

THE TRUTH AT
ALL COSTS

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CAN'T WIN
'EM ALL

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IT'S THANKSGIVING!
NEXT ISSUE: DEC. 4

GOBBLE GOBBLE



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 7

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill to Install LED Streetlights

By DAVID DETMOLD

With a probable payback period of “about five years,” the selectboard gave the go-ahead on Monday for the Gill energy commission to spend up to \$35,000 from Green Community funds to purchase and replace parts of the town’s 48 sodium streetlights with state-of-the-art LED lights.

With longer life expectancy, ease of replacement, and approximately half the energy consumption of sodium bulbs, LED streetlights are becoming the new norm in area towns like Amherst, Greenfield, and soon Northampton.

Energy commission member Claire Chang said the payback period for investing in LED streetlights is “substantially faster” than for the energy retrofits in town buildings the commission is also pursuing, with selectboard backing, using Green Community funds, such as the roughly \$14,500 insulation project at the town hall, and the approximately \$18,500 insulation project at the Riverside Municipal Building. Both of those projects are slated to be finished by the end of this month.

Energy commission member Tupper Brown said townspeople should be prepared for the change to LED bulbs.

see GILL page A5

Fostering a New Economy In Franklin County



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

The audience listened intently to speakers and panelists from the community at the conference sponsored by Greening Greenfield last Saturday.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GREENFIELD – Turnout was significant for the conference on Saturday, titled “Creating A Bold New Economy: An Idea Incubator for Franklin County’s Future,” sponsored by Greening Greenfield, held at Greenfield Community College.

The keynote speaker, author Marjorie Kelly, presented her ideas which in many ways were compatible with much that is already being done in Franklin County. She found a very welcoming audience, and the panel that followed her speech fit well with the ideas she was presenting.

The emphasis of Kelly’s work has been on finding ways to sup-

port and foster cooperatives and building networks within local business communities. She talked about cooperative banks and employee-owned businesses, as well as food co-ops of which Franklin County has several.

Kelly, senior fellow at the Washington, DC-based Democracy Collaborative, recommends fostering networking among businesses, and in the workshops that followed the morning presentations attendees learned of several businesses that already work together and even own shares in each other’s companies within our own community.

Many of the themes were familiar, but Kelly expanded on them to encourage a new way of looking

see ECONOMY page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Madison Gets Approval, But Is Refused Apology; Biting Dog Gets Reprieve; Cable Committee Gets Smaller

By JEFF SINGLETON

Tuesday, November 18 was a tough day at the office for the Montague selectboard.

The board was once again confronted by a very unhappy crowd reacting to the treatment of Turners Falls store owner, Rodney Madison. Not only did the board have to explain why it had allowed Madison, at a previous meeting, to be accused of running “an illegal business,” a topic not on the agenda and for which the town apparently exer-

cises no direct oversight, but it was revealed that rules for use of the planters on Avenue A, one of the key issues in the controversy, had in fact never actually been voted on.

The board also had to deal with the fact that a biting dog, which had been ordered “put down” after several contentious hearings, had been given a stay of execution on appeal to the local courts.

At the end of the meeting the board went into executive session to discuss Open Meeting Law

see MONTAGUE page A5



NINAROSSIPHOTO

The board voted in favor of allowing Rodney Madison to display items in front of his store and in the town-owned planter he has adopted.

RADIO ACTIVITY: Fighting Hunger in the Valley

PART II: At the Amherst Survival Center

By DAVID DETMOLD

After 35 years operating out of the cramped basement of a former schoolhouse in North Amherst, where canned goods and fresh produce had to be lowered to the distribution area through windows and only 30 of the 100 or more people who showed up regularly for free meals could be seated at one time, the Amherst Survival Center has moved to a new building, following a successful \$2.1 million capital campaign.

Now in comfortable and attractive quarters, with a separate entrance for food donations, the Center has enough room to house its many activities, which include job training, a free store, a health clinic, a food pantry and five free meals a week.

A community advocacy campaign convinced the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority to add a new bus route this summer to provide better access to the Survival Center.

On November 6, Survival Center director Mindy Domb attempted to give Belmonte an interview outside the front door, as men from Duffy Willard, the Florence paving contractor building the Center’s new parking lot, operated a water-cooled concrete saw to cut a 45 degree bevel in a 10 inch thick curbstone nearby.

Meanwhile Linda Brooks was busy coordinating about half a dozen people in the Center’s spacious new kitchen and dining area who were preparing the noon meal.

Brooks, a warm, affirming woman who has organized volunteers to keep the free meals cooking as kitchen coordinator at the Center for the last eight years, said all kinds of people come to eat there: “young people, parents with kids, elderly couples.” The food comes from donations from local restaurants, bakeries and supermarkets, from farms like Riverland, Next Barn Over, Simple Gifts, and Stone Soup, and, mostly, from the Food Bank.

At the Amherst Survival Center, free lunch is served on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

see MARCH page A6

Aging in Place: Residents Discuss Sustainable Senior Housing

By KATIE NOLAN

WENDELL – Graduate students Emily Anyzeski, Brendan Conboy and Elena Shulman of the UMass Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning and Win Mallett of Tempietto Home Design and Contracting presented “Wendell for a Hundred Years,” an exploration of the future for senior and young family housing in Wendell. About 30 people crowded into the town offices meeting room on November 12 to find out about what the presenters described as “an image of a sustainable future that has purpose.”

The students are developing project ideas for senior housing in Wendell, considering a planning horizon of the next hundred years. They presented an overview of information they have gained about the town.

Approximately 40% of Wendell residents are over the age of 60 years, many over-60’s live in owner-built homes heated primarily by wood and constructed without accessibility in mind, and many have expressed the desire to “age in place,” or at least age in the community they care about.

They reported the median income for Wendell as



IMAGES COURTESY TEMPIETTO HOMES

A representative from Tempietto suggested the firm’s single-bedroom “Firefly” model might suit a senior solar village.

\$43,846. The Wendell citizens they have contacted have expressed a commitment to sustainability in building design and materials.

At an earlier, fact-finding meeting in October, the students surveyed a small group of residents and came

up with preliminary ideas for Wendell-centric senior housing: eight to ten clustered cottage units, each 700 to 1,000 square feet in area.

Based on zoning, water resources, and open space maps and that October

see WENDELL page A4



Monte's March turns onto Routes 5 and 10 in Deerfield.

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A Craving For Legitimacy

Last December, according to Montague police, two armed, masked men forced their way into a Fifth Street apartment, struck a woman and held her at gunpoint, and made off with a hidden, 200-pound safe bearing unknown contents.

Eleven months later, no arrests have been made in the incident, though in June simultaneous raids on two apartments in the same building turned up small quantities of hard drugs and two ledgers.

Most residents simply ignore this sordid business, and the endless cat-and-mouse charade between dealers and police. Drug abuse is driven by demand, and that demand exists throughout the county. It makes sense that the small fraction of dealing done in public would occur in downtown Greenfield and downtown Turners Falls.

One function of urban space is commerce, including commerce with the outside world. Whether it's industry, art, drugs or venture capital, these little downtown zones are going to be our front door to reality: a planet on which most people now live in cities. The attitude our mostly rural county has toward its urban core will determine the place it takes in the outside world.

The global economy, doing better these days by its own measures, seems to "take up" less and less space, perhaps as a corollary of benefiting fewer people. Cities and rural areas lacking a port, research university or gold mine are forced to brand and market themselves and compete to attract capital – or the next best thing, attract those who can afford to choose where they live, work and shop.

Regional cultural branding in our own area goes back at least to 1937, when a consortium of business and real estate interests invented the name "Pioneer Valley" to market, via direct mail to wealthy families, those depressed riverlands west of the newly-filled Quabbin but not being advertised by the Berkshire Hills Conference, Inc.

It has largely been a success. There is a popular local opinion that we have it rough here, but the statistics don't bear it out.

Earlier this year, the *New York Times'* data-wonk website, The Upshot, ranked every county in America based on a combination of education, disability, obesity, income, unemployment and life expectancy, in

search of "the hardest place to live." Whatever the merits of their methodology, Franklin County turned up at #417 of 3,135, meaning that they figure we're doing better than 87% of the rest.

That's pretty good. And it's great for a place that doesn't export very much or serve any other key function for the country, such as #1 Los Alamos County, NM (nuclear science), #3 Fairfax County, VA (the CIA) or #256 Williams, ND (oil).

The local conversation in the wake of CNN star Anthony Bourdain's excellent look at heroin addiction in small-town America, featuring scenic Greenfield and Turners Falls as small-town America, was shot through with a bizarre anxiety that we will now be perceived as criminals by the outside world.

But this is only a projection of our own anxieties about our neighbors. This year's police logs are peppered with paranoia: A local glass artist's workshop was believed by all his neighbors to be a secret meth lab. A wedding party, spotting two hobbyists grafting fruit stock onto trees, reported them to the police for "shooting up in the bushes." Apparently, if you see a neighbor wipe his nose this season, you should immediately call him in on suspicion of having just insufflated cocaine.

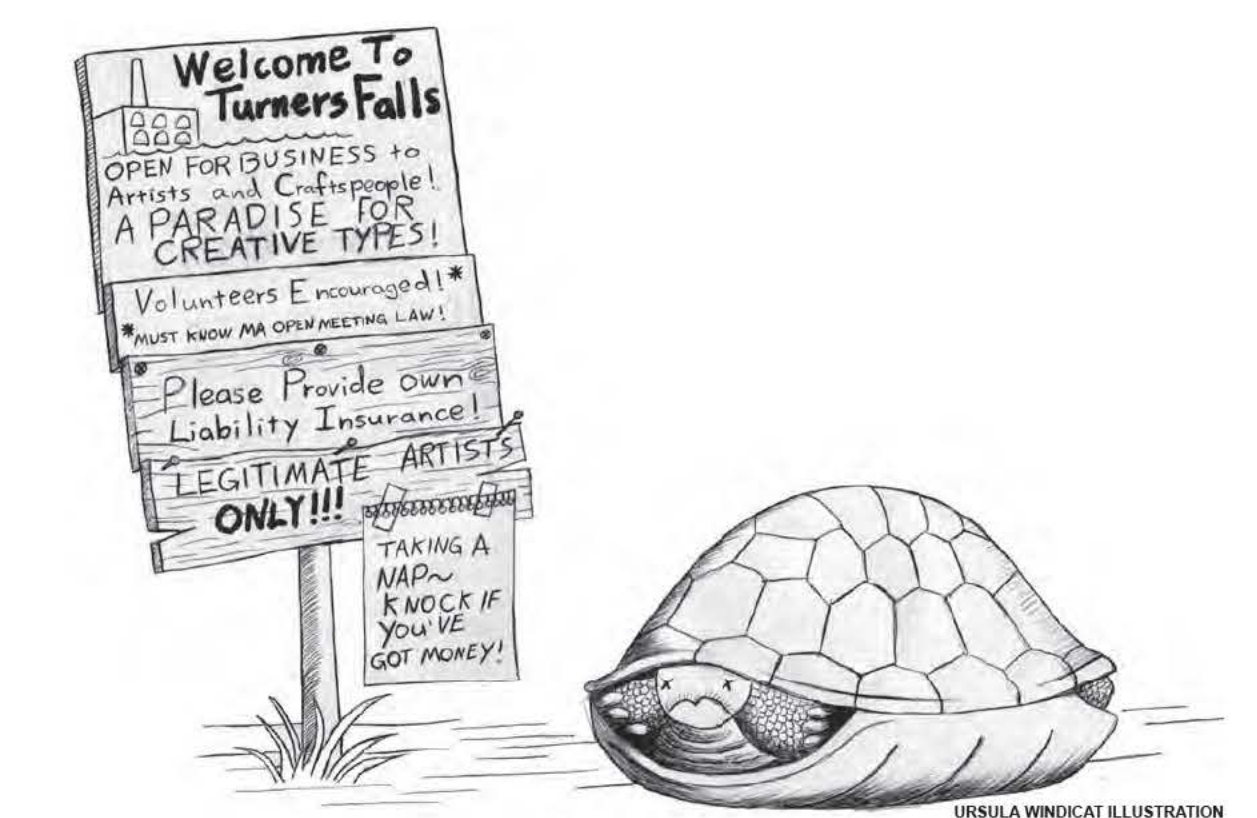
The reason there is a public conversation about addiction and recovery is that we are finally beginning to understand, as a society, that stigmatizing and criminalizing the disease do not help. We need to be open with each other about the perils of drug abuse, but equally open to supporting our neighbors through their struggles and working to address root causes together.

Addiction preys on a deeply human lack, and dealers prey on addicts, but many still cling to an understanding of drugs as a contagion that can be contained in space. It's an outdated one, stemming from a self-fulfilling negative approach to cities: sweep all the social disorder together into one small space, then try to inject that space with order.

Montague's town hall, through no fault of its own, is stuck in a tough position these days when it comes to downtown development.

On one hand, there is a mounting crescendo of demands for accountability, assumption of liability, formal legal procedure, transparency and results.

And on the other, its strategy to



Letters to the Editors

Grateful for Madison's Work

On Sunday, November 2, I was busy taking care of "my" planter on Avenue A, as many gracious volunteers do. I looked across the street at the planter in front of Madison on the Ave. and thought to myself, "Thank you, Rodney, for making it look like it's ALIVE on this street!"

This started a swirl of gratitude to Rodney for cleaning up the "tree belt" area between the sidewalk and Third Street when his business was on the corner. He removed unsightly knee-high weeds, neglected by the town on town property, in 2013. To this day, only the attractive hosta remain. Great Job Rodney!

My flow of gratitude for Rodney continued in my head as I thought about how he works very hard to keep a vibrant storefront which is integral to getting more foot traffic in Turners Falls.

He has adopted 2 planters. He also employs some of the youngsters when they seem to be hanging around with "nuttin' to do."

Basically I was thinking happy thoughts about Rodney and what he adds to our struggling downtown economy. It is utterly ironic that two days later, I found out Rodney is un-

der fire, again, about his planter.

I'm being told that "everyone's complaining about it," and that "none of the other business owners like it." This is just not true. The business owners I've spoken to think his display is eye-catching and leads to people stopping their cars and getting out to shop around.

I do understand that if there are safety concerns in the planter, they should be addressed. Beyond that, it's a matter of taste.

Planter Guidelines were on the Selectboard agenda on November 18, 2013. Nothing was decided.

From the minutes: "Fairbrother would rather not vote on this tonight, there are revisions that could be made in what was presented and more thought before spring planting. Will revisit at some point."

On March 6, 2014, I reached out to the group of Town Hall Members – inspectors, DPW, and administrators – who had been involved in drafting the guidelines in 2013. I didn't get a response from anyone.

I figured it's because there are probably more important things going on. I couldn't agree more. There are many things going on in Turners

that are more important than what Rodney Madison is putting in the planters in front of his store. If it's not hurting anyone, and you think it's unattractive, that is simply a matter of taste.

Rodney is making the best of a bad situation with an absentee landlord and the "dry" side of the street. As a member of the "streetscape committee," I'm grateful for his efforts.

The planters are town property maintained solely by donations and volunteer efforts. If you have ideas on what would make a beautiful planter, 2015 could be your year to show off your gardening abilities. We have a few planters that need adopting.

Please volunteer. Make Turners pretty. I hope the grant for the new pedestrian plaza includes repairing the water faucets in the planters on the west side of Avenue A. If you'd like to adopt a planter, please call 863-0003.

Thank you,
Christa Snyder
Owner, FUNK*SHUN
Turners Falls

foster development in Turners Falls through cultural branding is paying off too slowly for a region still obsessed with hanging our criminality around downtown's neck.

The result seems to be a complete jam-up, like a turtle walking around with its head drawn in.

The last Strathmore RFP should have been a wake-up call: a detailed proposal from a local group, the ThreshHold Cooperative, to organize a coalition to slowly develop one building was rejected in favor of a second group, which had hinted at having access to bigger money but then never even signed an agreement to study the complex.

Disappointments at St. Anne's Church and rectory, the Hallmark galleries and now River Station have added to the sense that too much has been staked on art. And maybe

there's something to that – maybe art is better suited for, say, addressing the deeply human lack that addiction preys on, than directly resolving the harm the one-two punch of industrialization and deindustrialization can do to a place.

But we are troubled by signs that, in this leadership vacuum, the most significant cultural intervention in the downtown space is now being waged by the police.

This ranges from cuffing teen-aged skateboarders, to a proposed anti-graffiti ordinance – promoted by a community police officer who cites "broken windows" criminology, a subject of serious debate by social scientists, as uncontested truth – to the recent attempt to sweep Rodney Madison, of all people, off the Avenue.

The police surely have a job to

do, if gunmen are stealing safes from each other.

But anyone alarmed at a clumsy wedge being driven between legitimate and illegitimate culture in Turners needs to come forward with a clearer vision of how building a *shared* culture here – bold, inclusive, nourishing, encouraging, with no regard for distinctions of high and low society – can make it a place where we actually enjoy living together.

Like thousands of other small American towns and cities, our front door to reality, Turners Falls, is experiencing the collective psychic repercussions of deindustrialization and generational economic decline.

Art is not bait to hang out in hopes that enough yuppies will come that the drug users will go away. Art is, itself, an answer to our problems – if we are brave enough to use it.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come to a workshop on **CPR safety and awareness** at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank this Saturday, November 22 from 10 to noon.

Join the Turners Falls Fire Department in partnership with CPR instructor Matt Wolkenbreit as the team of experts guides you through CPR training and fire safety in the home, yard and beyond. A few minutes in this open house setting will be well spent.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is offering a monthly **Winter & Spring Saturday Preschool Series** starting November 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. starting with "Let's Talk Turkey"! Join for a special turkey scavenger hunt on the center grounds and in the museum where you will hunt and peck for turkey clues – with stories & crafts – all about our favorite fall bird.

Led by Janel Nockleby, each program will feature stories, activities, and crafts for ages 3 – 6 with a parent or guardian. All three aspects of the program – story, craft and ac-

tivity – are tied together in topic and theme so that participants have lots of opportunities to build a connection and love for the natural world. Motor skills may be developed too, with adventures in glue sticks, scavenger hunts, and games. There are plenty of opportunities to meet new friends too, while sharing supplies and playing cooperative games.

Parents, guardians, and siblings of all ages may be surprised to be drawn into the topic and program too. This series offers plenty of reading to take home on the lives of animals, crafts as simple or complicated as the crafter desires, and the camaraderie of learning about the natural world as a community of happy learners.

Grab a kid, grandkid, neighbor, or friend for a story. If your family enjoyed the GFDC summer Kidleidoscope series, then you will not want to miss these programs. Sponsored by Friends of the

Great Falls Discovery Center.

The **TFHS Alumni Association's 4th Annual All Class Reunion** will be held the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 28, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. in the nightclub side of Between the Uprights on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street in Turners Falls. Alum Lew Collins has again generously offered the use of his facility to the Association Celebration.

The night will include music, raffles, munchies, and lots of socializing and reminiscing. Plan to join and help get the word out to your classmates, as a challenge goes out to all TFHS classes to see which class will have the most attendees at this event. This is a free event for all TFHS Alumni; you do not have to be an Association member to attend.

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THANKSGIVING COAT HARVEST

A group of Turners Falls residents is gathering warm coats, which we have discovered are much needed this season by area farmworkers.

If you are seeing extended family and friends on Thanksgiving, please consider asking them to bring along any extra coats they might have.

We are especially seeking warm, small, men's coats, and are hoping to collect 15 of these by early December. Warm medium coats and warm women's coats will also be accepted.

If you have children's coats, you can donate those to Warm the Children or the Survival Center.

Drop coats off at the Brick House Community Resource Center at 24 Third Street during teen center hours (Tuesday through Saturday, 2:30 to 6 p.m.), or at the Montague Reporter office at 177 Avenue A during business hours.

You can also leave your information at 1 (413) 400-COAT to arrange for pickup.

30th Annual Welcome Yule: Midwinter Celebration

The 30th annual Welcome Yule Midwinter Celebration comes to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on December 12, 13, and 14. Welcome Yule celebrates the return of the light with a delightful family show filled with music, dance, songs, stories and customs to drive the dark away.

This year's show is written and directed by long-time cast member Hattie Archbald, who has performed in the show for 18 of her 22 years. She is the first director in Welcome Yule's 30 year history who has literally grown up in the show.

The audience will be transported to a fictional medieval English

village where preparations are underway to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Young folk in the village undertake a Robin Hood-style mission to steal from the rich and give to the poor so that the villagers can all celebrate a bountiful Christmas.

As always, Welcome Yule's signature carols, wassailing songs, stick dancing and mummers play will be featured, along with the passing of the Yule log, the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance and stage director Fred Momaney's version of the classic Robin Hood story.

As many families return year after year to perform in Welcome Yule, the cast has come to be an

annual festive community that recreates itself every year, from September, when rehearsals begin, to mid December when the final show's bows are taken and the set is struck.

Tickets are: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children five through 16; age four and under are free. Families of five pay \$40. Reserve tickets by calling the Shea Theatre reservation line (413) 863-2281, or purchase tickets in advance beginning November 1 at Jones Library in Amherst, River Valley Market in Northampton, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, or *Brattleborotix.com*.

"It's A Wonderful Night" in Turners Falls

On Friday, December 12, RiverCulture and local businesses will host the annual "It's a Wonderful Night" walking event in downtown Turners Falls.

The event is concurrent with Welcome Yule at the Shea, so there will be no film screening there this year; but from 4 to 10 p.m., there will be a holiday gift certificate "pop-up shop" in the Shea's lobby where holiday shoppers can pur-

chase discounted gift certificates to local businesses.

Storefronts along Avenue A will be fabulously decorated, with video installation and a photo booth, and stay tuned for specials and live music at downtown restaurants.

At Spinner Park, beginning November 29 there will be a wish mail box, and on December 12 there will be a tree lighting ceremony, live music, and a visit from

Santa Claus.

From 5 to 7 p.m., join in on tractor hayrides and caroling.

Avenue A and Third Street will be lit up with a candle luminaria, and there will be a hot chocolate station for public enjoyment.

For more information, or to find out about participating, contact RiverCulture director Suzanne Lomanto at (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com.

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Trent Bourbeau Wins Superintendent Award

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – Every year the superintendents of local school districts in Franklin County select an individual student to receive an award honoring them for their outstanding achievement.

This year, Superintendent Michael Sullivan has selected Trenton Bourbeau, a senior at Turners Falls High School, as the recipient of the 2014 Superintendent's Award for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

The awards for all of the recipients will be presented at the Franklin County Area Superintendent's Annual Award Dinner on Thurs-

day evening, November 20, at the Franklin County Technical School.

In remarks provided to the *Montague Reporter*, Sullivan says, "Trent was selected for having distinguished himself as a person of character and accomplishment both inside and outside of the classroom. Academically, Trent ranks third in his class and has earned top grades across the board from honors to AP courses, including scoring a 4 on the AP Statistics exam as a junior."

"He has received several honors including a leadership award from Wells College. In athletics Trent excels as running back in football, having rushed for over a thousand yards both last year and this sea-

son. As a captain of the team he has helped lead the Indians to a division championship in each of the last two years.

"Trent's coach, Chris Lapointe, describes him as a born leader... [who] demonstrates what kind of a person he is by assisting everyone around him to achieve their own personal goals."

According to Sullivan, Trent has worked as a volunteer for Meals On Wheels during the summer and in off seasons has worked part time at McDonalds and the Newman Center at UMass. Trent is planning to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he hopes to study engineering.

Public Information Session

MONTAGUE HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

Montague is updating the 2004 Housing Plan. The plan demonstrates Montague's commitment to promoting quality housing that is affordable for residents and to addressing community housing issues. The 2014 update explores how the community has developed and identifies short and long term strategies to improve Montague's housing stock. The Session will be interactive and your feedback and participation are strongly encouraged. The plan is available for review at www.montague.net.

The Session will be **Tuesday, November 25 at 7 p.m.** at Montague Town Hall.

Hosted by the Montague Planning Board and Montague Housing Advisory Group.

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WENDELL from page A1

meeting, Anyzeski, Conboy and Shulman looked into preliminary selection of a site for new housing, and focused on the western part of Wendell, near Montague. At this forum, residents suggested that a location nearer Wendell center was preferable.

Country Store and Deja Brew owner Patti Scutari told the forum that she owns 6.8 acres near the store that might be appropriate for lease or sale to a community-oriented senior or mixed housing development project.

As part of developing the project, and with help from state representative Denise Andrews, the students connected with Tempietto Homes. Mallett presented slides showing examples of innovative designs for small single family (one to two

person) buildings in a community-shared "solar village" as a vision of potential affordable senior or mixed age housing in Wendell.

Mallett suggested that Tempietto's one-bedroom "Firefly" design was a flexible and affordable option for Wendell, especially when economic gains from net metering solar generated electricity is factored in.

Tempietto's designs are constructed of panels made of a concrete core sandwiched between foam facing, used like "Lego blocks" according to Mallett to build creative spaces, even allowing for curved walls.

The Tempietto designs include active and passive solar and are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. These flexible building materials allow modern design and energy conserving buildings.

Mallett said that buildings of these materials are very low maintenance and "essentially last forever." The example solar village includes a ground-mounted solar array, raised to allow sheep grazing beneath the panels.

Mallett noted that, currently, the cost per square foot of building with the new materials is high. But, he said that, with federal and state incentives, the solar-powered buildings help subsidize the construction.

Residents had questions and comments about the energy cost of creating the building panels, about whether designs were truly accessible for elder or handicapped people, about whether the designs were too modern looking, and the potential location of a development. Council on Aging director Nancy Spittle invited Wendell residents to a further discussion on November 19 at the senior and community center.

on November 19 at the senior and community center.

The next step, according to the students, is investigating funding sources and the development process. Anyzeski, Conboy and Shulman will be preparing a final report on their investigation into senior housing in Wendell and will present that in December.

Moving forward with this or any other vision of Wendell's future, Mallett said, "would take the town saying 'this is what we want'," and a motivated group of citizens working to create that future.



Long-Term Capital Expenses Also Weighed

By JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - While close to 30 residents attended a senior housing forum in the town office meeting room, another forum began in the town hall, the brainchild of the selectboard and the finance committee, this one about money, a projection of long term and short term capital expenses that the town will face in the next twenty years.

Two town departments, fire and highway, dominated the discussion, as the ones that use large and expensive equipment. The fire department was represented by two firefighters: the captain, Asa de Roode, and chief, Joe Cuneo. The highway department was represented by highway commissioner Mike Gifford. Although schools also cost significant money, school expenses were not included because they are regularly appropriated for each year.

Fin com member Ray DiDonato began the session with an overview of town finances. He said 68% of the annual town operating budget comes directly from taxation. The rest comes from stabilization (prior taxation), free cash, state aid including PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes), money for state land within the town, and chapter 70 school aid, and chapter 90 highway money.

Regular annual town expenses are normally paid through taxation. Longer term one-time and larger expenses can be paid from stabilization or through borrowing or a combination. Grants are also possible.

Fire Department

The fire department is looking to upgrade a good deal of its equipment. With money authorized at the 2014 annual town meeting the selectboard recently accepted a bid for a truck and utility body that will become a new brush truck to replace the 1972 International that has become undependable.

Engine 1 has proven large for Wendell's roads, and with its low clearance and width cannot get to some homes in town. Cuneo would like to replace it with a more nimble four-wheel-drive truck with a shorter

wheelbase. The cost of that could be up to \$400,000, but grants might be available, and some expense could be offset by selling Engine 1, worth \$100,000 to \$140,000.

Some argued that people who moved into homes that the present Engine 1 cannot reach knew they were inaccessible when they made the choice to live there.

The tank truck is Franklin County's largest, with a 3,300-gallon tank, but its weight is high, there is no attachment for shoulder belts, it is difficult for most people to drive, it has a small capacity pump and takes a long time to fill. Cuneo would like to replace it with a smaller tank truck - 2,000 gallons - more nimble, faster filling and built as a fire tank truck.

The 2014 annual town meeting appropriated \$50,000 as a grant match for a replacement, and it is possible that the present tank truck can be used by the highway department.

Turnout gear and an air pack for one firefighter cost \$10,000 -- \$7,500 for the air pack and \$2500 for a set of turnout gear. NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) recommends replacing turnout gear at ten-year intervals.

The air packs that Wendell fire fighters are using now are hand-me-downs from Sunderland, and use steel air bottles that weigh 19 pounds empty and hold air for 20 minutes of use, although with yoga breathing techniques it is possible to extend that time. The town applied for but did not get a \$65,000 grant for new air packs, and will apply again.

Newer air packs would call for a newer cascade system for refilling them, \$40,000.

The fire station should have an air filtration system to clean the air after engines are running inside, cost of \$16,000. Engines do not run long inside the building, but the diesel fumes inside have no place to go. The highway department can use a similar piece of equipment.

Highway, Police Departments

The highway department grader is old, repairs are getting expensive

and down time is a problem. The 2014 annual town meeting authorized \$140,000 for a replacement and that should be good for 20 more years. Highway commissioner Gifford said that is out to bid now.

The town has four dump trucks used for plowing, sanding, and transport, and each has a cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000 and a 20-year expected life. The first one replaced will be the 1994 Ford L8000 scheduled for replacement in 2017, with another in 2024 and another in 2030.

The front loader is due for replacement in 2020 for \$150,000 and the backhoe in 2026 for \$75,000. The scheduled replacement year for the over-rail mower is 2030, and cost is \$55,000 and life expectancy 20 to 25 years. Utility pickup truck has been growing rust and should be replaced within a few years for \$50,000 new, and a life of 15 years.

The 2014 annual town meeting postponed, with police chief Ed Chase's consent, a police request for a replacement cruiser. However, that meeting appropriated \$20,000 towards a new one to replace in fiscal 2016 the 1998 Chevrolet Blazer the police department is now using. (The cruiser bought in 2016 will be replaced at the end of its life expectancy in 2031 by a solar powered hovercraft, that uses anti gravity technology.)

The next three years are top-heavy with expenditures, and if everything is paid for through taxation it could raise the tax rate about 2% per year. Stabilization and borrowing can mitigate that, but the fin com does not want to drain stabilization completely.

The new brush truck and replacement grader will not affect future taxation, because money for them has already been appropriated. Wendell's stabilization fund has \$300,000 to \$400,000, which is good when compared with other towns its size, but smaller than it was before the library and office building projects. A large stabilization fund helps the town deal with large expenses but it can make the town look richer than it is and count against it for grant applications.

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MONTAGUE from page A1
complaints, several of which were directed against a town oversight committee, the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), by supporters of the local access station, Montague Community Television (MCTV). This discussion led to the abrupt resignation of CAC member John Reynolds and his temporary replacement by selectboard member Mark Fairbrother.

Who says local government is dull?

The meeting began on an ominous note when, during the “public comment” period, town resident Jeanne Golrick asked if the selectboard wished to comment on the fact that one of its members, Michael Nelson, was being sued. The suit by a former Turners Falls resident complains of the dire health effects dating to smoke and noise generated by the 2011 Pumpkinfest celebration, which Nelson organizes and for which the board approves various permits annually.

The board was not inclined to respond to Golrick’s question. “We have no comment because we don’t know much about it,” said selectboard chair Chris Boutwell.

Celebration

On a lighter note, RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto requested that the board approve the installation of a “wish box” in Spinner Park for the holiday season, Novem-

ber 19 through December 29. This will be a creative piece of public art constructed by Turners Falls artist Jack Nelson to receive wishes written by local residents.

LoManto showed a picture of the sculpture, which bears some resemblance to a mailbox. She stated that the Turners Falls Post Office had no problem with the installation. The board approved the request.

LoManto also requested permission to put approximately 100 “luminaries” along Avenue A and Third Street during “It’s a Wonderful Night” event on December 12. The luminaries, paper bags with candles in them, proved to be festive and safe additions to last year’s holiday event. The board, noting the request had been endorsed by the police chief, approved the luminaries.

The board also approved requests by Dan Kramer of the Element Brewing Company for one day liquor and entertainment licenses for an anniversary party at the company’s facility in Millers Falls. The event will be on December 13, from 12 to 11 p.m., at the company’s facility in Millers Falls.

Maneuvering

At this point Gregg Corbo of the legal firm Kopelman and Paige, which represents the town, came forward to discuss a state Open Meeting Law complaint and a request for special legislation to approve the recent October special

town meeting. Notice of the meeting had not been posted in a timely manner at the Millers Falls library due to an oversight, and this led to an Open Meeting Law complaint from Jeanne Golrick.

Corbo stated that the failure to properly post notice of the meeting was not an Open Meeting Law issue, but rather a failure to conform to state legislation governing town meetings and to a local bylaw. He proposed that the board petition the legislature, through Montague’s state representative and state senator, for a special act to approve the town meeting. The board endorsed this proposal.

Golrick, who was in the audience, complained that “this is a deliberate maneuvering attempt, like a lot of things in this town.”

Clemency

Next on the agenda was Police Chief Chip Dodge and the problem of the biting dog, which has taken up much selectboard time over the past few months.

Dodge indicated that the dog, Diamond Marie, and its owner, Jody Rattigan, had been given another chance to reform on appeal to a local judge. Dodge indicated that he and Rattigan had developed a lengthy plan to help the dog (and its potential victims). This included consultation with Tufts University and potent anti-anxiety medication.

However, a key element of the

plan – and part of the judge’s order – could not be implemented because Rattigan is unable to obtain insurance for the dog.

Town counsel suggested that Rattigan consult her landlord and get a letter from him stating that he agreed that the dog could be kept on the property. The board directed Dodge to continue to work on the agreement with Rattigan, insuring that the issue will remain on its agenda for the time being.

Madison requested that the board “publicly state that it’s a legal business.” The board did not immediately respond.

The board then approved a number of requests to raise the pay scales of part time dispatchers working for the police department.

Before The Law

So now it was on to Rodney Madison, his store, and the objects in his planter. Madison sat down at the front table, as Dodge updated the board on the latest developments in his investigation. He stated that Madison had obtained insurance and now had legal electric wiring in his store. The Chief claimed that Madi-

son had not registered with the state to pay sales tax but “at this point that’s not my problem.”

Madison interjected to defend himself against the accusation that he was not running “a legal business,” and to argue that the selectboard had overstepped its bounds in allowing Dodge to make that claim in public: “I’ve had to hear on the radio, TV and on the internet the chief say my business was not legal.”

Claiming that this false charge was affecting his business, he requested that the board “publicly state that it’s a legal business.”

The board did not immediately respond, but eventually, after much prodding from Madison and members of the audience, Boutwell stated, “It appears from the information that you have tonight that you have a legal business.”

Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother then stated that this was Boutwell’s opinion. He later explained that he did not have sufficient information to know whether Madison’s business, or any other business in town, was “legal.”

As the meeting progressed, Madison frequently expressed frustration that board members “couldn’t bring themselves to say,” unequivocally, that he had a legal business.

When the discussion turned to Madison’s use of the planters it was discovered that a set of guidelines supposedly adopted by the

see MONTAGUE page A8

GILL from page A1

“They will be a different color,” said Brown. “People will notice they are whiter than the yellow sodium, and I am told they will be brighter.”

Brown detailed the costs of installing LED streetlights as follows: The town will pay WMeco \$15,942 to purchase the arms and fixtures on which the sodium bulbs are currently mounted to poles around town. “We have to buy the fixtures to throw them away,” in the process of upgrading to LEDs, he noted. The town will also buy four of the existing light poles that WMeco has no other use for.

The town will pay nearly as much, \$15,478, to purchase the LED bulbs. Brown said he had arrived at this estimate after researching various manufacturers, concluding that an Ohio company named Holophane, with a reputation for “very high quality” LEDs, would be the best supplier.

If Gill contracts with the town of Amherst’s DPW to install the LEDs, as other area towns including Erving has done, the cost for installation should amount to a little more than \$100 a pole, at a cap of \$5,200, Brown said. The town will have to pay some amount, in cash or kind, to have a person on the ground, possibly a Gill highway worker, assist the installer, or to provide police details in heavily trafficked areas. Brown estimated \$1,056 for police detail work.

WMeco will pay the town a \$5,014 rebate to make the switch to the energy conserving bulbs.

The selectboard gave the energy commission the go ahead to make

the switch. Brown said the actual work would take about a week. The selectboard also approved a number of individual changes to reduce the illumination to streetlights in a few locations: the lamps on the town common, at the corner of Walnut and Riverside, and in front of Chappell Auto on Route 2 will all be reduced in intensity during the switch to LEDs.

Scatter Garden

The board heard feedback from Pam Shoemaker and Tim McCabe, abutters of the Gill Congregational Church, about plans the church announced at the previous selectboard meeting to donate less than a quarter of an acre of land behind the church to the town for use as a “scatter garden” for cremation remains and memorials.

Shoemaker said she felt it was the town’s responsibility to discuss the proposed use of land with abutters. “Our line of reporting should be back to the selectboard,” said Shoemaker, who added, “It’s really important we maintain the separation of church and state.”

Selectboard member John Ward emphasized that the Congregational Church approached the town with the proposal. “We’re in the very early stage of the discussion, to see what people’s ideas are.”

Board chair Randy Crochier said the proposal would have to be vetted by the planning board, the conservation commission, and the board of health before it ever reaches town meeting for consideration.

The church has agreed to approach the conservation commission for an opinion first.

Gary Bourbeau, pastor of the Congregational Church, also serves on the town’s cemetery commission, which has informed the selectboard in recent years that Gill is running out of space for new burials in the three town cemeteries.

Bourbeau said a church member, Bill Burnham, before he passed away in 2011, came up with the idea of putting the unused land behind the Congregational Church to use to alleviate the problem of dwindling burial space in Gill.

“We feel this is a parcel of land that has no use,” said Bourbeau. “There are those of us who feel our hearts are there, and we want to make sure what’s left of our bodies is there as well.”

In his previous meeting with the board, Bourbeau had outlined plans for a small landscaped garden behind the church, with benches and solar lighting along a path, where people could scatter the remains of their loved ones, and pay for memorial stones to mark their passing. He also offered the town a right of way from Center Road to the rear of the church.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked how this arrangement could be affected if the church building itself ever passed from its current incarnation, were it to be sold to a private buyer.

Bourbeau replied by suggesting the town already owns land in front of the church, to the north of Center

Road, and said it could be possible for the church to deed land along the side of the church building to the town as well as the land in the rear, to make permanent the town’s ease of access to the proposed scatter garden.

McCabe worried about the impact to abutters’ property values, and wondered how big a demand there might be for a scatter garden in Gill.

Shoemaker pointed out that the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH decided to close the scatter garden at that location because of excessive demand.

Shoemaker also wanted to have some say on the type or location of any lighting that might be used on the site, as that would affect abutters’ views. She also expressed concern about the possibility of windblown cremation remains scattering onto neighbors’ land.

“We want to be confident nothing is going to blow over into our roses,” she said. “I don’t want to smell a rose and smell you in the process.”

Bourbeau said this was a concern that could be adequately addressed in the siting process.

Other Business

The town spent \$5,576 repairing the impeller on one of the pumps at the Riverside sewer pump house. The impeller had been purchased new and installed three and a half years ago during a complete overhaul of the pumps.

The replacement of the roof at the town safety complex may have to wait until next spring, the select-

board warned, as the town waits for a completed design from the recently hired architect for that project, Brian DeVries.

The Gill Elementary School well, already testing over the newly enforced state DEP limit for manganese, has now turned up positive, once again, for coliform bacteria. The well was treated with chlorine to correct the problem, which may trigger new DEP mandates about the town’s ongoing management of the well, said town administrative assistant Ray Purington. The town is seeking grant funding for a hydro-engineering survey of the well to determine the best overall approach.

Purington also warned about the potential for outgoing governor Deval Patrick to make mid-year budget cuts to address a \$325 million state shortfall in revenue; stay tuned on that.

Crochier said Senator Stan Rosenberg’s office would take the lead on possible suicide prevention measures at the French King Bridge, following Denise Andrews’ defeat at the ballot box on November 4. Crochier said a meeting on the topic will take place with the police chiefs of neighboring towns and a Rosenberg aide at the Gill fire department on November 24.

The Friends of Gill will hold an apple pie sale at the Gill Congregational Church on Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

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MARCH from page A1

and Fridays, with an added dinner on Thursdays.

On the day Monte's March arrived, the menu included beef chili, hot dogs, chipotle chicken, broccoli with cheese sauce, corn, brown and white rice, eggs and beans, cooked greens, and eggplant rounds.

Niri Azuage, a young emigre from Venezuela who coordinates the food pantry, helps to keep fresh produce flowing even at this time of year, as three men bagged chard, beets and sweet potatoes for distribution in the dining area, while another couple sorted through boxes of bananas, pomegranates and apples in the adjacent pantry.

Azuage said she was preparing Thanksgiving boxes for 600 this month, with turkeys for larger families, chickens for smaller families, canned goods, trimmings and gift cards.

Domb, the Survival Center director, said the Center will distribute 169 tons of food this year through the food pantry alone, up 17% over last year. In addition, Brooks' volunteers in the kitchen will serve more than 21,000 hot meals, a 21% increase over last year.

"Although we hear about an improving economy, people aren't feeling the benefits," said Domb, in her matter-of-fact tone. "They're not able to make a living wage. They're not able to find work. They're still making choices about heating their homes and feeding their families."

Domb said the Survival Center in Amherst, which relies for the majority of its funding on individual donations, will serve upwards of 6,000 people in close to 50,000 visits before the end of 2014. They come from Amherst and eight neighboring communities, including Leverett.

"The Food Bank is an amazing resource to us, with government and non-government sponsored food, and also with a lot of capacity building support and training and grants. They are just phenomenal," said Dombs. "You can't have food programs without a food bank and without a food pantry. They need us to get the food out; we need them to get the food in."

Outside the Survival Center, in the noisy entryway, the walkers from Monte's March mingled with people waiting in line for the dining room to open. Both outside benches were full, and many were standing in line. The March was getting under way again, turning north at last.

Nicki Vassar, from Gill, pulled over at the Maple Ridge Church on her way to work to hand Belmonte a donation. "You're doing a great job!" she said.

Eighteen-year-old Brandon Kelley, from Greenfield, a recent graduate from the Northampton alternative school had returned for a third year to join his mates from the Hampshire Educational Collaborative Academy.

"Someone like Monte," Kelley said, "gathering money for the Food Bank. You've got to support him. He's the only one doing it."

Among the marchers was Matt Bosquet, a cook at the Deerfield Inn, tall and handsome with a neatly trimmed beard. Bosquet used to work the 2 a.m. shift at the Black Sheep Bakery in Amherst, where he started the tradition of delivering leftover loaves of bread to the Survival Center several times a week. As he walked along in the misting rain, Bosquet said, "It feels good to support a cause where people's

hearts are focused in a positive direction."

At the corner of Routes 47 and 116 in the center of Sunderland, Lacey Arnold, production lead at Frontier Community Access Television, and her production assistant, Jonathan Prosperi, had staked out the intersection waiting for Belmonte and his entourage to arrive. Frontier provides public governmental and educational programming for the towns of Whatley, Deerfield, Sunderland and Conway.

After securing an interview with Belmonte and Congressman McGovern, Arnold and Prosperi hotfooted it across the Sunderland Bridge to get B-roll footage of the march crossing the scenic Connecticut River.



Belmonte (right) interviews congressman Jim McGovern (left) along the march's route.

"You know, 26 miles is a long walk," said McGovern, standing in front of the Sunderland Corner Store in a rain poncho. "But it's nothing compared to what people who are hungry go through every day."

Asked how they happened to show up from a local cable access television station to cover Monte's March, Prosperi said, "It's a great community event, bringing together people and resources to help people in our community."

Arnold added, "We make news. So we're doing news."

The Connecticut is lovely in its late autumn rusty splendor. It flows on unconcerned beneath the looming mass of Wequamps – Mt. Sugarloaf – the giant beaver of Native lore.

The Food Bank is able to leverage every dollar donated into three square meals, the equivalent of nine dollars' worth of food.

I passed a house with a senescent pumpkin sagging in the front yard surrounded by lawn ornaments and porcelain gnomes. I spied a nickel and a penny, and then another penny, lying by the side of the road. I picked them up, thinking at least I could add them to the dime I found along Route 9 in Hadley and contribute them to the Food Bank when I finally got to Greenfield.

The Food Bank is able to leverage every dollar donated into three square meals, the equivalent of nine dollars' worth of food, for people

facing hunger in Western Mass. So even a few pennies goes a long way at the Food Bank.

Thinking about this as we stopped for lunch at the elegantly appointed Chandler's Tavern at Yankee Candle Company in South Deerfield, I couldn't help but be struck by the opulence of the food pantries most of us turn to when our own kitchens fail to provide inspiration or ingredients on an evening.

The rain had begun falling in earnest, and we were glad of any warm accommodations, especially these, with soft lighting and rooms lined with bulging wine racks.

I sat next to Jim McGovern and quizzed him about the failure of the Democrats to inspire the electorate in the recent midterms.

not only as a boss but also a mentor for Jim McGovern, was the first director of President Kennedy's Food for Peace program in 1961. George McGovern remarked at that time, "We should thank God that we have a food abundance and use the oversupply among the underprivileged at home and abroad."

It's a good feeling to back a candidate who stands for something positive.

Jim McGovern, consistently ranked one of the most liberal members of Congress, ran unopposed this year. And two days later, on Monte's March, he showed once again he is a Congressman who walks the talk, wearing out his own shoe leather to fight hunger in his district.

"Midterm elections are historically not kind to the party of the president in power," said McGovern. "People are frustrated with government in general, not only in Washington. A lot of them didn't even bother to vote."

Yet, McGovern said, those who did vote, even in very red states, supported referendums on issues like raising the minimum wage, even as they elected a Congress unlikely to act positively on the issues Democrats care about.

"As Democrats, we are on the right side of the issues," said McGovern, with the same conviction the shipbuilder of the Titanic mustered in explaining the invincibility of his design.

"I think we had a lot to be proud of," sailing into this election, said the Congressman. "Tens of millions of people got health care who did not have it before. The economy is getting better. But I think a lot of candidates looked to the polls – the president's numbers are getting worse – and decided to run away from the president. It didn't work."

McGovern worked on the 1972 presidential campaign of South Dakota Senator George McGovern (no relation) when he was still in junior high, and went on to become a staffer in his office before getting elected to Congress in his own right.

He delivered the Senator's eulogy in 2012, where he lauded George McGovern for "reminding us we can do better," and "making it seem possible that we could end all wars, eliminate hunger, eliminate poverty, and create a world where all God's children are respected, valued and loved."

George McGovern, who served

next in line with a smaller donation. "I like to help out with the less fortunate," she said.

Officer Roger Sadoski of the Deerfield Police, looking a bit like Giancarlo Giannini, pulled up in his cruiser. He struck a dramatic pose as he warned us to keep to the right of the white line on the narrow and heavily-trafficked stretch of Route 10 leading to the border with Greenfield.

Even so, just before Savage's Market, I fell out of line briefly to pick up ten pennies that had been thrown away at the side of the road.

Added to the other coins I had picked up along the way, I now had 30 extra cents in my pocket. I decided I would multiply that by nine, and make a donation of \$2.70 to the Food Bank when we got to Greenfield. The Food Bank would multiply that nine times again by the power of their distribution network, so in the end my spare change would provide the equivalent of eight square meals for hungry people in Western Mass.

To the west, the farm fields of Deerfield stretched out against the twilight, wreathed in mist. The march had fallen silent, except for Belmonte, who kept up an almost ceaseless stream of encouraging chatter to his radio audience, urging them to donate.

The walkers were wet, and foot-sore, but determined to finish the task they had set out to do. For myself, I found walking along the road from dawn to dark a meditative experience. You can pick up all kinds of things along the way: coins, interesting artifacts, bits of information, scenic views. If enough of us got together in back of Belmonte's shopping cart, we could even wipe out hunger in the Valley. Until next year.

At the end of his 26 mile hike, Belmonte ran the last hundred yards up Bank Row to Magpie Pizzeria, where supporters, including his wife and children, were waiting for him. But even then, he never got off message. He turned the microphone over to anyone who had raised money for the cause, and thanked them all for giving.

In all, Monte's March V raised over \$65,000 for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Multiplied by nine, that means the Food Bank will be able to provide over half a million dollars worth of food to people in need in our community, thanks to Monte's March.

Not bad for a walk in the rain.

Think about that the next time you find some money on the side of the road, or some spare change in your pocket.

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Knights from Montague's annual Mutton & Mead festival accompanied Belmonte for the Deerfield-to-Greenfield leg of his crusade.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Library Feasibility Process Inches Forward

By KATIE NOLAN

At its November 17 meeting, the Erving selectboard approved spending \$13,616 for a new wastewater pump as an emergency procurement for the River Street pumping station. Chief wastewater operator Peter Sanders explained that the station has two pumps, as required for wastewater treatment plants, that alternate in pumping wastes, but the older pump “blew a hole,” and is no longer usable.

Sanders said he researched the cost to repair or replace the pump and found that repair would cost approximately \$7,000. Therefore, because the pump has been in service for 26 years, he recommended replacement.

The pump replacement is considered an emergency, because if the second pump (15 years old) should go offline, there would be no way to pump wastewater, and it could conceivably be dumped into the Millers River.

Library Feasibility

The board approved library director Barbara Friedman’s request to hire the Franklin Regional Council

of Governments to prepare the request for proposal for an owner’s project manager for a library feasibility study.

The May 2014 annual town meeting approved \$25,000 for the feasibility study, to be matched by a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The study will explore ideas about whether the library should expand in its current location, build new, or reuse an existing town building.

At the annual town meeting, Friedman said the purpose for studying the library facility was to “make the library relevant for the 21st century.”

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan said that she had attended an MBLC meeting for librarians and town officials working through the MBLC process, and that Friedman “was far ahead of everyone else at the meeting.”

Both Sullivan and Friedman noted that MBLC library building grants are highly competitive. Friedman also introduced Sara Campbell as the chair of the library feasibility study committee. Campbell, of Prospect Street, is Greenfield’s engineering superintendent.

Recall Process

The board directed town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to write to state senator Stanley Rosenberg to ask him to introduce special legislation to establish a procedure for recall of elected Erving officials.

The November 3 special town meeting voted 44 to 37 to ask the selectboard to petition the state legislature to adopt the special act.

The board asked Sharp to include an additional condition for the special legislation: that the recall procedure will not become effective until it is voted favorably in a town election.

Cost of Living

The board discussed, but made no decision on, a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for town employees for fiscal year 2016.

Sharp reported that the consumer price index for the first six months of 2014 showed an increase in the cost of living at 1.6% for the northeast United States.

Selectboard chair William Bembury said he found a predicted value of 1.7% as of January 2015. The board recommended a range of 1.7% to 2% for the COLA to the finance committee to consider.

The fincom and selectboard will meet November 24, after the special town meeting, to discuss and set the COLA.

School Buildings

The board decided that Bembury and a building inspector tour the unused first floor of the former school building on Pleasant Street to determine whether it needs upgrades or repairs. Currently, the Union #28 central office rents the second floor of the building.

Bembury suggested that the recreation commission could use the first floor of the building. He said, if the recreation commission moves there, the emergency management department could move into the recreation commission office in town hall, creating more space in the town hall meeting room. “There’s a major space crunch in town hall,” he said.

Wireless Sound System

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson and IT consultant Jacob Smith researched portable public address systems for use at town meetings.

Both checked costs for speakers, stationary and wireless microphones and mixing board, Johnson at the Music Store in Greenfield and Smith at Gerry’s Music in South Hadley. They reported preliminary estimates of \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Smith will prepare specifications for the sound system and seek firm estimates from both suppliers.

ECONOMY from page A1

at all of these things. Buying local was one major focus, but going beyond encouraging individuals to purchase from local merchants to looking for ways for major employers and the largest businesses in the area to support local business.

And beyond that, Kelly said, is supporting the development of small businesses that can provide the products and services that, for example, a hospital may need. She said local big businesses should be encouraged to look at local companies for their energy upgrades and audits, and to purchase renewable energy, such as solar and wind, locally.

On the panel that followed were members of the Franklin County community whose work fit neatly into the themes of the conference: Linda Dunlavy, executive director Franklin County Regional Council of Governments (FCRCOG); Suzette Snow-Cobb, marketing and membership manager at Franklin Community Co-op (Green Fields Market); Michael Tucker, president of Greenfield Cooperative Bank; and John Waite, executive director of the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (FCCDC).

Panel members briefly introduced themselves and talked about what they do, then Kelly and members of the audience asked questions. A lively discussion followed.

Looking at energy providers and renewables, considering municipal ownership of utilities and supporting development of providers of renewable energy, Kelly said when the utilities are locally owned there is more of an opportunity for members of the community to have their concerns heard. When ownership is held by big corporations who are out-of-state there is no way to be heard.

She spoke of an “anchor vision,” where procurement strategies connect local businesses to local procurement. An example given was Vermont’s farm-to-plate network, which they are working to expand to a farm-to-school program.

Throughout these discussions speakers made it clear that making sure the workers in businesses get a fair wage and have a healthy work environment was just as important as building the local economy through business development.

Within the effort of developing a local business network, Kelly emphasized the importance of looking at how these can be managed, encouraging fair practices for employees, fair wages, and employee ownership, and giving employees a voice in how the company is run.

Building a company with good employment practices that can sustain the industry and the employees over time, she said, is the key to a strong, vibrant, community.

Kelly spoke about creating employee-owned companies. She said with ownership of so many companies in the hands of baby boomers who may be retiring, new opportunities for employee ownership may arise.

A question from the audience addressed the lack of information of what companies are locally owned and which might be in danger of being bought or passed on to out-of-state or big corporation ownership. A suggestion was made

to do an inventory of local companies. John Waite said the FCCDC has helped develop over 300 companies.

Bank president Michael Tucker said we need an “exit plan” for local business owners, not just looking at the day-to-day planning but looking out over five years, ten years. He talked about the importance of planning education for potential workers over the years.

As an example, Tucker cited Valley Steel Shop (VSS) in Greenfield. They were concerned about future ability to hire, with the machinists they had limited, and no one training new workers with the skills required. Now they’re partnered with Franklin County Tech School to train workers specifically for entry level jobs at VSS.

Tucker said, “The schools are all our responsibility. If we don’t educate our kids, you can’t hire enough cops.” He said the tech school also has a program to re-train adults.

There was a lively discussion including audience and panelists with many free-flowing ideas. Discussing what it would take to develop a local ecosystem for a generative economy, Snow-Cobb suggested land use thinking, education thinking, and a shift to long-term thinking. Businesses, she said, are assets.

Dunlavy said Franklin County has a high percentage of small locally-owned businesses. John Waite pointed out we have Pioneer Valley Grows, a regional collaboration to strengthen food systems.

A member of the audience said that the schools don’t teach how to read an income statement or balance sheet. The event’s host, Greenfield Community College, was lauded for its recent national Green Genome Award in recognition of its sustainability efforts.

Discussion turned to whether companies prioritize what’s best for their employees, community and society. Some felt companies look too hard at shareholder value. Privately owned companies, another audience member pointed out, reflect the values of their owners.

A suggestion was made to build a local capital fund to spur growth, asking the cooperative bank and CDC to join together to create a new entity with this mission.

After lunch and a wonderful performance by a very talented and daring group of young people known as the Traveling Rhubarb Circus, the conference moved on to workshops.

Five were available: *Financing the New Economy* with Terry Mollner, Chairman, Stakeholder’s Capital and Calvert Family of Socially Responsible Mutual Funds; *Food as an Economic Engine* with Nico Lustig, Food Development Specialist, FCCDC; *Building An Authentic Cultural Identity* with Amy Shapiro, Business Development Director FCCDC and Chair of Fostering Art and Culture Partnership; *Thinking Like a Region* with Jennifer Stromsten, Program Director, Institute for Nuclear Host Communities; and this reporter’s choice, *Creating a Living Wage Economy* with Sarah Wing, Department of Labor Grant Navigator, Greenfield Community College.

I will discuss this subject in our next issue, on newsstands December 4.



November 24 STM Preview

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving’s Monday, November 24 special town meeting will consider spending a total of \$582,000 from free cash for work at the former International Paper (IP) mill, assessors’ legal fees, additional secondary education costs, fire department equipment, internet access at the highway garage/wastewater treatment plant, a police cruiser camera system, and other items.

Major expenses to be considered are:

- \$150,000 to secure entry, improve site safety, and provide necessary maintenance at the former IP mill.
- \$125,000 for assessors’ legal fees defending the town in an appeal from First Light of the town’s assessed valuation for the Northfield Mountain Project.
- \$105,000 for additional secondary education costs, based on final enrollment numbers at the Gill-Montague regional school district.
- \$65,000 for a market feasibility/ infrastructure study at the former IP mill.

Town voters will also consider \$40,000 in fire department equipment, in five separate articles: \$13,000 for a hose and gear dryer, \$10,000 for a skid unit for the

department’s Gator ATV, \$10,000 for an enclosed trailer for the Gator, \$5,000 for a cab for the Gator, and \$2,000 for vehicle-mounted GPS units for emergency response vehicles.

Other articles include:

- \$10,000 for high speed internet/broadband service to the highway garage/wastewater treatment plant.
- \$10,000 to maintain, remove and replace trees.
- \$5,315 for a police cruiser camera system.
- \$5,000 for building improvements at the Pearl B. Care historical museum.
- \$4,025 for a carport at the senior/ community center.
- \$3,000 for treasurer’s staff wages for additional human resources duties.

The meeting will also decide whether to accept two parcels of land as a gift from Erving Industries, with conditions that include: use of the land for public benefit, ownership of the land by the town of Erving, use of the land for recreational and educational uses and limited commercial activity and installation of a monument with a plaque detailing the property’s history.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Pipeline Surveyor Suspicious

Tuesday, 11/4 9 a.m. Took report of tractor-trailer damaging lawn at Semb Drive. Wednesday, 11/5 9:35 a.m. Took report of landlord-tenant dispute on Northfield Road. 10:40 a.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout on Old State Road. 5:15 p.m. Tractor-trailer crash on Semb Drive. Saturday, 11/8 11 a.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle. Found to be a surveyor working for Tennessee Gas Pipeline / Kinder Morgan. 1:45 p.m. Larceny reported at French King Highway. Under investigation. 8:10 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for warrant. Sunday, 11/9 11:30 a.m. Report of smoke coming from North Street residence. Found to be the pellet stove starting up.	1:20 p.m. Report of woman passed out in a car at a rest stop. Located in Gill. State police handled it. Monday, 11/10 3:45 p.m. Report of use of motor vehicle without authority. Vehicle and driver found, vehicle returned to owner. Tuesday, 11/11 3:10 p.m. Report of identity theft on Old State Road. Wednesday, 11/12 4 p.m. Suspicious vehicle.	Spoke with occupants, who were waiting for a restaurant to open. Thursday, 11/13 7:20 a.m. Report of breaking & entering at Erving Historical Society on East Main Street. Investigating. Saturday, 11/15 7 a.m. Alarm at Erving Elementary School. Secure. Sunday, 11/16 5:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for a warrant.
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MONTAGUE from page A5
selectboard a year ago and enforced by a "Planter Committee" had not in fact been formally approved.

Christa Snyder, owner of a store in Turners Falls called Funk*Shun and a member of the Planter Committee, said she sent an email to town officials last March asking about the status of the guidelines. She received no reply.

Building inspector David Jensen stated that the guidelines had, in effect, been "provisionally approved" by the board a year ago, and were only waiting for minor adjustments.

This did not sit well with Nelson, who stated that he was not "comfortable" enforcing rules that had not been voted on.

The board voted, by a margin of two to one, to grant Madison the right to use the planter, although it was not clear he required selectboard approval according to the provisional planter guidelines.

He was also approved, two to one, to place objects on the sidewalk for display up to 4'8" from the side of his building and approved unanimously for placing a sandwich board out during his business hours provided it does not impede traffic on the sidewalk.

Before leaving, Madison tried once again to elicit a spoken retraction of the allegations against his business, either by Chief Dodge or the

selectboard.

Nelson joined with Boutwell in saying that in his opinion it "appears" Madison's business was legitimate.

Consent

As the meeting room cleared, the board approved a number of requests involving past and future Community Development Block Grants. These requests were bundled into a "consent agenda" requiring only one vote.

Oversight

It was now late in the evening as the board moved to deal with the Open Meeting Law complaints. One involved the posting of the recent Special Town Meeting that the board had already discussed.

The second involved two complaints regarding selectboard meeting minutes that had not been released as of the complaint. The board noted that many had recently been released, and that the backlog would soon be eliminated.

Town counsel advised the board to adopt a policy requiring the release of public minutes at the following meeting, with an official announcement if there is to be a delay.

The open meeting law complaints from supporters of the local access station, MCTV, directed at its oversight board, the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), were the topic of a closed executive session. This session was attended by members of the CAC.

The press was excluded from this discussion but soon after it commenced, John Reynolds, who had been appointed to the CAC in June, stormed out of the meeting stating that he had resigned from the committee. He claimed that he was being held accountable for decisions and actions that he had not been involved in.

When the public meeting reconvened, Fairbrother, who has been the board liaison to the CAC, was appointed to temporarily take Reynolds' place.

The board did not have a public response to the complaints by MCTV supporters.

Madison's displays have galvanized both critics and supporters.

NINA ROSSI PHOTOS



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Struggling With Addiction? *Don't Give Up.*

By LAURA CHAPDELAINE

MONTAGUE – I write with deep disappointment that so many in our community feel that Greenfield and Franklin County were unkindly portrayed in the recent CNN Anthony Bourdain special. Like many from all over the country who have responded to the show, I think that this was arguably the best hour of television ever produced.

Yes, it was raining – we can't control the weather in New England – and the railroad tracks are filthy and disheartening. But the repeated shots of Greenfield's beautiful downtown architecture, picture-perfect well-kept green spaces as viewed from Poet's Seat, etc. visually punctuated the point the show was trying to make: that the contrast between our natural beauty, cultural offerings, strong community ties, and this dreadful crisis that's not going away, is jarring, yes, but real.

I hate to say this, but from some reactions to the show I have heard, we don't need to worry so much about the impressions that outsiders might have of our community. Instead it seems that a good number of our OWN citizens are deeply unaware of, or in denial about, how acute our opiate crisis is.

Let's remember that Anthony Bourdain's staff did not choose Greenfield randomly, or because they heard an exaggerated rumor that we have a problem. Our problem is not fleeting, nor is it isolated; it is backed by cold, hard numbers. Overdose deaths. Opiate-addicted newborns at Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Petty crimes turning to more frequent violent crimes, as the former dealer/current informant accurately predicted when the show was filmed back in the spring. Families of every demographic profile spiraling out of control as they attempt to not only save their loved ones, but are left to dodge the cruel stigma to which we are still pointlessly clinging.

It's past time for us to confront this problem openly and directly, with determined, out-of-the-box problem-solving strategies and open hearts. I'm speaking to all of us, including myself.

Our opiate crisis does not diminish the special, life-enhancing qualities we enjoy here. There are many compelling reasons to not only stay if born and raised here, but relocate here as my husband and I did to Montague almost 16 years ago.

I feel that the show, given that it is not meant to be a tourist infomercial, provided a more than adequate thumbnail sketch of our wonderful and vibrant region, including Greenfield's downtown. For the past year or so, my husband and I ate out 3 to 4 days a week in Greenfield. I purchase nearly everything for our household there, hang out in the cafes there, and spend time downtown outside of work, because I genuinely enjoy more aspects of it than not. The Farmers' Market is so good, our friends from Chicopee come here almost every week for it. I've lived here now longer than I've lived anywhere else.

I love the entire county, and am grateful that an outside news crew opened up our own eyes to what we can no longer afford to ignore. It just bothers me that so many people remain resistant to the truth.

Mr. Gregory, for instance, gave a wonderful time capsule of Franklin

County's history, so it's especially unfortunate to read his opinion afterward that "150 slugs" in the area malign the entire county.

I get that Mr. Gregory believes he was under-informed about the show's mission, and that upsets him. I've been misrepresented in the media, too, about matters that are deeply important to me. Maybe he was misrepresented in the *Recorder*, as well. So I'm sensitive to his reaction.

But more to the point, he has a responsibility as an historian to not be afraid of the truth nor sit in judgment of the people. To set the record straight, the detective featured on the show estimated opiate use in Greenfield alone in the high hundreds. That's approaching 1,000, not 150. And my anecdotal observations tell me that is a conservative estimate.

I recently left my job in downtown Greenfield after more than 2 years working in the building adjacent to the Clean Slate center. Through just my casual everyday contact with addicts, both active and recovering, and their network of family and friends, I came to appreciate the depth and breadth of the addiction crisis.

It was intensely eye-opening; alternately shocking, infuriating, and heartbreaking. That experience, and my abiding concern for my former students from the 8 years I substitute taught at Turners Falls High School and at Frontier Middle/Senior High Schools, leave me tired of feeling helpless, and compel me to speak out.

I especially want to honor the lives of two of my former students who succumbed to overdoses – Tyler Haskell and Corey Hescocock – and the many other good, decent, and caring youngsters out there who are struggling with something too big for them to handle alone.

I saw Tyler outside of Clean Slate just 3 days before he died, and will go to my grave regretting that I did not step outside to encourage him or just simply say "hi." He was unfailingly cheerful and kind to me, and he was still the same person that day: just a person trying to get on the right track, who unfortunately lost that chance. I'm ashamed I was deterred by my knowledge of his disease, having seen his name in the paper – first the previous November for pill possession, and then last spring, just like clockwork, heroin possession.

That day I saw Tyler, I was not only frustrated about his situation; I was overwhelmed by the enormity of the crisis gripping our area from my bird's-eye view of it working next to Clean Slate. I gave in to my raw, immediate feelings, rather than summoning my less judgmental side, the one that only wants the best for my former students and for all our young people.

Because of my choice to be petty and self-righteous, I never said hi to Tyler that one last time. I'll always regret it.

Back to the CNN special. I want to tell Heather Taylor that her incredibly powerful telling of her recovery journey has helped me to realize that even the most reviled among us – a mother who used opiates while pregnant, a stereotype of which I have always been particularly scornful – have the potential

see **SUPPORT** page B4

Mal Devisa: "The Truth, at All Costs"

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Last Sunday, fans of indie DIY alternative music converged on the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls to witness four acts performing a captivating Rolodex of musical styles and volumes.

It was a show representative of the current oeuvre of the DIY music scene in Western Massachusetts and the nation – characterized by a heterogeneity in the sound of the bands, while exhibiting a unity in ethics such as identity acceptance, the rights of the individual, and a belief in social change.

While their sounds were very different, ranging from the singer-songwriter solo guitar set-up of Brooklynite Small Wonder to the loop-pedal enhanced one-woman soul band Mal Devisa, a number of themes emerged in the content of the music.

The artists' songs were highly

personal, about their own identity or singular feelings, specific to the artists' self. In this spirit Small Wonder performed a song about his emotional state. The song told the story of a suddenly deep, vacuous depression felt while watching someone smoke a cigarette outside in the cold.

Following each performance, one felt like one knew and understood something about the internal life of many of the artists. Many songs were about experiences in nature or elemental forces, such as the duo Music Was My First Gay Loone, singing about the east wind.

Mal Devisa's gravitational presence during her set drew the audience in, another point against the theory that America's attention span is shrinking. Her sound is most often a duet between her bass and her



JACKSON PHOTO

Mal Devisa at the Brick House on Sunday.

throaty, acrobatic, Nina Simone-like voice.

Sometimes her finger-picked bass sounded like minor-key folk music, reminiscent of Leonard Cohen. In other songs it combined the agitated, accelerated lines of rock music over the looping rhythms of hip-hop. Her bass playing created a mood that

see **MAL DEVISA** page B4

NOBODY'S PERFECT

By MATT ROBINSON

NORTH ADAMS – The Turners Falls Football Indians fell to the Green and Gold Hornets of McCann Tech, 12 to 7 in the Western Mass D6 Championship game on November 15. It was the first loss for the Indians.

It's tough not being perfect. Not to succeed in everything you try. But the beauty of sports is that you learn life lessons. You need to take the bad with the good and to quote the many True Blue fans at the game, "Hold your heads up, Blue."

One loss is not the end of the world. That one setback cannot take away from all the hard work and sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the entire 2014 season. And sporting a record of 9 and 1, the kids on this team can be assured that Turners Falls is very proud of their Indians.

But at least now, the pressure is off. The Turners Falls Football Indians don't need to be perfect.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Trent Bourbeau heads for daylight.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Feeding the Birds

food supply and, because of climate warming, some creatures are staying around because the waters and therefore the food is still available right through the winter.

This theory makes plenty of sense, but it's still been hard for me to let go of the notion of migration and temperature with length of day.

Not that there haven't been plenty of examples. Lately, many birds which usually move southward have stayed for the winter.

Last year's spectacular sightings of the Artic snowy owls were the product of strong supplies in New England of their favorite food. Many geese spend all winter now in the open waters.

Still it is getting colder and soon the snows will cover the remaining seed plants in the yard. I am grateful for the chatter and the activity of my winter birds and enjoy feeding them.

We bring the feeder in once it has been emptied at the end of the huge bag of seed. No offense, but we have no desire to feed the waking bears, nor to bring them into a yard of birds, cats and rabbits.

The vicious squirrels are another matter.

One recent summer in Maine,

Ken and I drove further downeast to a spectacular vineyard and tasting room.

While sampling the harvest of earlier years and enjoying the fantastic view over the pond, field and grape vines, we asked our server about the odd netting draping the vineyard.

"OH," she said. "Those vicious turkeys would eat all the grapes if we didn't cover them!"

We loved the use of the adjective and added it to our repertoire. The squirrels have earned it. They've killed or maimed three feeders, including one with a squirrel-dumping mechanism.

They have easily eaten their weight in seeds, outclassing the birds by yards. This season I prowled our local feed store's selection for the better part of an hour and came home with an Audubon metal feeder with caging around the seed container.

After filling it, I set it on a hanging pole well-greased with vegetable oil.

So far, so good. The feeder hangs a good distance from trees, chimneys and other objects which the athletic, vicious squirrel could

see **BIRDS** page B6



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – On a recent steely grey November day, the frisky wind blew a small tribe of goldfinches my way. They were welcomed by the especially noisy chatter of chickadees. I smelt snow on the air and realized it was time to set out the birdfeeder again.

This summer at a family gathering a family member was telling me about a book on migration he had recently finished reading.

For me, the comings and goings of the birds were always associated with the changing of the seasons.

We waved *bon voyage* to the geese as the days shortened and darkened with the fall, and welcomed them back as the first harbingers of spring in March.

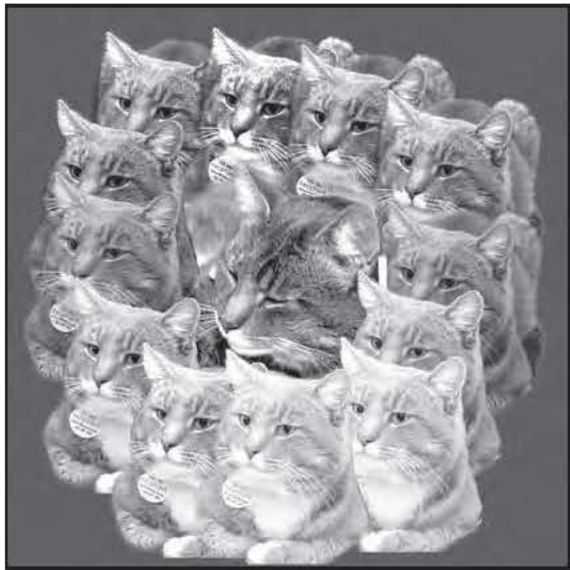
We pictured birds and other creatures leaving the coming cold for warmer places like the snowbirds heading to Florida.

Not so, apparently; it's all about

Pet of the Week

Hi. I'm a handsome, friendly boy who enjoys attention. I was brought to Dakin as a stray after I was found roaming the city streets. I'm social, playful, and very talkative! I can also be affectionate

and sweet. It feels so good to get pets, especially on my head! After coming to Dakin, I have decided that my days on the streets are over. I'm looking forward to lots of



cozy beds and sunny windows. I can't wait to meet my new family and start the next chapter of my life! By the way, I'm a member of the **Lonely Hearts Club** so my adoption fee is 50% off!

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

“PUMPKIN KEN”

Senior Center Activities November 24 through 28

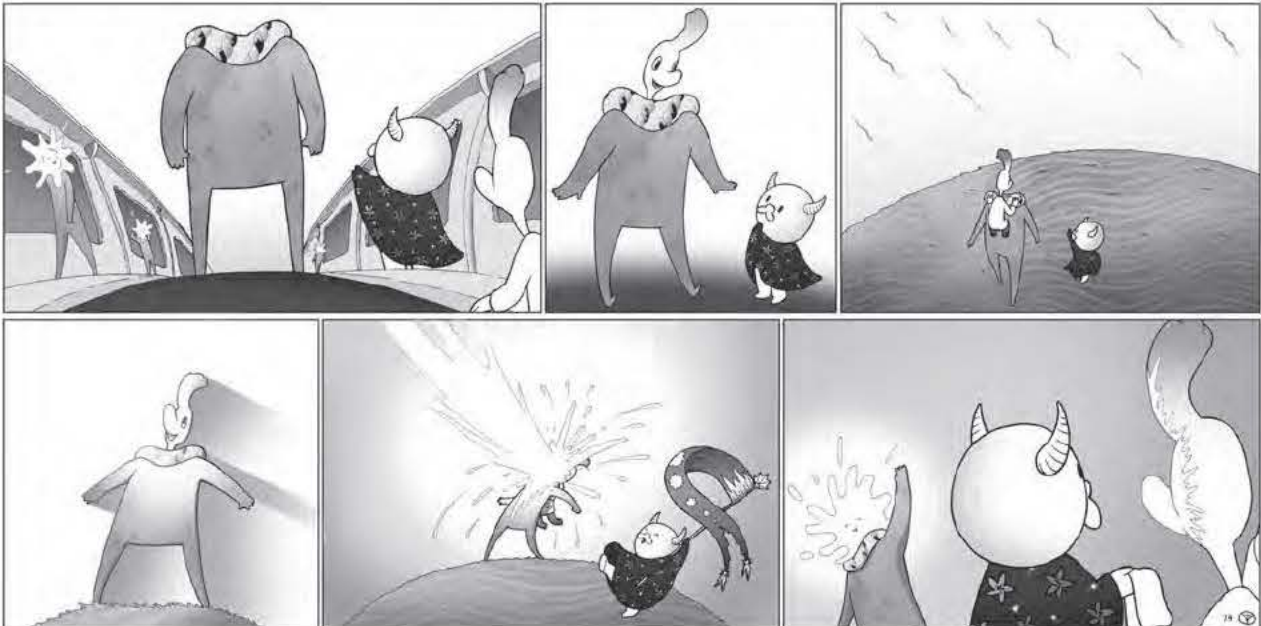
GILL and MONTAGUE
Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.
All fitness classes are supported by a grant 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 11/24
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday: 11/25
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Five Crowns
Wednesday 11/26
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday: 11/27 Closed
Friday: 11/28
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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 11/24
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12:30 Movie
Tuesday 11/25
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday 11/26
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo
Thursday 11/27 Closed
Friday 11/28
9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.
Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL
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.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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



By FRED CICETTI

Q. Is it worth getting shots for my allergies?

Immunotherapy, also known as allergy shots or vaccinations, can alleviate allergy symptoms. However, shots don't work on all allergies or all people.

Doctors advise against allergy shots if you take a beta blocker for high blood pressure or heart problems. If you're considering immunotherapy, seek the advice of a good allergist.

Allergy shots are a series of scheduled injections meant to desensitize you to specific allergens – the substances that trigger an allergic response. The usual schedule is a shot once or twice a week for about three to six months. After that, you'll need a shot about once a month for three to five years.

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Shooting Up Against Allergies

Allergy shots are commonly used to treat allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and asthma. Allergy shots may also control allergic reactions to stinging insects, such as bees, yellow jackets, hornets and wasps. But the shots are not effective for food allergies.

If you have seasonal hay fever, you may be allergic to pollens from trees, grasses or weeds. If you have year-round discomfort, you may be sensitive to indoor allergens such as dust mites, cockroaches, mold or pet dander.

The common symptoms of allergic rhinitis are itchy eyes, nose, or throat; nasal congestion, runny nose, watery eyes, chest congestion or wheezing. If your eyes also become red and swollen, you suffer from allergic conjunctivitis.

Before starting allergy shots, your doctor may use a skin test to confirm that you have allergies and determine which specific allergens cause your signs and symptoms. During the test, a small amount of the suspected allergen is scratched into your skin and the area is then observed for about 20 minutes. Swelling and redness indicate an allergy to the substance.

The shots won't give you immediate relief. You'll probably see improvement in the first year of treatment. The most noticeable improvement often happens during the second year. By the third year, most people are desensitized to the allergens contained in the shots.

For some people, successful treatment leads to a life without allergy symptoms. For others, shots must continue on a long-term basis to keep allergy symptoms at bay.

An allergic reaction is a complex chain of events that involves many cells, chemicals and tissues throughout the body. While there is no cure for allergic disease, there are many medications available to lessen symptoms. About 50 million Americans suffer from an allergy.

Major allergic diseases include: allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, asthma, atopic dermatitis (eczema), hives (urticaria), and reactions to substances such as food, latex, medications, and insect stings.

We don't know why some substances trigger allergies and others do not. We also don't understand why every person does not react to allergens. A family history of allergies is the single most important factor that predisposes a person to develop allergies.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Agent Orange; Lacto-Fermentation; Science Fiction

Friday November 21, 7 p.m.
“Agent Orange in Vietnam”

Pat Hynes, retired Professor of Environmental Health and director of Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, recently visited Vietnam to explore the ongoing impacts of Agent Orange, used by the United States during the Vietnam War.

By the end of the war, nearly 5 million Vietnamese had been exposed to Agent Orange, resulting in an estimated 400,000 deaths and disabilities and a half million birth defects across 3 generations.

She visited the Vietnam Friendship Village Project in Hanoi, where young Agent Orange victims

live and receive rehabilitation, and other facilities built by American and Vietnamese war veterans.

Hynes will speak, show photos and discuss the movement for U.S. government compensation for Agent Orange victims and contamination in Vietnam. She documents the minimal US-Vietnam collaboration to clean up Agent Orange-dioxin sites at former US bases.

Traprock's Vietnam Peace Village Fund hopes to raise \$10,000 to support 25 annual scholarships for child Agent Orange victims.

Hynes has worked on urban issues; environmental justice; and feminism at Boston University

School of Public Health, and has won numerous awards.

She is the author and editor of 7 books, including The Recurring Silent Spring and, most recently, the textbook Urban Health: Readings in the Social, Built and Physical Environments of U.S. Cities.

She is currently publishing and speaking on the health effects of war and militarism on society and on women, in particular, and climate justice, and renewable energy.

Saturday, November 22
10 a.m. “Lacto-Fermented Foods: Presentation with Luc Bodin”
7 p.m. Sci-Fi movie: Serenity

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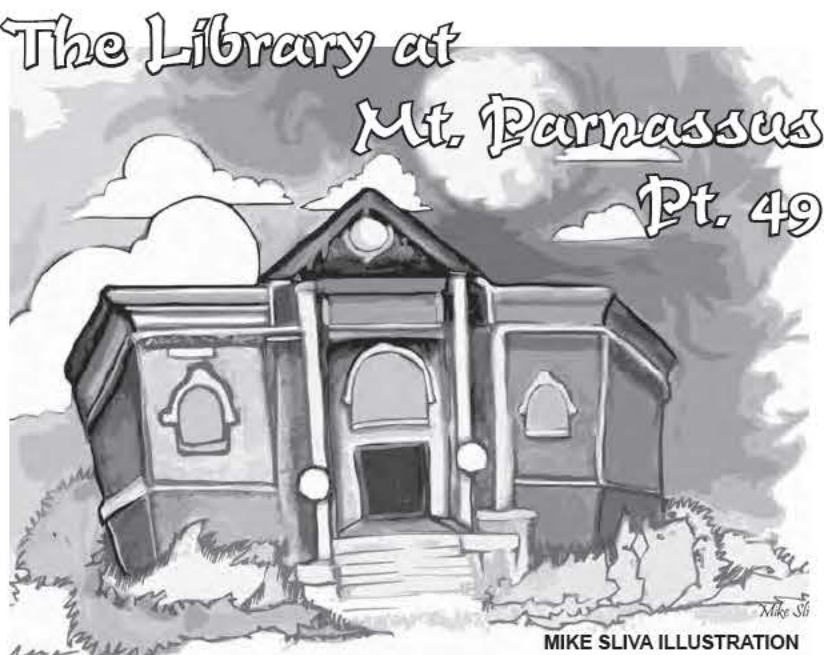
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"I'm fine," I lied...



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

The waitress, Iona, had told me she had recently applied for a full time job at the riding stables down at the University of Attica. If she got the job, she would leave the Golden Mean for good.

But for now I was drawn back to the Mean each night not by the cheer of drink and companionship, nor by the glittering lights woven into the mesh netting that sagged forlornly from the scared tin ceiling of the bar, but by Iona's gracefulness alone, and the gray, almost lunar light that shone at odd moments in her eyes.

It was a tarnished silver light, compounded by the brilliant smile she would occasionally turn in my direction, as I clung like a castaway to a whiskey-soaked spar of pitted, cigarette-burned varnished oak.

"Can I get you another?" she asked, speaking to me in sign.

I had too much wax in my ears.

"No. I'm fine," I lied. I swirled a tepid ounce of amber fluid in the bottom of my glass.

But when she walked away I called out to the thinning air where her shape hung briefly in a haze of disappointment amid the flight patterns of drunken fruit flies, "I love you.

There is no hope for me. I have forgotten how to breathe. Come back to me. Together we could become the sunken treasure that we seek, if only you would come back to me..."

"And bring that bottle with you!" yelled the inebriate to my right, a coarse man named Orin.

I ducked out the back door of the bar into the frozen snow, cursing my ineptitude with women, a fate that had pursued me bitterly my entire life.

When my black cat, Lucifer, is not expecting a gesture of affection from me, when she is sleeping or almost sleeping, stretched out on the windowsill in the dusty sun, and I am leaving by the front door, having fed and petted her and let her sleep warm on my lap while I read the news from foreign lands, and she has moved over to her perch by

the front door where she can doze and dream of field mice in autumn windrows and wake to the sound of children skating by, their mothers three or four steps behind and calling after them with imprecations harsh as crows from fear of traffic, and the memories of their own mothers calling after them, when she is in this self-satisfied equilibrium between the street, the wet cat nose smudged glass, and the familiar musty smells of home and hallway, then, if I stop for a moment, and run my fingers over the satin ruff of fur on the back of her neck, where she can never reach, she will rouse and make a noise of pleasure and surprised affection, like the sound of a small thumb running down the delicate teeth of a tortoiseshell comb, but sleepier and happier and more delighted, a sound that makes us both feel shy and pleased all over, although we repeat this ritual each day while the pale sun lingers in the latitude of the drifting feline alleys of her dreams.

But the next morning, when I got outside, I found broken glass on the front steps again. Another pane had blown down from the haunted mansard windows on the third floor. I only hoped it hadn't hit some passerby on the sidewalk when it fell.

I looked, but saw no sign of bloodstains in the snow.

I turned the corner and bumped into Fager, standing in front of his used computer store, smoking the first cigarette of the morning as he stood beside the snow-covered planter.

"What's new?" I asked.

"Living the dream," he said. He said that every morning when I found him standing there, waiting for customers to break their computers.

"Living the dream."

That night, the wind came up, rattling the casements, trying to get in. I pulled the blankets closer.

At three o'clock I woke to find myself curled in a fetal position with my knees up to my chest. I was shivering.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Predatory Creep Reported in Montague Center; Police Nab Turners Burglary Suspect on the Scene with a Burglarious Instrument

Monday, 11/10

5:22 a.m. Burglar alarm and door found open at Crestview Liquor on Unity Street. Investigated.

9:28 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with an officer regarding an issue with a classmate's father threatening the caller's child. Investigated.

10:49 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports that her company's paychecks were stolen from her unlocked car at her residence yesterday. Referred to an officer.

5:49 p.m. Report of breaking and entering at a Davis Street residence sometime over the past two days. Report taken.

7:23 p.m. Caller reports that there was just a male in the Rendezvous who was screaming, yelling, and making threats toward her. Investigated.

Tuesday, 11/11

2:52 a.m. Burglar alarm at Kali B's Wings and Things. Responding officer found open door in rear. Cash box located in a nearby dumpster during the investigation of another commercial breaking and entering.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime with the intent to commit a felony; possessing a burglarious instrument; vandalism, damage, or defacement of property; and larceny under \$250.

4:12 a.m. Burglar alarm at Turners Falls Pizza House. Suspect found in basement and detained.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with breaking and entering a building in the nighttime with the intent to commit a felony; vandalism, damage, or defacement of property; breaking into a depository; possessing a burglarious instrument; and receiving a stolen credit card.

10 a.m. Party from Millers Falls Road requesting his options regarding a female hunter who has been hunting on his property. Advised of options and given number for Environmental Police.

11:18 a.m. Officer advises that a survey crew on the Montague City Road end of Greenfield Road is causing a hazard. Crew advised that they will need a detail officer in order to continue working. Crew opted to wrap it up for today. Worker advises that since this is a state job, they intend to use flagmen for details instead of local officers. Crew advised that they must have one or the other

to direct traffic.

12 p.m. Caller states that her cat is missing and suspects that her son stole him and traded him for drugs. Caller was not home upon officer's arrival; spoke with son, who denied taking the cat but offered to help look for it. Caller called back later and requested to speak with an officer.

12:45 p.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering at Jake's Tavern, likely overnight; damage to door discovered when establishment opened today. No entry made, but small tear observed in screen. Investigated.

5:17 p.m. 911 call from a female stating that she had been punched in the face three times by another female in the alley outside her residence on Fourth Street. Incident was reportedly filmed by a third female. Officer spoke at length with both parties and found that "fight" was mutual; no injuries other than feelings. All involved have agreed to go separate ways.

Wednesday, 11/12

12:44 p.m. First caller reports that her tenant's dog is loose and going after her chickens. First caller placed on hold to answer a 911 call from the first caller's sister (second caller), who is the owner of the dog. Second caller refused to identify herself or answer any questions, requested an officer to Old Leverett Road, and hung up. Third caller from Gunn Road reports that the dog in question was just at her house going after her chickens. Officer spoke with involved parties. One of the first caller's chickens was killed. The sisters will work out restitution among themselves. Two of the Gunn Road chickens were cornered, but appeared not to be injured. All parties advised of options; copy of call left for animal control officer.

11:33 p.m. Vehicle vs. deer on Federal Street. Driver uninjured. Deer still on scene; unknown if deceased. Report taken.

Thursday, 11/13

8:59 a.m. Caller from St. Stanislaus Society reports that a vehicle with no plates has been in the parking lot of this establishment for several months. Officer retrieved VIN number and former plate number from inspection sticker and went to registered owner's address to follow up.

11:25 a.m. Caller (11 year old female) reports that a man was just following her from the bus stop in

Montague Center; states it is the same man that her mother reported to the MPD as having followed her before. Male last seen running on Station Street toward Main Street: white, 20s, tall, average build, black hair. Officers spoke with the girl and her mother and checked the area.

2:50 p.m. Report of multiple instances of illegal dumping on Third Street. Report taken.

8:16 p.m. Neighbor of family in Montague Center whose daughter has been followed from the bus stop by a suspicious male called to report that she thinks she may have seen this male party on several occasions, most recently 2 weeks ago. She said that she has seen him between 9:30 p.m. and midnight in the area of Montague Center School. Information passed along to prior investigating officers. Caller also reports that today she was in the area of the Center School and noticed "sing marks" on the outside of the wall surrounding the play structure, as if someone attempted to set the structure on fire. Officer will check the play structure for damage.

Friday, 11/14

9:22 a.m. Report of a maroon or purple Subaru with no plates parked near the Greenfield Cooperative Bank on Avenue A for the past several weeks. Per earlier call, officer spoke to the vehicle's owner on 11/1 and advised her that the vehicle must either be properly registered or removed from the public way. Vehicle towed. Officer issued a citation which he was unable to deliver to the owner; citation will be at the station.

12:50 p.m. Report of a horse running on Hatchery Road toward Greenfield Road. Unable to locate.

4 p.m. Caller from West Mineral Road reports that his neighbor continually lets his dogs run loose; on several occasions, caller has nearly struck one of them as they run in the road. Animal control officer advised.

9:38 p.m. Caller from Depot Street reports that he was out walking his dog and heard what he thought was a female voice screaming, though it might possibly have been an animal of some kind. Area search negative.

Saturday, 11/15

4:41 a.m. Report of loud screaming from area of Winthrop Street. Caller unable to say definitively

where noise was originating or if it was human or animal. Officers checked area; nothing unusual found.

10:56 a.m. Caller reporting a dead cat on Millers Falls road; requesting that someone come pick it up as his daughter saw it and is now very upset. Services rendered.

3:58 p.m. Report of young child being harassed and possibly assaulted by another young child at Unity Park. Investigated.

4:04 p.m. Caller reports finding suspicious items while hiking near Wendell Road and Mormon Hollow Road: pictures of what appeared to be young females in bathing suits; possible ejaculate on the pictures; children's shoes and some clothing. Items retrieved and brought to station.

4:59 p.m. Vehicle struck house on Turners Falls Road; airbag deployed. Driver refused medical attention. Building and electrical inspectors contacted and en route. Citation issued for marked lanes violation and impeded operation.

6:23 p.m. Caller reports that a male party in the F.L. Roberts parking lot is screaming racial slurs at her child. Unable to locate.

6:52 p.m. Shoplifting at F.L. Roberts. Investigated.

9:10 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; operating to endanger; marked lanes violation; and red light violation.

9:12 p.m. Caller from K Street complains that his upstairs neighbor is doing some "illegal tattooing." Caller has already spoken with an officer and notified the building owner; would like to speak to an officer again sometime in the next few days.

Sunday, 11/16

7:49 a.m. Television reported stolen from an Avenue A apartment. Caller suspects that her son sold the TV for drugs. Report taken.

11:19 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Central Street; downstairs tenant reports what sounds like people banging on the floors in the second floor apartment. Parties not home upon officer's arrival.

3:23 p.m. Loud music complaint on Seventh Street. Officers spoke to landlord, who was source of music; he agreed to turn it down.

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LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on November 18, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Community Gardens Win Improvement Grant

The Great Falls Community Gardens, located at the corners of Fourth and L streets and Third and L streets in downtown Turners Falls, were recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund in Montpelier, Vermont.

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund is a small grants program designed to foster and give voice to grassroots environmental initiatives throughout the region. It provides grants of up to \$2,500 to fuel civic engagement, local activism, and social change.

The grant awarded to the Great Falls Commu-

nity Gardens will go to help build a small tool shed and to buy new gardening tools.

Wendell Forum Plans for Growth

On November 9, about 20 Wendell residents attended a public forum put on by the Community Development Planning Committee. The purpose of the forum was to gain input on the community development plan from townspeople, so the committee could continue to refine the plan.

Each section of the plan was presented and discussed by a committee member. Presentations were followed by a brainstorming session, adding ideas from the participants to the appropriate chapter outline. Those in attendance were given colored dots to emphasize or object to specific proposals.

On the topic of economic development, town assets were listed including high retention of youth, high self-employment, a well-educated population, natural beauty, and a supportive, creative environment. Among the deficits noted were a lack of services and transportation.

In the brainstorming session, residents proposed a number of ideas for economic development, including supporting the growth of home-based businesses by joining with residents of Leverett and Shutesbury to bring in wireless internet service; developing a cottage industrial park, a Wendell mail order or web order site, and more.

A business-barter directory was also proposed, as was the idea of reviving the dormant community newspaper, *The Wendell Post*, with the corresponding website.

MAL DEVISA from pg B1

was a little dark, but thoughtful, and forebodingly, eerily beautiful in the way that only spiritual music can be.

Mal's voice, meanwhile, stands in the tradition of the great jazz and R&B singers: tender and imperceptibly soft one minute, then cart-wheeling into the stratosphere the next. She seems to revel, to play in the vast sonic province defined by her vocal range.

Her album *Mal* covers a lot of territory in its nine songs. Some would make appropriate lullabies in their mood and volume.

One track has all the feel, including hand claps, of theatrical gangs getting ready to rumble à la "Grease." In a few others, she demonstrates the remarkable jazz-influenced skill of divorcing her voice from the dominant melody being played beneath it.

There is a flooring moment on the album where all instrumentation drops out, leaving her voice floating above the world like a graceful, high-altitude weather balloon.

The *Reporter* spoke with her following her set. It went something like this:

What does Mal Devisa mean?

MD: Nothing. It's a deconstructed phonetic respelling of 'Maldives Islands' which I did a report on in Elementary School. I'm attracted to the sound of the words.

What do you think about Turners Falls?

MD: Well one time I tried to get the *MR* to hype a show here and I talked to someone on the phone for twenty minutes but they just didn't understand me.

Do you have a mission as a musician?

MD: To tell the truth at all costs. Especially the uncomfortable truth.

Do you have an origin story?

MD: From 12 to 17 years old, I played in Who'da Funk It. I sort of grew up in the band. We played with everyone: punk bands, indie bands, hip-hop groups. The band, and the shows, were my 'safe spaces.'

(The reporter did not manage to ask the next question, because Florist began playing,

but it would have been, "Why do so many funk bands have 'funk' in their name?")

After Florist, Sunday's show finished with Turners Falls transplants and multi-instrumentalists Noel'le of Loone, and Lior of Music Was My First Gay Lover, playing as a combination of their solo projects as Music Was My First Gay Loone.

Their dynamic personal chemistry and differing-but-complementary voices were a joy to experience, like watching Cat Stevens fall in love with Janice Joplin on the city bus, staring into each other's eyes across the dirty floor of the aisle.

While this show is now just a memory or possibly a fantasy, mark down on your future scheduler Mal Devisa's return to the Brick House, which will take place on Monday, December 1 at 7 p.m., part of a local opening contingent for Ralph White of Texas country-punk legends the Bad Livers, and Maine-based singer-songwriter Nathan Colby.



SUPPORT from page B1

to change. She's living proof.

Her story should inspire the rest of us to take a fearless inventory of our own choices and to work to become better people. All of us, substance-free or not, have room for improvement. None of us is perfect.

I have listened to Heather's words over and over and they bring me to tears every time. The way she takes total responsibility for her actions, her devotion to her kids, and her commitment to helping others in recovery, are nothing short of awe-inspiring. I wish I had half of her cheerfulness, can-do attitude, and self-acceptance.

Heather represented us with honesty, strength, wisdom, and clarity. Her story gives us real reason to hope that we can come together and, as Sheriff Donelan says, de-stigmatize this illness so we can get on top of it and save our young people. By the brave and matter-of-fact way she put a face to addiction and recovery, she certainly de-stigmatized it for me.

Watching that show was a turning point in my understanding of what we can do as a community to rally and support people like Heather, people who are committed to the hard work of recovery, and people who aren't there yet but who are worth reaching out to.

On that note, I attended a meeting back in the fall organized by Officer Jason Haskins to address safety and quality-of-life concerns in Greenfield. While it is a fledgling group, I really hope that anyone who, like me, is concerned about our addicted and/or homeless citizens, especially our young people, will offer suggestions about how we as a community can provide them support.

At the meeting, I mentioned a

group, MUSHROOM, whose work I witnessed in Morgantown, WV, where there is a significant homeless population. MUSHROOM dispatches volunteer medical professionals, health profession students, and good samaritans to check up on people living on the streets, pray with them, witness their struggles, and honor each other's humanity.

In my dream world, we'd see GCC nursing students, concerned citizens, church-based social justice warriors and others fanning out to offer our homeless neighbors donated creature comforts – toiletries, blankets, camping supplies, homemade baked goods, and most importantly, words of encouragement. We'd let them know that there are people ready to help when they are ready to help themselves.

I hope that anyone who is interested in joining with me to learn more about MUSHROOM's model will contact Officer Haskins and see if we can set up something and get organized as soon as possible. Maybe it sounds like touchy-feely do-gooder b.s., but you know what? It can't hurt. It's a start.

Speaking of young people struggling with addiction, I have a message to every one of my former students who is using -- those of you who have confided in me about your problem, those who don't know that I know you have one, and those whose problem is still below the radar:

I believe in you, every single one of you.

I truly believe you can beat this if you reach out for help and don't give up. The first, second, third and tenth attempts might not work. You might not click with the counselor or sponsors you encounter. The treatment plan might not be the right fit. You

might have a bad week and relapse. You might get pulled back into using by your friends.

Don't give up. Keep going back to the doctor, and keep an open mind about treatment options. Use your energy and good humor to put 100% into your recovery.

As I used to tell you when you'd be wandering the halls or getting into mischief somewhere in the school other than the classroom where you were supposed to be: when you are under my care, I don't care if you're 17 or 20. Your parents and the whole community entrusted me to watch out for you, to ensure your safety.

I took *in loco parentis* responsibility very seriously then, and I didn't stop caring just because you graduated or dropped out, or because I left the school systems. I care about you to this day as much as if you were my own children. And I still feel responsible for letting you know that I have not given up on any of you, and I never will.

You all made me laugh and pull my hair out, gave me so many great memories, and I really want you all to get to be my own age so you can be tormented by your own teenagers.

And I'm going to tell you something that you might not want to hear: if you are using any opiates, no matter how low a dose, to take the edge off life's rough edges, at all, ever, once a month or once a week, let alone daily, you already have a problem.

The addictive qualities of these drugs are beyond any willpower and self-control you can exert. You will need those strengths to get off them, sure, but you won't be able to stay off without support from others. So ask for it, and accept it when it is offered. We love you way too much to lose you.

I'll be first in line to celebrate your sobriety as much as a graduation or any other important accomplishment, because working toward a healthy life is as important as anything else you'll ever do.

Finally, in the spirit of Heather's honesty, I'd like to share a story about my own youth, one that I believe confirms Dr. Potee's assessment of Big Pharma's responsibility for this crisis.

In 1990, on my last day of 10th grade and a week before my 16th birthday, I was in a serious motorcycle accident. I was thrown off my high school sweetheart's bike after we hit loose gravel on a sharp curve, and wound up with 3 shattered vertebrae and a cleanly, if gruesomely, fractured left femur.

People say you forget pain, but I haven't. I also haven't forgotten the shot of morphine that consumed me while my surgeons whirled up the drill and prepared to pull my leg into traction. Bliss does not begin to describe it.

I knew my back and leg were broken, and was vaguely aware that I might never walk again, but I didn't care. For that moment, everything was right in my world.

One of my next vivid memories was a day or so later when I heard my mother tearfully asking the nurses if they couldn't give me something more for my pain. My whole body was literally throbbing with pain and fever. And I remember the nurses telling her, "It's hard to see her like this, but she's young and she'll heal. 90% of her pain will be gone within 48 hours of her surgery. *We don't give young kids more of these powerful drugs than absolutely necessary, because we don't want them to get hooked.*"

I could never adequately thank

those nurses and medical staff who heeded not only medical protocol in 1990, but common sense. They were right. I went home two weeks later with 7 Percocets to help me sleep for those first achy nights. No refills. It took a while, but I healed, just like they said.

Then in 1995 and 1998 when I was pregnant with my sons, my very old-fashioned, no-nonsense obstetrician in Holyoke, Dr. Mark Singer, told me there are significant downsides to pain medication during childbirth, that my body was after all intended to birth babies, and that I could do it, and would be happy I did. So I did it, twice.

I am confident that if I'd had my accident in 1996, I'd be an opiate addict today, because I would've been plied with excessive and unnecessary pain medication, the pharmaceutical companies skipping all the way to the bank.

And if my obstetrician had not graduated from medical school in the late '60s, I probably would've never experienced the empowerment and joy of birthing children without medicine in our systems.

I pay homage here to the doctors who believe in us, who didn't let the industry override their common sense and respect for the body. I'm not particularly religious, but the phrase "There but for the grace of God go I" is the one I offer as an expression of my appreciation.

Because, like Heather stated so simply and so powerfully: I'm grateful. Thanks to her honesty and bravery, I want to likewise offer my support to young people who need it.

I leaned on others for a long time, and now I'm strong enough to encourage you.

You can do it. I believe in you.



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EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS & MUSEUMS:

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Face Nook*. Small self-portraits on canvas created by current and former students in the art department at Greenfield Community College on display through December 6. All proceeds from these sales will be donated to the Art Department. Most canvases are 6x6 inches.

UMass Fine Arts Center, Amherst: Elizabeth Keithlines: *Only The Strong Survive*, full-scale woven wire animal sculptures on display in the Hampden Gallery. *The Meek Shall Inherit*, curated by Bernard Leibov and Elizabeth Keithline with multimedia works by Megan Evans, TaeHee Kim, Poger Peet, Randy Pumbo, Deborah Simon and Meredith Stern. Also *Dawn Howkinson Siebel: Animalia: The Endangered*, oil portraits of endangered species. On display through 12/2.

CALL FOR ART:

RiverCulture is looking for artists and designers to decorate the windows between #106 and #112 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The theme is "Winter". Electricity is available and the use of lights is strongly encouraged. Installation between 11/29 and 12/5 and will remain in the windows through January. Contact Suzanne LoManto: (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com

Call for art submissions for the Fourth Annual *Triple S: Sensual, Sexual, Smut* show. Looking for a wide spectrum of erotic art from regional artists, previous participants encouraged. Exhibit opens February 2015 at Nina's Nook, Turners Falls. Send to naban@verizon.net before Jan 23. www.ninasnook.com

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Greenfield Community College,

Main Campus: *Silvia*, GCC Fall-Theater Production. A comedy by A.R. Gurney, directed by Tom Geha, GCC student cast and crew, Sloan Theater, 7 p.m.

Dance Night: *Swing and Waltz Dancing*. Dance instruction included. Held at the Shelburne Senior Center, Shelburne Falls. \$, 7-9 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Butterfly Swing Band Music & Swing Party*, including dance lessons, \$, 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards*, Americana, old country, and harmony singing, commanding crafted melodies and poignant, introspective lyrics, backing them with delicate arrangements on ukulele, clarinet, guitar and banjo. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, Outlaw Country, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines*, Marlene Lavelle and *Tory Hanna and the Pond-*

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *Silvia*, GCC Fall-Theater Production. A comedy by A.R. Gurney, directed by Tom Geha, GCC student cast and crew, Sloan Theater. Performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Gender-role-free Contra Dance*, 7 to 10 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie: *Serenity*, 7 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *Smith Orchestra Presents Fall for Beethoven* featuring soloist Liza Stepanova and conductor Jonathan Hirsh with works by Beethoven, Grieg and Gounod, Sage Hall, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Kevin O'Rourke and Lo Fine*. Indie/slow core/americana, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Snaz*, a young indie rock band with all original songs, 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Ladies in Jazz Featuring Samirah Evans and Marcia Gomes*, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dynamite Johnny*, John Clark, Guy DeVito & Billy Klock, 9 p.m.

The Pushkin, Greenfield: *Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth*, \$, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lexi Weege, Street Change*. Indie/folk/songwriter, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: Gerald McFarland reads from his new novel, *What The Owl Saw*, 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Pat & Tex LaMountain CD Release Concert of Rivers, Roads & Bridges* and Thanksgiving Celebration. Pat & Tex with band members John White on bass and Rick Mauran on drums, along with special guests and Anand Nayak, Zoe Darrow, and Chris Brashear and pianist/composer Jerry Noble, \$, 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jim Matus*, solo laoutar/ world fusion/jazz/ trance jam, 9 p.m.

Monday, November 24

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Smith College, Northampton: *Music in the Noon Hour*, Latin-American Thanksgiving Music by Alberto Ginastera, Silves-

tre Revueltas, and Reinaldo Moya. Liza Stepanova, piano and Francesca Anderegg, violin. Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall, 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Square Dance*, 6 to 10 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lexi Weege*, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Ralph White, Nathan Colby, Mal Devisa, and Tarp*. All ages/substance free. \$, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock by Bruce Scofield & Mark Feller, 8 p.m.



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FOOTBALL from page B1
Then to the 32.

But the Green Hornets tightened up, and Turners was facing a fourth and 5. Jalen Sanders converted the first down crashing his way all the way to the 10. And as the first quarter was winding down, Turners had first and goal from the 10.

This is where Powertown unraveled. A bad snap gave Blue a second and 11. In the next two plays, Turners could only manage 2 yards and on fourth and 9, and Tionne Brown was sacked, giving the ball and the momentum back to McCann.

McCann took over on their own 17-yard line. The Blue D forced them back to the 14 and then to the 11. But on third and 16, the game changed. For the first time in the game, Turners was unable to force the punt. Although Turners had shut down McCann's ground game, the Hornets found success in the air.

McCann completed a pass to the 35, then completed three more. Turners, not giving up, forced another third down, this time on the 48.

But on third and 21, another completed pass got the ball to the 18. And then, at 6:10 of the second quarter, McCann scored a TD, and the Tribe was in the unfamiliar situation of being behind 6 to 0.

The second half played out much the same way as the first had, with both Defenses keeping the respec-

tive offenses out of the end zone. At 2:14 of the third quarter, McCann scored their final touchdown of the afternoon. The Tribe had forced a fourth and 2, but in what would become the key play of the game, the QB ran a keeper into the end zone, and Turners was now down 12 to nothing.

With their backs against the wall, Turners began their next series on their own 31. The Hornets' defense continued to hit hard, but the Tribe didn't give up. It was now the fourth quarter and Turners was down by two touches and McCann kept hitting them. Turners continued to crash and smash, but McCann forced a third and 18.

The Boys in Blue could have easily given up. Throw in the towel and take that long bus ride back home. But these are the Cardiac Kids. Tionne Brown hit Jalen Sanders with a 52-yard touchdown pass. And the Tribe was on the scoreboard, 12 to 7.

With new hope, down by only 5 points, Turners' D came alive. On third and 2, a swarm of Indians crashed into the ball carrier and forced a fourth and 4.

The Offensive Eleven then took over at their own 34-yard line. Alex Carlisle crashed and dashed to the 47. But this is where the series stalled -- or seemed to. Trent Bourbeau found his way to the midfield marker.

A no-gain on second down and an incomplete pass led to a fourth and 7: an obvious punting situation. But did I mention these are the Cardiac Kids?

With 7:11 left in the game, facing fourth and 7, Turners lined up to punt. Jalen Sanders took the snap, set up to punt but then put the ball in his throwing hand. He completed the pass and Turners got the first down on the Green 33.

Trent was stopped on the line of scrimmage, and an almost-interception led to a third and 10. The Tribe crashed ahead 9 yards and were facing another fourth down. Fourth and 1 from the 24. Tionne Brown tried a keeper, but when the sticks came out, it wasn't enough. With 5:35 seconds left to play, McCann took over.

The Blue D would not allow McCann to keep the ball. They held the Hornets to a 1 yard gain and then a chop block penalty moved the ball back, giving the Hornets a second and 24. On the next play, McCann tried a pass, but Tionne Brown read the play and made the interception. And with four minutes 40 seconds left in the game, Powertown took over on the 47.

The two lines banged into each other and Turners was able to get 8 yards in three plays. But on fourth and 2, Turners was unable to convert the first down and with two minutes 40 seconds left in the game,

McCann took possession on their own 35.

Turners had a final opportunity to stop McCann. But with 2:25 seconds left on the clock, facing a third and 3, McCann was able to get the first down, and with that first down, they dashed the hopes of the True Blue Faithful.

So where are we now? The Turners Falls Football Indians are no longer undefeated. They lost one game, and will not repeat as Western Mass Champions this year.

I could make the Cinderella analogy: How their coach-and-4 has turned back into a pumpkin. (Or in this case coaches-and-24). I could make that analogy but I won't. Simply because it wasn't a Cinderella season.

Because after the first four or five games, Powertown was the favorite. They were the team to beat, the team that other teams tried their best against. Not some small-town school with no business playing as good as they did.

And now, now that the pressure's off, the Boys in Blue can do what they do best: have fun and play football. There's one more game to be played. It will be the last game this squad gets to play.

One more chance to don the pads. One more time to play as a team. One more time to have fun. One more game. Thee game.

BIRDS from page B1

swing from.

The birds, which must have fabulous recall or homing instincts, caught on right away and have been feeding heavily if not viciously.

They are loud in their praise of the new venture, and chatty in the extreme. What a pleasure for us watching from the warmth of the indoors!

As the cold descends, we wrap more warmly in layers before venturing out to work in the yard or take a brisk walk.

Come the snows, we'll enjoy the occasional sliding party with the grand kids or a snowshoe walk in the woods or the meadow, but more and more we enjoy long periods nestled by the wood stove with a good book.

Which brings us back to the bears and their winter sleep. Perhaps that's what we do too: hibernate inside, dreaming of the next season's warmth and the planting of the next garden. Isn't that a kind of migration? No, that's hibernation, without food at that.

Maybe there's something to that notion of migration and the food supply after all.

However you take on the approaching winter season, we wish you joy of the warm fire, and dreams of the garden to come.



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