
10:28 a.m. Phone call regarding suspected drug dealing in a building on Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.  
12:18 p.m. Walk in reports that she observed a mangy-looking fox at Turnpike Road and Cross Street. Area search negative.  
5:26 p.m. Report of camper parking on Avenue A for the past 4-5 nights and hooking up/using a generator. Referred to an officer.  
7:14 p.m. Caller reports that his vehicle was struck and damaged when he drove past a few kids shooting a pellet gun on L Street. Suspect admitted to the crime. Summons for arrest issued.  
7:30 p.m. Sick/emaciated-looking fox on Dunton Street. Area search negative.  
**Tuesday, 6/24**  
12:10 p.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace wanted to have on record that this past Sunday there was a fox in the area that “looked like it came out of a swamp.”  
3:31 p.m. Summons issued to an underage motorcycle operator at Griswold Street and Montague Street for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; uninsured motor vehicle; and unregistered motor vehicle.  
5:32 p.m. Anonymous call reporting suspected drug use in an apartment with a child on Third Street. Referred to an officer.  
7:45 p.m. Caller advised seeing someone exit a vehicle, jump a locked fence by Ideal Home Improvement, jump back over the fence with something wrapped in a shirt, jump into a vehicle, and drive away. Referred to an officer.  
9:03 p.m. Landlord reports that a female and male are fighting on the second floor of his building on Fourth Street and that furniture is currently being thrown out the window, including an entertainment center that landed on the deck below. Involved parties spoken to. All involved were intoxicated.  
**Wednesday, 6/25**  
7:19 a.m. Loose pit bull on Coolidge Avenue. Referred to animal control officer.  
3:39 p.m. Parent of minor in DCF custody reported to be following minor and friend in her car on Montague City Road. DCF notified. Investigated.  
3:40 p.m. Caller advising that a “coy dog or coyote” goes through her yard on Park Villa Drive 2-3 times a day and that the animal appears thin. Area search negative.  
4:42 p.m. Caller reporting “rabid” fox headed from alley on Fourth Street toward the park. Animal appears skinny and foaming at the mouth. Area search negative.  
6:02 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Aubuchon Hardware. Requested Greenfield PD to help locate suspect; suspect located and Mirandized; will be coming to station tomorrow to be interviewed and to return the one item she still has in her possession.  
10:58 p.m. Caller from Avenue A requesting TFFD as water is coming in to his bathroom, flooding into the bedroom, and rising rapidly. TFFD and building maintenance personnel notified.  
11:30 p.m. Officer reports 8 inches of standing/flowing water on Montague City Road. Road shut down between Turnpike Road and Walnut Street; barricades set by DPW. Walk-in to station subsequently advised that barricades at bottom of Turnpike Road were all smashed. Investigated. Road reopened shortly thereafter.  
**Thursday, 6/26**  
8:02 a.m. Report of male pushing a female on Fourth Street; female does not appear to want to be with male. Unable to locate.  
12:04 p.m. Complaint that people are disregarding the no swimming/no fishing signs posted on Denton Street. Water Department contacted; they have already purchased additional signs, which will be posted in the near future.  
1:18 p.m. Walk-in party reporting that painting company hired by A.H. Rist Insurance had hooked a hose up to the water spigot of his apartment building without permission. Investigated.  
8:41 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road complaining of fireworks that are scaring her horses. Responsible party located; stated that they were done for the evening and that they only had 3 fireworks.  
9:27 p.m. Report that a man trying to fix a camper on Avenue A is positioned such that he is creating a traffic hazard. Camper owner spoken with and will be moving momentarily.  
10:01 p.m. Camper owner requesting officer to come back and measure his camper and bumper. Advised that it was not his vehicle, but his blocking the roadway while working on the vehicle that was the issue.  
10:13 p.m. Report of possibly rabid opossum on East Chestnut Hill Road. Gone on arrival.  
**Friday, 6/27**  
12:53 a.m. Two accounts of a possible fight with injuries in Unity Park. Unable to locate; officers remaining in area to keep an eye out.  
6:05 a.m. [REDACTED], was arrested and charged with shoplifting by asportation (second offense) and possession of a Class A drug.  
9:44 a.m. Suspicious person reported to be observing caller’s house from a vehicle on Randall Wood Drive. Area search negative.  
1:55 p.m. Report that a neighbor on M Street has put out a DPW cone and a 10 mph speed limit sign in the road, when the actual speed limit is 15 mph. Obstruction removed from road; neighbor contacted and advised.  
6:30 p.m. 911 misdial; party was looking for #11.  
11:42 p.m. Caller advises she believes drug dealing is going on in an apartment on Third Street. Referred to an officer.  
**Saturday, 6/28**  
12:45 a.m. Party on Fifth Street reports he was just robbed of cash by a female known to him. Investigated.  
5:39 a.m. Kayak reported stolen overnight on I Street. Report taken.  
12:00 p.m. Report that there have been 2 loose pit bulls frightening people downtown recently. Advised of options and referred to animal control officer.  
3:03 p.m. Intoxicated party on Avenue A taken into protective custody.  
3:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 call. Female homeowner accidentally dialed while dusting phone.  
**Sunday, 6/29**  
1:30 a.m. [REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; operating to endanger; marked lanes violation; and failing to stop for police.  
1:51 a.m. Caller near Millers Pub reporting a male party who fell out of his truck and was trying to put shoes on. Responding officer found that subject was in no condition to drive but was very cooperative. Subject delivered to Erving.  
9:40 a.m. Breaking and entering on Federal Street. Report taken.  
12:49 p.m. Bear sightings on Laurel Lane, Turnpike Road, Sunrise Terrace, and Turners Falls Road. Callers advised of usual precautions.  
4:12 p.m. Possible sick raccoon in backyard on Turners Falls Road. Raccoon dispatched.  
10:02 p.m. Caller reporting that his girlfriend is being held inside a house on Fourth Street by a male, who threatened the caller with a tire iron. Parties located in Greenfield.  
[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with kidnapping and domestic assault and battery.  
10:13 p.m. Caller from Central Street reports that a white truck with four males inside stole a large concrete bust of David from his front lawn. Report taken.

here, just by reaching out his hand and grabbing it, and he never tired of trying to repeat his odd good fortune. But now, for some reason, the bottom of the river had been whisked away.

Lenny was standing at the edge of the rock. Giro was half sleeping, when Autumn surfaced, far downstream.

“Help!” he yelled.

Then he was gone.

Lenny dove in after him.

Now Giro was standing at the edge. He watched Lenny go spinning away, far away downstream.

“Hang on,” he yelled, “I’m coming.”

Giro stood at the edge of the rock, riveted in his footprints by the electric heat, listening to the echo of his voice against the rock walls

of the river where it cut through the narrow gorge, listening for an echo of his friends’ voices, far below, and the sound of the river, rushing over the rock dam.

He began to shiver uncontrollably. He could no longer see his friends, they had gone so fast, so far.

Continued next week.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Fight With Guns; State Department; Dog, Cow, Bear; Motorcycle Speeds Away

Monday, 6/9

3:35 p.m. Custody issue mediated at Main Road residence.

Tuesday, 6/10

9:25 a.m. Assisted Department of Children and Families on Franklin Road.

11:10 a.m. 911 misdial from Mount Hermon campus. All checked OK.

12 noon. Suspicious or abandoned motor vehicle on Center Road. Located owner.

9:38 p.m. Reported fight in progress between 3 people, with 2 guns involved. Two subjects charged.

Wednesday, 6/11

8:50 a.m. Phone scam reported from Mountain Road residence.

1:45 p.m. Restraining order issued/served to River-view Drive resident.

9:35 p.m. Police department on Cape Cod requested assistance in locating a Gill resident whose motor vehicle was located in their community.

Thursday, 6/12

8:50 a.m. Main Road resident reported abandoned home had been entered. Under investigation.

2:20 p.m. State Department requested assistance with investigation at Oak Street residence.

3:35 p.m. Suspicious subject going door-to-door on South Cross Road. Checked OK.

6:25 p.m. Complaint of loose dog on Oak Street.

Friday, 6/13

3:40 p.m. Complaint of loose cow on Main Road. Assisted same into fenced area.

4:20 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident at Mobil station. Information exchanged.

7:50 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with rollover accident on Route 2.

8:40 p.m. Suspicious person reported at West Gill and Center roads. No one located.

Saturday, 6/14

2 p.m. Assisted operator

of disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 at the French King Bridge.

5:59 p.m. Resident arrested for domestic assault and battery on Chappell Drive. 8:40 p.m. Complaint of loose dog on Walnut Street.

11:45 p.m. Motor vehicle reported driving with no lights on Main Road.

Sunday, 6/15

3:35 p.m. Officer requested to assist Montague PD with a large disturbance on Avenue A.

Monday, 6/16

7:25 p.m. Assisted resident with property issue on Hoe Shop Road.

Wednesday, 6/18

12:05 p.m. Lemon law complaint filed against South Cross Road resident.

6 p.m. Assisted Hoe Shop Road resident with restraining order issue.

Thursday, 6/19

1:50 p.m. Restraining order issued to Hoe Shop Road resident.

Friday, 6/20

8:20 p.m. Report of motorcycle speeding on West Gill Road. Lost sight of same. Bernardston PD, Northfield PD, and state police notified of description.

10:33 p.m. Two suspicious subjects located at Green River Power Sports. Moved along.

10:50 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle located at Riverside Radiator. Checked OK.

Saturday, 6/21

4:20 p.m. Court process served to Trenholm Way resident.

Sunday, 6/22

10 a.m. Ben Hale Road resident reported an unknown subject asleep in their motor vehicle.

1:30 p.m. Lost wallet reported in area of Mobil station.

7:50 p.m. Reported black bear in Riverside area. Officer monitored area.

LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on July 8, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Calls For Cable Reassignment

Members of the board of directors of Montague Community Cable, Inc. asked the selectboard to revisit the assignment of the town's cable access station, operated since 2001 by Greenfield Community Television.

Selectboard member Allen Ross raised a number of concerns for the cable advisory committee to consider. He called on MCCI to be upfront about the difficulties of their financial past, and wondered if GCTV was investing money with the implicit understanding they would have a 10-year contract.

MCCI's treasurer, Veronica Phaneuf, sought to allay the concerns about financial management. She characterized its tax problems before she came on board as "basically late filings."

Erving Special Town Meeting

The 20-plus town residents present at the June 28 special town meeting quickly dispatched all 8 articles on the warrant submitted by the selectboard. Tom Graves filled in as moderator, and

the meeting was over in 15 minutes.

Asked for a comment on the meeting's rapidity, selectboard member Linda Downs-Bembury offered this kind perspective: "It was the shortest, and most congenial, town meeting I can remember attending."

New Restaurants in Gill and Montague

Gill's Wagon Wheel opened its doors on June 30. Located on Route 2, the Wagon Wheel combines modern menu choices like calamari and Mediterranean dishes with the atmosphere of a drive-in burger stop.

Owners Carolann Zaccara and Jon Miller said that they felt there was a need for eateries that serve freshly cooked food with an inventive and modern flair.

Montague's Night Kitchen opened on June 16, in the space formerly occupied by the Blue Heron. The interior is rustic and simple, with white walls, exposed beams, and iron works.

Proprietors Max Brody and Peter Hitchcock met while studying at the Culinary Institute of America. Hitchcock manages the operations, while Brody works his magic in the kitchen. Brody explained that they provide locally produced foods whenever possible.

WEST ALONG from page B1

chimneys standing hereabouts.

June has been, as always, the month of the rose. Our Othello, Marie Rose, and that tough lady Ms. Rosa Rugosa are strutting and showing off.

Humbler blooms however have begun to crowd in on them. The red bee-balm vastly outnumber the rose royalty, as they send their nectar-filled caps (*bonnets rouges!*) higher and higher. They are bringing in the hummingbirds who are already fighting over bee-balm beds like so many territorial bantam roosters.

The ears of corn roasted on the campfire last night were consumed (mostly) by us humans on the back porch. The cobs, and their remaining kernels were tossed out into the dark of the lawn, lit only by the darting and blinking fireflies.

As usual, the resident ever-watchful raccoon paid a visit and made off with the corncobs sometime during the night, presumably tucking one then the other under his arm as would any self-respecting Parisian with his *baguette*, fresh from the bakery.

There's something about snapping turtles this year. Down in the stony pasture at the river's bend, at least three different females of this Jurassic survivor species have come ashore there to lay their eggs.

However, each morning after the laborious digging and laying, leathery egg case envelopes are scattered about. Some predator, skunk, fox, raccoon or bear found them overnight and ate them all. That's one way of controlling the snapper population.

Let's see: redstart, yellowthroat, black and white, and yellow warblers

are all still singing on their territory. Song sparrows and redwings have already fledged and their parents fly about and complain nervously if a solitary walker such as I intrudes into their nursery of red twig dogwood along the bank.

The wild iris blue flag is already fading, and the now-flowering invasive Japanese knotweed towers nine feet over our native grasses near the spring pool. How to ever get them under control?

I did cut some and left them for the beavers who have been eating them for years, but even these industrious gnawing neighbors can't eat enough to hold back the rapidly spreading knotweed bamboo forests.

Along the river, water rushes day and night as it has for millions of years, polishing and smoothing the river stones.

This morning, the river offered up an oblong, loaf-shaped stone of smooth volcanic pumice, its surface pocked with holes left by ancient air bubbles. From what ancient lava flow, up in Wendell or beyond, did this stone have its origin?

Among these rare pieces, the best ones are gathered up and find their way to the house where they will sit on the winter hearth, drawing and holding heat from the fire. They will be the warming stones to take the chill out of freezing feet and icy hands in dark December. But that's such a long way off.

Summer is still the young girl flirting with us now, full of color, promise, blushing winks, and pulsing with new life. Where will Miss Summer of 2014 take us? It's early yet. This is only Act I. The rest of the play, and this gazette, has yet to be written.



HARVEST from page B1

"At this point," she said, "there is only a small amount of insulation, something like three inches on the roof, with none on the walls or floor.

"We plan to insulate the entire roof, walls, and basement. We also would like to add solar panels to the roof, and a parking awning to hopefully produce as much electricity as we're using."

Robinson is very impressed by the amount of help the renovated co-op has received from volunteers. The unpaid workers initiated a cleanup of the new site of Quabbin Harvest May 17.

"The folks from the Seeds of Solidarity later came along with Youth Corps workers," said Julie, "and built two raised bed gardens as part of their Grow Food Anywhere project. The raised beds look so nice."

"At the back of our parking lot we're going to add multiple levels of raised beds for our 'teaching gardens.' The hope is we'll be running programs with the Senior Center, schools, perhaps the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, along with other interested groups."

Julie, a Northfield resident, is excited by the prospect of providing healthy food for the community at affordable prices.

"Inside the store," she said, "we'll have everything you need for your daily or overall grocery shopping. We're going to feature fresh produce and products that are locally and regionally produced by our neighbors as well as familiar groceries, bulk foods, and freshly brewed coffee."

"We're going to have a strong emphasis on organic foods through-



Julie Robinson

out the store." This will include many local favorites, such as products from the new bakery at the Orange Innovative Center (Maple Grove Farmhouse Bakery), Dean's Beans, Red Fire Farm, Blue Ox Farm, Sangha Farm Goat Cheese, Side Hill Farm Yogurt, Bart's Ice Cream, and Rich Family Honey of North Orange.

Amy Borezo has served as president of the board of directors since the co-op's establishment.

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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 TUESDAY

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

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

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

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library: Children and their families are invited to come enjoy stories, crafts, music and snacks. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

## EVENTS:

## FRIDAY, JULY 4

On the Riverbank at the Charlemont Bridge, Mohawk Trail Concerts: *Jazz with The Odd Couple and Friends*, free, outdoor, family concert. Musicians include horn player, arranger and composer *John Clark*, bassoonist *Michael Rabinowitz*, guitarist *Freddie Bryant*, clarinetist *Doug Yates*, percussionist *Abe Fogle* and bassist *Marty Jaffe*. In case of rain, held in the Federated Church, Charlemont, 4 p.m.

Silverthorne Theater Company: *"Black Comedy"*, a farce by Peter Shaffer, performed at Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mt. Hermon School, Gill, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, outdoor reggae night, 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 5

Mohawk Trail Concerts: *Jazz & Jollity*, pieces by composers from Bach to Berlin to John Clark performed by artists from the worlds of chamber music & jazz. Federated Church, Charlemont, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Silverthorne Theater Company, Northfield: *Black Comedy*, a farce by Peter Shaffer at Rhodes Art Center, NMH, Gill, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *David Loomis & Stone Room Profets*, galactic funk, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JULY 6

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Maris Otter*, Original Folk-Rock by Alyssa

Kelly & Jen Spingla, 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JULY 8

Common People's Concerts, Gill: *Dustin Patrick - Percussion: The Next Big Hit!* 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc.*, reggae, 8:30 p.m.

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

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts with *Jennie McAvoyn* - traditional ballads, angelic vocals, solid acoustic picking. *Strawberry Afternoon* - playfully jams folk, rock and blues covers, 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Beth Logan Raffeld & Molly Flannery Ensemble*, cool jazz--*Both Sides Now: American Songbook Old & New*, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, & Doug Plavin, 8 p.m.



Tim Van Egmond, folksinger and storyteller at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, July 11. Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 11

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Tim Van Egmond*, folksinger & storyteller. Held in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, museum open during intermission, refreshments, \$, 7 p.m.

The Dzogchen Community Celebrates its 30th Anniversary: performances by *Evelyn Harris*, *June Millington*, and *Tammy Grammar* followed by *Harvey Kaiser's Dance Band* from NYC, Mohawk Regional High School, Shelburne Falls, free, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fiddler On The Roof* by Ja'Duke, \$, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Maxwell Hughes with Alec Hutson*, \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Home Body - Rabbit Rabbit*, indie/electronica, \$, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, Renegade Blues! 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Pirate and Princess Parade-Ja'Duke*, free, 11 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fiddler On The Roof* by Ja'Duke, \$, 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Moonlight & Morning Star with Miro Sprague* on piano, soul, gospel, and blues. \$, 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Village Hill, Jazz / Rock / Eclectic Fusion*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Booty Nights*, soul/hip-hop w DJ Cherrypicka, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, classic rock, \$, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JULY 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Fiddler On The Roof* by Ja'Duke, \$, 2 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mark Mandeville & Raienne Richards*, alternative country/folk, \$, 4 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*, Steve Crow, Peter Kim and Joe Fitzpatrick, warped americana, 8 p.m.

## MONDAY, JULY 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nick's Sweet '80s Movie: *Time Bandits*, 9 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JULY 15

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Walk: Tales of Rock and Sturgeon*. Geologist Steve Winters and international sturgeon expert Boyd Kynard. Pre-registration preferred; Andrea Donlon at (413) 772-2020 x205 or [adonlon@ctriver.org](mailto:adonlon@ctriver.org). 6 p.m.

Common People's Concerts, Gill Common: *Monadnock Steel Drummers* - sounds of the Caribbean, 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Annalivia, an American 'roots and branches' string-band*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Joe Laur, acoustic guitar originals, 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JULY 17

Energy Park, Greenfield: COOP Concerts, *Joe Graveline*, singer, guitar. *Small Change*, swing, jazz, country, folk and *Pat & Tex LaMountain Band*, Americana, folk-pop, country, jazz, 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Richard Chase & Friends*, singer/songwriter, \$, 7:30 p.m.

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



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**BOOKS** from B1

copies of their directory, which they send to their members. They maintain a website, [www.sneab.com](http://www.sneab.com), and organize two annual book fairs.

The spring show is held in eastern Massachusetts, and the fall Pioneer Valley Book & Ephemera Fair is held at Smith Vocational School in Northampton.

This year, it will take place on Sunday, October 12 and, as always, will be open to the public ([www.pioneervalleybookfair.com](http://www.pioneervalleybookfair.com)).

SNEAB also creates a community of booksellers who meet quarterly to talk shop.

The meetings are often held in "writerly" locales, such as the Mark Twain House in Hartford and the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst.

Masi described the wide range of antiquarian booksellers, each with their own areas of interest and specialty, as a "demographically challenged" group, a dying breed. It's "easy to cooperate" in this way, he said.

"You don't get rich selling books. You do it because you love it," commented Nancy Dole, owner of a walk-in bookstore on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls, Nancy L. Dole Books & Ephemera.

But, she said, "I pay my bills." "We're called *independent* book-

sellers for a reason; we don't try to conform and we like what we like," Dole continued.

The field of business "attracts independent people, and they come in a lot of flavors," said Masi.

According to Dole, her SNEAB membership allows her to target a much more specific market. "My SNEAB membership is my best-spent advertising dollar," she said.

"SNEAB's definition of *antiquarian book* is a bit loose and vague," according to Masi. Not all members sell only very old or rare books. For instance, the Montague Bookmill is a member, and most of their inventory is recent. Masi's earliest inventory dates back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Like many independent booksellers in the area, Masi's business is primarily the sale of rare materials to a niche market by mail order. Among his areas of expertise are regional historical books and ephemera. He sells to institutions, such as museums and libraries, "though they have shrinking budgets for such acquisitions," he remarked.

Dole said she gets her books from tag sales, auctions, other booksellers, and people who empty storage units. Sometimes she makes house calls to get books from people downsizing, or those clearing out their parents' homes.

The New England book auction, run by a separate organization, is held twice a month in the ballroom at the Hotel Northampton. Dealers go to both buy and sell, and the events



Poster on display at Nancy Dole's book store advertising the 1885 New England Spiritualists Annual Camp Meeting at Lake Pleasant.

are open to the public. It's a "classy auction," said Dole. The higher-end auction events attract collectors.

Recent years have seen a growing popularity in *ephemera* and other novelties. Masi said that in some

ways, ephemera are more marketable, because they are cheaper and often include illustrations. He has a large collection of children's chap books from the 1800s that sell well.

Dole, who sells a lot of ephemera at her store, explains on her website, "*Ephemera* is a term used for a wide variety of everyday documents which were mostly intended for one-time or short-time use." Her shop is full of postcards, pamphlets, train schedules, advertisements and newspapers.

"Books are mass-produced and saved," and thus "their supply is often greater than their demand," said Masi. Ephemera were not printed with the intent of being saved. "Books and ephemera are historical artifacts," said Dole. When an item intended to be ephemeral is "saved, it takes on a second life."

"The internet giveth, and the internet taketh away," said Masi, explaining that while he now is able to sell online, there is greater competition. The advent of the electronic world has made many booksellers more isolated; many work out of their homes. Amongst the biggest and most serious bookseller websites are: eBay, Amazon, Advanced Book Exchange (ABE) and Alibris.

Still today, books can be a good financial investment. Some books have value as other antique collect-

ibles do. "Although 99.9 percent of books published in the last 100 years have lost 99.9 percent of their value in the last 20 years, because of the internet," said Masi.

People sometimes ask Masi to assess their old books. "Doing what I do, you get really good at giving people bad news."

On the other hand, "A book collection is like an art collection. It may have some value, but you collect because you love it," said Dole.

In contrast to Masi, Dole sells from her store, and does no online sales. She explained that she does not view online book sales as her competition. If anything, online book sales "make my wares more special."

"My customers are so diverse, and of all ages. People find things that speak to them on a personal level."

Dole told of a recent customer who came in and looked around. In the end, she bought one 19<sup>th</sup>-century post card with an illustration of a tiger lily. "As she was leaving, I spotted a tiger lily tattooed on her calf. You never know what speaks to someone."

When asked if she's worried about the digital revolution, Dole replied, "I don't worry about the end of the printed book. Books are too great!"



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