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The Montague Reporter

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\$1

YEAR 13 - NO. 4

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 30, 2014

By A Narrow Vote, Leverett Upholds Its Restrictive Cell Tower Bylaw

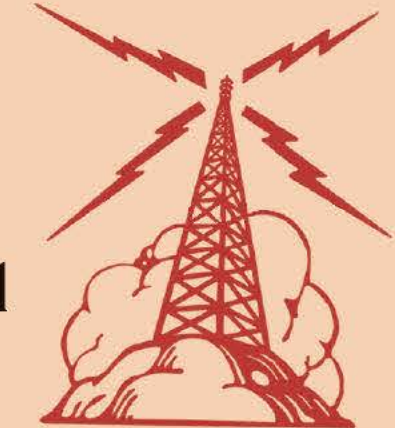
By DAVID DETMOLD

Proponents of loosening setback requirements for siting cell towers in Leverett – including the planning board, the zoning board, the selectboard, and the town public safety departments – ran up against the same determined block of opposition at special town meeting on Tuesday as they ran into in 2012 when they tried and fell a few votes short in an attempt to pass a similar bylaw.

On Tuesday the margin was four votes short of the required two-thirds majority needed to amend zoning bylaws: 60 voters were for looser setback requirements, but 36 were opposed.

It cannot be said, as it often was in the wake of town meeting's rejection of looser setbacks for cell towers in 2012, that a number of people had already left town meeting before the bylaw change came up for discussion, leaving opponents to wield an outsized influence on the final vote.

The 2012 vote took place at the end of a long annual town meet-



ing. On Tuesday, the entire special town meeting took less than an hour and a half – and the bulk of the time was devoted to a thorough airing of opinion on cell phones, cell towers, and the alternatives facing the town for their use and siting. No one was observed to leave the room before the votes were counted.

"How many people here listen to WFCR?" asked the planning board's Richard Nathhorst, capital project manager at UMass. He got better than a two-thirds majority on that one, and then proceeded to explain that the broadcasting tower for WFCR put out 50,000 watts of power, dwarfing any emissions that might emanate from an average cell phone tower.

"If you're not afraid of WFCR, you shouldn't be afraid of cell phone towers," he concluded.

With spotty cell phone service in town, Phyllis Herda said, "I was in a serious accident and I couldn't let anybody know," after skidding on black ice. "I'm a senior citizen. If power goes out, I've got nothing.

see CELL TOWER page A5

STATE GRANTS MONTAGUE \$272,000 FOR SKATE PARK

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "I've been friends with a lot of people who were fighting for this since we were teenagers," said Amy Podlenski, now a Precinct 5 town meeting member, and a member of the Unity Skate Park committee.

"It's been needed for so long. I felt like the community support was so fervent that they couldn't not make it happen."

Podlenski was on hand Monday afternoon in Unity Park when a delegation from Boston, led by Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Maeve Vallely Bartlett, announced a raft of parkland, conservation and drinking water grants.

Over the weekend, word of the press conference had spread among supporters of the proposed skate park, who took its location to be a good sign. They had been keeping their fingers crossed since the springtime that Montague would be awarded a matching grant for their project under the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program.

Sure enough, the first order of business was the handing of an oversized novelty check for \$272,000 to Montague selectboard members Chris Boutwell and Mike Nelson.

That sum represents 68% of a projected cost of up to \$400,000 for the project, with just over \$40,000 raised so far by the committee and the re-



SAWYER-LAUCANNO PHOTO

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, Rep. Steve Kulik, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett, Montague selectman Chris Boutwell, Patricia Pruitt, Anne Jemas, selectman Mike Nelson, Anne Harding, Jean Hebben, Nancy Holmes, town planner Walter Ramsey, Bryan Dolan, recreation commissioners Barb Kuklewicz and Dennis Grader, Sara Pearson, Ellen Spring, Barry Scott, RiverCulture director Suzanne Lomanto, Kim Niedwiedz, and Amy Podlenski celebrate the award.

mainder, whatever it ends up being, committed by the town by a unanimous town meeting vote in May.

"We've kind of all been solicited for donations to help keep things going in the past," Boutwell joked. "I can't wait to get the park built and up and running!"

"I think this is going to make an incredible addition," added Nelson. "That derelict parking lot over there is going to look completely different in less than a year."

Turners Falls has long been a hub for skaters and their scooter- and BMX bike-riding confederates. In the late 1990s, a group of youth first

appealed to town hall for a public facility at which to legally hone their sport.

"They were very persistent in making sure that that park plan went forward," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. "And today, it's going to be realized."

The last decade and a half has seen several cycles of decay and renewal at three temporary parks, as plywood ramps deteriorated, the parks were padlocked or their leases lapsed, and new waves of advocates in turn stepped up to raise funds and share in park maintenance.

see SKATEPARK page A6

TURNERS FOOTBALL CLINCHES INTERCOUNTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

By MATT ROBINSON

ORANGE – The Turners Falls Indians clinched the Intercounty League title, en route to a 42 to 14 victory over the Mahar Senators on Friday, October 24. The win propelled Powertown to a perfect 7 and 0 record as they scored a season high 42 points.

But how important is the IC crown? With the current playoff system, it's not as important as it used to be. But, said Coach Chris Lapointe after the Mahar game,

"We're happy for it."

Each August, Coach Lapointe tells me his goals for the season, and winning the Intercounty Championship was certainly one of them. But with the playoffs looming, Coach Lapointe does not want to lose focus. He refuses to look past the Cathedral game. "You know us," he said. "We take one game at a time."

The game at hand on Friday was an away game against the Blue and Scarlet Mahar Senators. Turners Falls needed to win if they were to continue checking off items on their 2014 bucket list. And by the end of the first quarter it was an almost certainty.

Mahar received the kick and Will Roberge made the



ROBINSON PHOTO

Jalen Sanders runs through the line.

covering tackle. The Senators took over on their own 21 and immediately fumbled the rock away. And 14 seconds into the game, Turners had a first down just outside the red zone, on the Scarlet 24.

Powertown immediately instituted their hit-and-run offense. Trent Bourbeau crashed into the line and set up a second and 4 on the 18. Trent's next carry moved the ball to the 12 for a first down.

Then it was Jalen's turn. Jalen Sanders ran through everybody and put the Tribe up 6 nothing. Emmitt Turn kicked the PAT; and with 46 seconds gone in the game, Turners led 7 – 0. Emmitt has been struggling as of late but finished the game going 6 for 6 in the PAT department.

Jalen Sanders made the tackle on the ensuing kickoff and Mahar took over on their own 28. Mahar was able to move the ball into Turners' territory but a blocked pass by Tyler Charboneau forced a fourth and 6. A failed screen, stopped by Quinn Doyle, gave the ball back to Turners on downs.

Powertown took over on their own 40. Trent ran the ball twice and the Tribe was facing a third and 9. Then Tionne Brown ran a keeper but was unable to make it to the first down marker. The Tribe was facing a fourth and 4 with a lot of real estate in front of them.

The decision was made to go for it, instead of punting the ball. And Turners didn't see BALL page B6

Fairbrother Forces Resignations of Cable Advisory Committee Chairs

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO and JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – This month, selectman Mark Fairbrother asked for and received letters of resignation from Gary Earles and Eileen Dowd, co-chairs of the Montague Cable Advisory Committee (CAC). He demanded the resignations after the CAC failed to respond in a timely fashion to a public record request for CAC minutes and notes of meetings submitted by Kathleen Lynch of Montague Center.

Lynch, who is married to MCTV station manager Dean Garvin, has been a vocal critic of the CAC since the committee began deliberating over the town's contract with MCCI, which provides local cable access for residents in Montague and Gill.

Fairbrother's email of October 17 to Earles and Dowd said:

"I have prodded you both repeatedly all summer long on her [Lynch's] original request since it came in back in May. Your handling of her request has been shockingly incompetent and will prove to be an embarrassment to the CAC, the BoS and our volunteer town government in general.

"I had hoped to wait until

after the CAC had finished its assignment and delivered its final report to the BoS before taking action on Ms. Lynch's concerns, but that is no longer possible.

"Both Garry and Eileen will submit your resignations from the CAC to the Town Clerk as soon as the Committee report has been received by the BoS's office.

"If you don't think I have the authority to ask for your resignations by myself I'll be happy to get it onto the next available BoS agenda. You can go quietly or go publicly. The choice is yours, but the fiasco you have presided over for the past several months is going to end."

Fairbrother also indicated that he was turning the matter over to the town attorney for comment: "Release nothing until you hear from the lawyer or I [sic]. When we do hear from our lawyer, you will do what he advises us to do to answer Ms. Lynch's request. Do not give her agenda time."

Earles said that he was "incredibly stunned by the email and by Mark's tone." "I resigned immediately after receiving his [Fairbrother's] email... For him to shoot two of his good people, and the rest of the CAC, was a really bad move. What's the town going to do now about the



FILE PHOTO

Mark Fairbrother

Comcast license we've been working on for four years?"

Committee member Bob Mahler submitted his resignation on October 18, the day after he received a copy of Fairbrother's email. Lisa Enzer had resigned earlier this month.

Dowd also turned in a resignation letter, after delivering electronically the report regarding the extension of the MCCI contract this Tuesday.

At present only three members remain on the CAC: John Reynolds, John MacNamara and Jason Burbank.

Dowd said that she too was quite surprised by Fairbrother's message. "This could be such a deterrent to people in terms of stepping up and volunteering for town government committees. You don't volunteer for the glory, but to accomplish something for the community."

see CABLE page A5

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Building a Skate Park, And a Community

We are thrilled with the news that the state has awarded Montague a PARC grant to help build the Unity Skate Park.

The road has been long and winding, with more than a few ruts, pits, boulders and other obstacles in the way. But we've come through that, and now see a bright permanent, concrete skate park about to be built at the end of this long journey.

For almost 17 years folks have worked to make this happen. It began in the early spring of 1998 when Katren Hoyden and Sonia Basay began to notice that many of the teenagers they worked with at Montague Community Television's Family of Man project – a program to teach media skills to 'at risk' youth – were continuing to put themselves at risk in pursuit of one of their favorite pastimes: skateboarding.

Hoyden, Basay and the rest of the MCTV crew decided to help the young people of our town organize and take action on their own behalf. They found a number of likely leaders among the teens, who got themselves on the agenda of the Montague selectboard.

They went as a group to ask the town to help them build a skate park – a safe place for them to develop their sport in a world that all too soon turns dangerous for young people when there are too few job openings, too few positive role models, and too few positive outlets for their boundless energy.

Soon, the teens were able to get the town's first temporary skate park built on Second Street, with the support of the selectboard and the active help of Montague building inspector David Jensen.

The skaters, bike riders and their supporters organized benefit concerts at the Shea Theater, did bottle and can drives, and raffled off goods donated from local businesses.

Teens became adults, and many of the youth we see riding scooters, BMX bikes and skateboards in the streets of Turners today weren't even born 17 years ago. The temporary skate park has closed and re-opened three times, in multiple locations, since that first small wooden-ramped park got built on Second Street. The idea of a "real" skate park remained, at best, a dream for a long time.

Things changed in 2009 when,

after significant lobbying from a reorganized skate park committee, a skate park was included in the Unity Park rehabilitation plan.

The committee worked hard on everything from community organizing to design, unveiling plans for a truly excellent facility that would serve not just to occupy local kids but to attract visitors from far and wide to Turners Falls.

Much to their disappointment, the skate park was dropped from the 2011 CDBG process. For a time spirits flagged.

But, to their immense credit, this small band of skaters, their moms and dads and friends and others in the community kept the dream alive.

As before, they began raising their own funds through raffles, auctions and active solicitation of donations. This time around, their persistence – and the strong case they made – were met with tremendous generosity and support from throughout our towns.

To save Montague taxpayers as much money as possible, town planner Walter Ramsey, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz and skate park committee members collaborated to apply for the grant that was awarded this past Monday.

We want to say thank you to Dobosz, Ramsey, the selectboard, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. But without the amazing and tireless skate park committee, which has included dozens of people over the years, it's unlikely we'd be looking at building a skate park next spring.

We are greatly looking forward to hailing the groundbreaking. By next fall we expect to see our kids skating in Unity Park. It's been a long time coming, but it is about to arrive.

In this moment of celebration, we should also remember those advocates who are no longer with us, including Chris Gallagher, Winter Orion Clark, and Greg Ellis. We wish we could share this week's joyful news with them, and watch them ride the park when it is finished.

Thanks to all in the community who worked to make this very important addition to our town and county a reality. Your refusal to give up, and your eventual success, is testament to the fact that we live in a very special place.

Enjoy the park!



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Allen Endorses Steve Kulik

I will vote for Steve Kulik for State Representative without any reservations.

As a selectman for fourteen years in Montague, I found Steve Kulik was the legislator I trusted the most to listen to our concerns, to check the facts, to support our needs, and to respond in a quick and appropriate manner. He also found time to march in our parades, take a broom to Millers Falls for a clean-up event, and enjoy the Pumpkinfest.

Whether the issue was education or railroads, roads or open space, Steve Kulik was in our town hall, at the site, or in Boston convening others to find solutions.

With his eleven years experience as a Selectman, Steve Kulik understands what local issues are and what the give and take needs to be between reality and desire. As a representative for more than twenty years, he has learned the art of working with his colleagues and state bureaucracies to improve his district without compromising the benefits to the state as a whole.

The leverage he has gained through the respect of his peers and his constituency has led to his role now as Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee as well as his membership in committees that reflect the rural nature of our area: Small Town and Rural Caucus and the Regional School and Transportation Caucuses.

Admittedly Steve Kulik, as have all of us who have been involved in local and state government for a few years, has found that not everything works as quickly or as smoothly as hoped; but he continues to push patiently and subtly with his eyes on the future to effect the changes we need.

Please join me in voting on Nov. 4 for Steve Kulik for State Representative.

Patricia Allen
Montague

Yes on 2

The Connecticut River Watershed Council recently held our 18th annual Source to Sea Cleanup, a two-day coordinated trash cleanup along rivers and streams throughout the 4-state watershed. Despite widely accessible local recycling programs, volunteers every year find thousands of beverage containers in our rivers and along the banks.

Take, for example, a volunteer group that cleaned up a section of Connecticut River shoreline in Northampton this September. Of the bottles they collected, 91% were water, sports drinks, tea or juice containers with no deposits and only 9% were bottles with deposits.

Besides participating in cleanups like this and recycling at your own house, every state voter has the opportunity to do something to reduce the number of bottles we find in our rivers on November 4: Vote Yes On 2 to expand the bottle bill.

Currently, 80% of bottles and cans with a deposit on them are recycled, while only 23% of containers without a deposit are recycled. And with this bill, money from unclaimed deposits will go into a Clean Environment Fund, not the general treasury.

Help keep our rivers clean. Please Vote Yes on 2.

Andrew Fisk, Greenfield
Executive Director, Connecticut
River Watershed Council

Ward for Kulik

Steve Kulik scored a victory for local solar PV system owners, and the community at large, when he protected equal access to solar PV from the destructive legislation proposed by large corporate interests.

He has once again shown that his loyalties are with Main Street, not with Wall Street.

Let's keep big money out of local politics. Re-elect Steve Kulik, our champion for a renewable energy future.

John Ward
Gill

Selectboard Format Change: Bad for Residents

It appears in the past weeks the Montague selectboard has changed the format of the open meeting for residents to ask questions during the entire meeting. Now there is limited time or even no time or opportunity to ask questions after each presenter.

The audience is often interested in many issues that impact residents including eminent domain of their property, street changes, road closures, road repairs, town projects and new businesses in their neighborhoods.

Cutting off questions from the audience removes democratic participation.

I have addressed many ADA issues previously at selectboard meetings. I am concerned about ADA access for all of us in the town, whether it's a new business, streetscape, a new store or needing handicapped parking and ramp entrances, safe egress, sidewalks etc.

These are all required under 521 ADA laws. But how will these be addressed and how will ADA compliance happen without a questioner at the meeting?

Betty Tegel
Turners Falls

Denise Andrews Endorses Healey

I was grateful to host our strong Democratic candidate for Attorney General, Maura Healey, to the 2nd Franklin District this past Saturday. Maura has worked in the Attorney General's office for 10 years, leading both the Civil Rights and Consumer Protection Divisions and she has the experience necessary to be our next Attorney General.

She will be the 'People's Lawyer,' standing up for property owners facing foreclosures, protecting families against burdensome electricity rate hikes and working to support cleaner energy alternatives to the Kinder-Morgan pipeline.

I am glad that she had the opportunity to share her ideas about how she will engage in the important work of the Attorney General's office with the communities of Franklin County. I hope you all will join me in supporting her on November 4.

Denise Andrews
Orange

One for Andrews

I have never cared so much about having a representative re-elected as I care about Denise Andrews's re-election. I support Andrews because she has supported me and my town. Whenever there's been a local issue I cared about, Denise has been on top of it.

Before I got to know her, I was not happy when my town was redistricted a few years ago. I liked Steve Kulik, and I was suspicious about Denise having a background in private business.

During the previous campaign, see LETTERS next page

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in
July and August.

No paper last week of December.
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LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

starts 11 a.m. at the Haigis Mall at UMass-Amherst. All proceeds will benefit Reader to Reader, a nationwide charity based in Amherst that is dedicated to bringing books, free of charge, to under-resourced libraries and schools across the U.S.

Participants can sign up to walk or run online at tiny.cc/PS5KBoo. Preregistration is \$5 for children 17 and under and for Five College students, and \$7 for adults. Day-of registration is \$5 for children and \$10 for adults including Five College students.

There will be a costume contest, T-shirts for sale, candy, games and Bueno Y Sano gift cards for the first 100 people who register. Find out more on Facebook by looking for "Phi Sigma Pi Halloween 5K."

Join Beatles expert Aaron Krewowicz on Wednesday, November 5, at 6 p.m. for his presentation "The Beatles: Band of the Sixties" as part of the Greenfield Public Library's First Wednesday Speaker Series.

This discussion will span the full 1960's beginning with the band's seminal visits to Hamburg, through the Beatlemania years, and concluding with Abbey Road. Krewowicz delivers presentations and leads discussion courses on the Beatles throughout the nation.

The First Wednesday Speaker Series is held monthly from 6 to 8

p.m. in the LeVanway Room at the library.

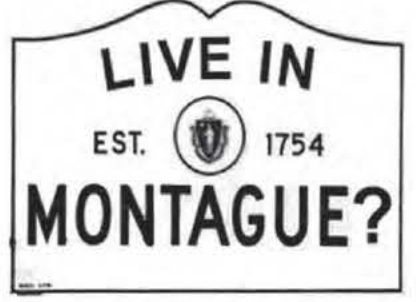
Turners Falls Genealogy participants meet on Thursday, November 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Carnegie Library, for a casual discussion of family research. The program is held monthly on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, check out genealogygathering.blogspot.com

Come learn about the history of **bald eagles and peregrine falcons** at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center on Thursday, November 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This free program will include their historical abundance, extirpation, reintroduction, and current status in Massachusetts.

Both species experienced tragic declines in the mid-twentieth century, but since the elimination of DDT and other toxic pesticides in the United States, populations are poised to recover.

Join State Ornithologist Dr. Andrew Vitz for this illustrated talk on a true environmental success story and learn more about the lives of these fascinating birds of prey. This program is co-sponsored with the Athol Bird and Nature Club. Please call to pre-register at (800) 859-2960 for this free event.

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Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Come and meet Chief Chip Dodge of the Montague Police on Saturday, November 1, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank.

Share ideas, comments, requests, compliments, and requests for services within the Chief's jurisdiction and control, as well as coffee, juice, and yes, of course, donuts with the Chief.

Get into the spirit of the Holidays at the **Farren Festival** on Saturday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will take place at the Farren Care Center, 340 Montague City Road, Montague City. There will be over 30 vendors with items such as: homemade jams and jellies, maple and honey products, knit items, soaps, jewelry, holiday decorations, wood crafts, and much more.

Breakfast and lunch will be available, and there will be a free door

prize drawing for those who visit all of the vendors. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the resident fund.

Come to a **workshop on "Practical Seed Saving" at Laughing Dog Farm** in Gill on Saturday, November 1 from 1 to 3:30 pm. Kick start your own "seedy little love affair" with essential skills to save, store, select and propagate your own (vegetable, flower and grain) seed, including unique and valuable heirlooms. Participants go home inspired and "seedy."

Suggested donation is \$25. Class size is limited, so please RSVP to 863-8696 or dannybotkin@gmail.com. This is the first in a series of hands-on, basic-level classes on growing, processing, consuming and sharing nutrient-dense, beautiful food on marginal and otherwise under-utilized plots.

The UMass chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity is hosting a **Halloween 5k fundraiser** this Sunday, November 2. The race

CORRECTION

In a photo caption in our October 23 edition, we included an incorrect name for Lena Garbiel's son (*The Scarecrow Artist of Montague Center*, pg. B6). His name is Patrick Gardner, not Patrick Garbiel. Many apologies to Patrick, to his family, and Barbara White, the article's author.

More Letters to the Editors

LETTERS from previous page

she came to my home and we talked about her experience and positions on health care, disability rights, local determinism, and local jobs and economic development. She didn't just talk. She listened, too.

When we were facing the possible closure of our post office, we sought out our state officials. Some of them told us they couldn't help because the Postal Service is federal, but Denise not only showed up to the town's forum with USPS, she also spoke eloquently and persuasively on our behalf several times, got promises from the USPS officials to delay their decision, and facilitated communication with them.

Then, over the next weeks and months, she met with people in town and our federal representatives and senators to coordinate efforts to save the post office. She was even willing to go to Washington to meet with the Postmaster General!

People who live in the path of the proposed pipeline have told me that Denise has been an important ally in trying to prevent the devastation to health and safety that the pipeline

represents.

Another friend in town who is working on regional economic development is a staunch supporter; she says Denise really understands what's happening – and what needs to be accomplished – in this area in terms of jobs. One of the nurses in town has mentioned how Denise has worked to support the local nurses' union which was advocating for better working conditions and patient care with Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

All of my interactions with Denise – and there have been several now – have been positive. She has always come across as extremely hardworking and knowledgeable, as well as sincere, intelligent, and warm.

I fervently hope that she wins this election, because she has been a tireless worker on my behalf and on the behalf of other people I know in the area. It is not always easy to trust politicians. I trust Denise Andrews.

Sharon Wachsler
Wendell

Three More for Kulik:

For twenty-one years, people in the First Franklin District have relied on Rep. Steve Kulik to be their voice in Boston. Who would have thought someone from the rural town of Worthington would rise to be a leader in the House of Representatives?

I'm sure most of his colleagues don't know how to find Worthington, but when they need someone who understands the needs of small businesses or rural communities, they know how to find Rep. Kulik.

Rep. Kulik wrote legislation to reform health insurance for municipal workers, gave financial support to the Community Preservation Act, helped create the statewide Food Policy Council, and promoted a state tax credit for donations of land for conservation. Steve has also served on the Dairy Farm Task Force.

As the Vice Chair of House Ways and Means, he is one of six lawmakers who has negotiated a Conference Committee budget every year—and succeeded in bringing the budget out of committee on time.

We have found him to be a strong, committed and reliable supporter of public education, often in the face of those who would engage in efforts to weaken its financial foundation.

Steve Kulik fights for his constituency, and he's made sure he's in the room whenever the needs of Western Mass. came up.

Steve Kulik performs his job very well and it is time for us to support the lawmaker who has supported the people of western Massachusetts for these many years. He is a man of integrity and principles who is avail-

able to listen to his constituents and willing to speak with them to explain controversial and complicated issues that are the concern of the people of the Commonwealth.

Judi and Kip Fonsh
Leverett

A vote for Steve Kulik is a vote for talent, experience, common sense, integrity and persistence. In Leverett, as a SelectBoard member, I've worked with Steve for years, on big and small issues. He is amazingly fast in responding to any question. He is innovative in finding solutions to problems.

His current role on House Ways and Means gives him a strong position from which to represent our district.

It's especially fortunate for us that our Representative has gained stature and power over the years. We benefit from his status in the House of Representatives. He is a leader with state-wide recognition and respect. His record of achievement will continue into future terms.

Steve's work was crucial to the Leverett broadband initiative. His success in getting a Commonwealth internet technology bond passed will support the development of broadband throughout Western Massachusetts.

Steve is a leader for the 21st century. Vote to re-elect him, so we can continue to benefit from his leadership.

Peter d'Errico
Leverett

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Minutes Backlog Involved in Open Meeting Law Complaints

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague Selectboard meeting on October 27 lasted barely an hour. The main issue that emerged was a complaint under the state Open Meeting Law by Jeanne Golrick.

Golrick actually issued two official complaints. One complained that her requests, beginning in February of 2012, for minutes of twenty-two board executive sessions had not been answered. She received a response on March 7, 2013 that "it will be several weeks" before minutes were issued. When minutes were not forthcoming, the state Attorney General weighed in (December, 2013) but, according to Golrick, to no avail.

The other complaint stressed the more recent backlog of minutes for regular sessions. As of the date of the complaint (October 20), minutes of six sessions dating back to early August had not been released. Golrick noted that the state law requires that minutes be released in a "timely" manner: "60 days after a meeting of a Board that meets weekly, except in the summer... is not 'timely.'"

The agenda item in reality was for the board to publicly vote to send the complaint on to town counsel. Apparently state law requires such a public vote, a rule Selectboard member Mark Fairbrother termed a product of the "bureaucracy."

The board and its Secretary, Wendy Bogosz, appeared to agree that the release of minutes had not been timely. Bogosz admitted she was behind but stated that "as soon as I come in there is [something else to do]." She noted the large number of labor-intensive public records and open meeting law complaints recently.

Bogosz admitted she was behind, but noted the large number of labor-intensive public records and open meeting law complaints recently.

Audience member John Reynolds said that in the past, a temporary secretary had been hired to transcribe the minutes, but that position had been cut. He wondered why.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson stated that he believed that issue, along with the number of hours allotted to Bogosz, should be revisited. Bogosz said that the town Clerk, Deb Bourbeau, was going to help her catch up on recent minutes.

Golrick said the minutes did not have to be in great detail. She sug-

gested that the complaint was not a criticism of Bogosz, whom she thought should be given a raise.

Golrick also hand-delivered a letter to the board requesting to be put on the agenda to address an assortment of issues. These included, in addition to meeting minutes, job descriptions, sale of 'town owned' property (with quotes placed around town owned), town meetings, transparency and maintenance of a dangerous intersection.

The board took the request under consideration.

Wastewater Treatment

Bob Trombley of the Water Pollution Control Facility came before the board to publicize an article in the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Authority Newsletter applauding the Montague waste treatment plant. The article focused on the work of the WPCF staff which, it claimed, had a "passion for innovation... never seen." Trombley publicly invited Selectboard members to tour the plant to look at these innovations.

Trombley also discussed a number of other issues, including revenue from "sludge receiving" which he stated was on target for the current year. The facility receives sludge from 19 communities in the region for processing. On the down side, Trombley noted that "grit" continues to be a problem at the plant. This is mostly sand that works its way into the sewer system and treatment plant. A proposal for a grit removal system had been rejected as too expensive but, Trombley said, the staff is working on innovations to address the problem at a lower cost.

Trombley also discussed the complexities of cleaning "sumps, siphons, and pumps" under the power canal. Fortunately it has been determined that these are not enclosed in nineteenth century brick structures, as was once feared, but more stable concrete.

Other Business

The board also voted to approve changes in hours for two establishments to sell liquor under a new state law. The businesses are FL Roberts and Connecticut River Liquor and Wine, both in Turners Falls. Both will now be selling alcohol beginning at 10 a.m. on Sundays.

Mark Fairbrother stated that while he understood why restaurants would want the earlier Sunday hours, he was "less than enthusiastic" about giving this right to retail establishments.

However, before Fairbrother could explain why he was not enthusiastic, Nelson pointed out that by state law the board was required to approve the requests. The board then approved the requests without further discussion.

COFFEE CAN DRIVE

The Turners Falls Clean Team is collecting empty coffee cans – large or small, plastic or metal – for a community art project. The cans will be decorated and placed around downtown Turners for the disposal of cigarette butts.

They will be maintained by the Clean Team. You can leave cans at the Senior Center, the Women's Center, or on the porch at 24 Second Street. We need lots of cans, so spread the word and ask around!

SHEA THEATER VISIONING SESSION

The Town of Montague will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4 in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

The Town is currently evaluating options relating to the leasing of the Shea Theater facility, and would like to get public input.

Deborah J'Anthony, the former director of the Shea Theater, has been hired by the town as a consultant to facilitate this and a subsequent public session, and to assist in the preparation of a Request for Proposals (RFP), as is required by law.

Frank Abbondanzio
Town Administrator

**Yet More Letters****Korpita Asks For Your Vote...**

Over the course of this campaign I have demonstrated my ability and commitment to the 1st Franklin district.

From my announcement in March, signature gathering in every town, and then knocking on more than 6,500 doors, to the mailpieces, radio ads, campaign website, fair booths, lawn signs, town recaps, and the debate at Frontier Regional, I have proven that I am the best candidate for this job.

And on Tuesday, November 4, when you cast your ballot for State Representative, I hope to have earned your vote.

My opponent's record offers a vision of our government that is very different from my own. He supports the Automatic Gas Tax and Common Core. He sponsored a bill that overrode the will of the six other towns in the Gateway Regional school district, allowing his own town to leave.

The percentage of the state budget dedicated to Local Aid has steadily declined. And the pipeline battle seems already surrendered from someone who tells us that, "ultimately, TGP and FERC hold

the cards on it."

For the past 890 days and counting, the 21-year incumbent has voted the same way as Speaker DeLeo every single time – an incredible 598 votes in a row. He has been Boston's representative in the district, not the district's representative in Boston. It's time for a change.

When I say, "it's time for a change"... I mean a back-to-basics return to the expectation we have every time we cast a vote, every time we pay our taxes. My plan... our goal... the reason you need me to fight for you on Beacon Hill, is to follow through on three simple principles:

- 1) Vote the will of the district
- 2) Make our government transparent and accountable
- 3) Work with passion and enthusiasm

For the first time in a decade, the people of the 1st Franklin district have a choice. That choice is clear. Vote Dylan Korpita for State Representative.

Dylan Korpita
Deerfield

... As Does Kulik

The responsibility to represent the best interests of roughly 42,000 constituents living in 19 towns is one that I take very seriously. My motivation is always to try to help the communities, people, and institutions that make our towns and our region such wonderful places to live and work.

The fact that you have continued to re-elect me as your State Representative means that I now hold a significant position as Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. This is where state budgets are written, and where major legislation is considered and shaped.

Thanks to you, I have a seat at the table for important policy and budget decisions. And since I represent you, I believe that my constituents also have a seat at the table with me. I always bring a small-town, western Massachusetts perspective to my work, which is always informed by the input of the constituents that I speak with every day.

We have worked together for many years on Regional School Transportation, which has never kept the promise of full funding. This year, I helped lead the effort to fund it at 90% reimbursement, the highest level in history.

My goal for next year is to reach 100% and keep it there. I am pleased this year's budget establishes a process to revisit the education funding formula, an effort I believe will lead

to greater fairness and equity in state funding of local schools.

I have also led the effort to bring high-speed broadband to every small town in western Mass., personally leading the way in adding \$10 million to the \$50 million last-mile initiative. The state is working with WiredWest to get this vital service to every home and business.

I have also worked for increased funds for public higher education, our Councils on Aging and home care services for seniors, and the best services in the country for our veterans. And I am always working to bring your tax dollars home in the form of many road and bridge repair projects in every town.

Every discussion of important issues in our region this year must include the proposed Kinder-Morgan gas pipeline. I have been an early and outspoken voice against this project. It does not represent a sensible and sustainable energy policy for our future, and threatens our environment, public health and safety, and the quality of life that we enjoy. I will continue to work against this project, because we can and must do better.

If you believe that results, experience, and effectiveness matters, then I ask for your vote on November 4 so that I can continue to work on your behalf as your State Representative. Thank you.

Steve Kulik
Worthington

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CELL TOWER from page A1

If I have to have a cell phone tower – there are worse things than that – so when I need to call for help I can do that.”

“It’s the latest technology,” said Irene Saunders. “We’re moving into it. Maybe studies will show something. I hope not. But communication is important.”

Saunders was referring obliquely to disputed studies regarding the possible health effects of living near cell phone towers. And, in a way, so was Nathhorst.

But Nancy Grossman was direct in her reference to those health studies. After the first time town meeting turned down looser setback requirements for cell towers, she served as chair of an ad hoc committee appointed by the selectboard to make recommendations for a consensus cell tower bylaw. The committee’s recommendations served as the basis for the bylaw eventually approved by special town meeting in the fall of 2012, which now, after Tuesday’s vote, remains in force.

Grossman spoke about possible health impacts when she once again urged voters to turn down the planning board’s loosened setback amendments.

After acknowledging that Congress has preempted local governments from relying on any concerns about health impacts in setting siting criteria for cell phone towers, Grossman nevertheless stated flatly the ad hoc committee had reviewed “50 health studies from around the world,” which she said reported a range of possible impacts from living in proximity to the electromagnetic radiation emitted by cell towers.

She said these studies, often conducted under the auspices of universities, found links to possible health impacts from insomnia to cancer in humans, and decreased reproductive rates in animals.

“The science is not settled,” said Grossman, who allowed that epidemiological studies in America, which she said tended to paid for by the corporations that have a stake in cell phone technology, have tended to find no verifiable health impacts from the electromagnetic radiation emitted by cell towers.

Nonetheless, her committee recommended and town meeting approved setbacks equal to a third of a mile for all residences, and 2,000 feet from any public way, because, “We found a third of a mile to be where the evidence started to fall off into the background,” as far as possible health impacts are concerned.

Those setbacks were too strict to encourage cell phone companies to invest in Leverett, argued planning board chair Jeff McQueen, and “are unlikely to stand up to any legal challenge.” McQueen reviewed the history of the town’s decade long struggle to find an appropriate balance for siting cell towers.

Ironically, the town’s original bylaw, which limited siting to three small, low lying commercial zones in an attempt to narrow the path for a cell phone company to put up a tower anywhere in Leverett, would have permitted the only proposal that

has yet come before the town to do just that – AT&T’s request to erect a cell tower 530 feet from Route 63, “and approximately the same distance from a residence” in the small commercial zone around Roberta Bryant’s horse farm. Bryant has welcomed the proposal, and the zoning board gave AT&T a variance from the setback requirements approved in 2012, when the town voted to allow cell towers to be sited anywhere in town by special permit.

That permitting process, which will allow for improved cell phone service for about 95 households in that area of town, while primarily closing a gap in coverage for commuters along a small stretch of Route 63, prompted the planning board to return to town meeting in another attempt to loosen the setbacks. Planning board member Nathhorst said the police and fire departments have also petitioned the board to loosen the setbacks, in a bid to improve communications in town for emergency service providers.

Peter D’Errico characterized references to possible health impacts a “get out of jail free card” for the companies.

Arguing for loosening the setbacks to 1,000 feet from the Leverett Elementary School, and four times the height of a tower (at a maximum height of 199 feet) to the nearest residence, McQueen said, “We don’t want to do anything that makes it harder to attract a carrier and gain cell services.”

Selectboard member Peter d’Errico characterized Grossman’s references to possible health impacts, in defiance of federal preemption on that topic, “a get out of jail free card,” for companies like AT&T and Verizon, should they wish to mount a legal challenge to the town’s bylaw in any future tower siting.

McQueen said Verizon has recently expressed interest in siting another tower along another underserved stretch of Route 63.

But Bob Hallock, professor of physics at UMass, who also sat on the ad hoc committee in 2012, told town meeting on Tuesday he planned to vote against the planning board’s proposed amendments: “The dimensions in this are just as arbitrary as any other numbers. If 1,000 feet is good for the school, why is four times a tower height any better for the children, who spend a lot more time at home than they do at school?”

Opponents of the loosened setbacks said there were probably only a handful of sites where cell towers could be sited to really provide coverage for the entire town, instead of to serve commuters. They said if another cell tower company seeks to site in town, the planning board can again provide relief from the setback requirements, should the board choose to do so.

But keeping the current bylaw in place, they argued, would give a ba-

sis for citizens who may be opposed to living in close proximity to a cell tower a better chance to weigh in with their concerns within the town’s permitting process. Grossman said citizen opposition can sometimes convince a cell tower company to choose another site, a site that may fall within town zoning requirements, as the path of least resistance.

Sue Leschine, a UMass professor of microbiology who also served on the ad hoc committee, said in the final analysis, the committee’s recommendation to set tough setback requirements for cell tower sitings was an attempt to protect property values in town.

UMass geoscience professor Ray Bradley, another ad hoc committee member, called on the selectboard to take a proactive role in resolving the cell tower siting dilemma. “It is naïve to think that AT&T and Verizon are going to build any of these cell towers except where it is in their interest. If the town wants to have adequate cell phone coverage for the entire community, the town should put up their own cell towers on the elevated areas anticipated by the ad hoc committee, and lease them to commercial providers like AT&T and Verizon, who would be glad to take advantage of such an offer.” That way, said Bradley, “We take control of the process, and decide where they go.”

D’Errico said the town, through its newly formed Municipal Light Plant, was indeed looking into that possibility, and might take it up once the current push for universal last mile municipal broadband is completed.

In the end, not enough voters were persuaded by arguments like Don Robinson’s, of Jackson Hill Road, who said he had worked in risk assessment throughout his professional career and he found, “Cell towers are not known to cause any health effects,” whereas, “Lack of cell phone coverage is a major risk.”

Though they were in the minority, enough voters – just over a third of town meeting – agreed in the end with Brian Emond, who said, “I find the necessity to change the bylaws imprudent at best, reckless at worst. It will not prevent cell towers. The providers can follow the process,” and appeal for a variance if they have to. After the vote, police chief Gary Billings said his department has been hampered by spotty cell coverage in town, and would have to continue to rely on radio communication in some instances, “putting out to everyone in scanner land” the details of the “who you are searching for.” He said North Leverett is one of the worst areas in town for cell coverage, along with stretches of Shutesbury Road.

“It is a real hindrance,” Billings said. “Communication is everything for us.”

Updates were also given on elementary school regionalization, municipal broadband, and the elementary school sustainability committee’s final report. For a report on these, and notes from the selectboard meeting, see next week’s edition of the Reporter.



Town of Leverett Fire Chief

The Town of Leverett, population 1,900, seeks an energetic, citizen-oriented part-time Fire Chief who can balance small town culture with the technical needs of a modern fire department.

Chief completes oversight and management duties for the department, manages fire and medical response, actively fights fires and provides medical treatment. Town will consider joint chief with another town.

Qualifications include strong communication and management skills, five years’ fire and one year supervisory experience, residence within proximity of town as required by law. Knowledge of community a plus. Estimated 20 hours/week. Salary ranges from \$17,000 to \$19,000. Benefits included.

Applications and resumes due by November 14, 2014 to Selectboard Office, PO Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054.

Leverett is an AA/EOE

CABLE from page A1

The resignations come at a crucial time for Montague. Over the last several years, the CAC has been in negotiations with Comcast over the cable contract with the town, as well as in deliberation over how to extend the town’s contract with MCCI.

According to Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau, the selectboard has the authority to appoint and remove committee members. This, however, must be done in a posted meeting. A single selectman does not have the authority to remove an individual from a town committee.

The issue over public records began in May when Lynch asked the CAC to provide all of their notes and minutes to her. After consulting with the town clerk, the CAC informed her that there would be a charge for photocopying the records, but did not state an exact amount.

Dowd said that the CAC did not receive a response from Lynch and was advised by the town clerk that she need not proceed until Lynch had agreed to pay the charge.

In an email dated June 30, Lynch again requested the records, noting that she had informed Dowd she would pay the fee and had received an acknowledgment from her. The CAC informed Lynch that it would take some time to assemble the records.

On July 19, Lynch again petitioned the CAC for the minutes and other documents. In an email copied to the *Montague Reporter*, she wrote: “Please give me a reasonable time frame in which my public records request can be fulfilled. Records could be delivered electronically. I also request an estimate of the cost. In your previous email, you stated that the cost ‘could’ exceed \$10. The committee must have some sense of page count based on the number of meetings you have had. I am approximating 2-3 pages per meeting, less executive sessions.”

Her email further chided Earles: “I would caution that the tenor of your co-chair needs addressing. From contract extension (at Select Board meeting) to present, I have noticed that the rancorous tenor of Mr. Earles, especially toward Mi-

chael Lanknecht [sic], is not only unproductive, but also harms the process.

“In fact, were it not for Mr. Earles introducing an RFP and admitting that he was speaking for a committee that he hadn’t met with at that meeting, I probably would not have become involved and you would not need to fill a public records request. However, once Mr. Earles used the term RFP, improperly, he initiated the subsequent contentiousness that will most likely follow through the end of this process.

“This contentiousness is nurtured by the CAC’s co-chair implying that the MCTV Board is deceitful and neglectful as well as the CAC’s utter failure to fill the Town’s contractual obligation to conduct yearly reviews but still point fingers elsewhere. This behavior will never be productive. This behavior will only encourage people like me to point out the utter hypocrisy of the situation.”

This email was also sent to the selectboard. According to Fairbrother, who had taken on the role of liaison to the CAC from the board, he warned its leadership at that time that they needed to respond to legitimate public records requests.

Earles said that he discussed the matter with Fairbrother, and informed him that the CAC was assembling the documents Lynch had requested. According to Earles, “about a month ago,” the committee handed over minutes from a number of meetings. “We had to sort through the records,” he said, “so as not to include executive session material. It took a while.”

In response to continued pressure from Fairbrother, Dowd emailed the selectman at 4:01 p.m. on October 17. In her email, she wrote: “Ms Lynch is in receipt of what I have from Sept 2012 to end August, 2014 and subsequent notes/agendas are ready to go on website. I was out of action from May 2013 through April 2014 for the most part. Am not sure what the parameters are regarding her request, i.e. of all written communication, emails, memos and circulated meeting documents from November 2013 through present.”

see CABLE page A6

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SKATEPARK from page A1

Ellen Spring was recruited to the effort as soon as she moved to town in 2008. "[Brick House Americorps volunteer] Ruth Nervig gave me the key. I moved to town in September, and by the end of the month I was owner of the key to the skatepark," she said, pointing to a fenced-in lot behind the former Chick's Garage. "I closed it, she opened it."

When a public process identified a skate park as one of the town's highest priorities in its renovations of Unity Park, the idea of building a permanent, concrete one that would serve as a regional attraction took root. Meanwhile, the temporary park closed again on Third Street and was rebuilt on Eleventh, where it would stay for another three years.

"I remember writing small donations to this effort myself," said state representative Steve Kulik, on hand to help present the day's grants. "And now they get a really big investment from taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and a resource that's going to be important, not just to this community, but to the whole region."

"It was good to join with the residents and see the grassroots starting of this," said Barb Kuklewicz, a member of the town's recreation commission and of the committee that oversaw Unity Park improvements. "Everybody pushed forward and did a lot of fundraising, and made it a priority, and made the community understand how great this is going to be."

"A lot of people said that it couldn't happen," said Bryan Dolan, a skater, Skate Park committee member of six years, and now a member of Greenfield's newly appointed Youth Commission.

Dolan helped architects develop the park's current plan, which combines street elements with a deep bowl and is designed to encourage continuous movement between its parts.

"For a while there I even believed that it wouldn't happen," he continued. "We came to a standstill – and then all these new people joined. Anne Jemas just brought so much

energy, and David Detmold did an amazing job with the fundraising."

"I didn't really get involved until the skate park committee came to the Precinct 5 town meeting members," said Podlenski. "Then we had the big push to come to the next selectboard meeting – I was counting heads and was amazed to see over 100 people, standing room only."

That meeting, on August 5, 2013, brought new excitement and fresh life to the campaign. Greg Ellis, who had been one of the original youth fifteen years before, gave an impassioned plea, pointing out that "a concrete skatepark is not just like a fun little thing you're going to make just for the skateboarders... [it's] going to bring people in from all over."

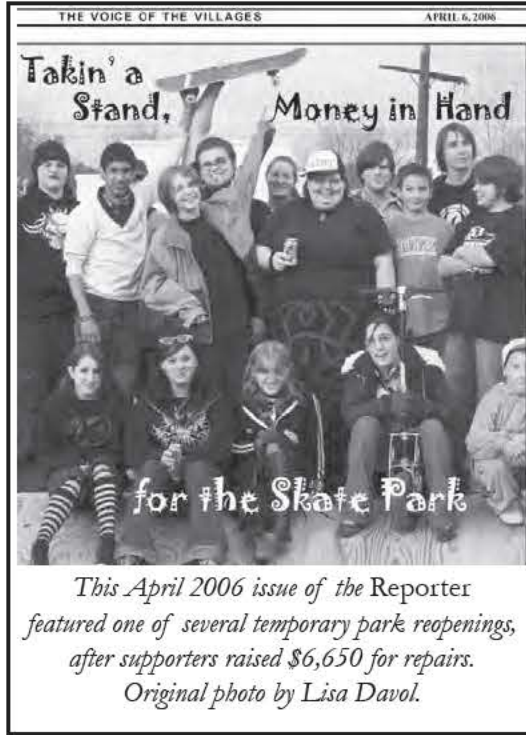
The selectboard reaffirmed its support for the project, with then-chair Mark Fairbrother reminding all assembled that "if the selectboard is in favor of it, the parks department is also in favor of it."

Fundraising began in earnest at that point, with direct appeals to area residents and businesses. Three- and eventually four-figure checks started arriving. The campaign had nearly \$35,000 in its coffers heading into the May 3 town meeting.

On that day, a unanimous vote committed to borrow up to \$400,000 to build the park, contingent on the state's 68% match in the form of the PARC grant.

Town planner Walter Ramsey and parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz co-wrote the grant application, with Dobosz driving across the state to make sure it didn't get lost in the mail.

"The real reason we got the award is because of the great citizen engagement, and the efforts of the residents," said Ramsey. "I'm extremely excited. It's a great project for the community, and an important part



This April 2006 issue of the Reporter featured one of several temporary park reopenings, after supporters raised \$6,650 for repairs. Original photo by Lisa Davol.

of our open space recreation plan, as well as our downtown redevelopment plans."

Barry Scott, owner of the fledgling Playground Skateshop, which operates out of a berth at River Station in the former Chick's Garage building, also expressed excitement that the concrete park was finally confirmed.

According to Dobosz, the next step for Unity Park is the installation of a Sway Fun Glider, a boat-like, wheelchair-accessible swing. The ball fields, closed for most of the season, are being used now for youth soccer, and will open for baseball and softball in the spring.

And when the snow falls? Sledding is "not an officially sanctioned activity," Dobosz emphasized, but now that the fence is down, "if people want to slide they're welcome to do so."

The town will now finalize the design specifications and put the project out to a competitive bidding process this winter, with construction expected in the summer, and hopes for a ribbon-cutting as early as fall 2015, if all goes well, according to Ramsey.

It will be the final element of the park's improvements, said Dobosz, "and one of the biggest pieces, too."

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD****Previews of Two Special Town Meetings**

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving's November 3 special town meeting will consider only one article – the citizen petition for a by-law that will allow recall of elected officials.

After reviewing recall bylaws from other towns, selectboard chair William Bembury wrote a suggested amendment with a list of criteria for initiating a recall. His suggested criteria include: lack of fitness (defined by Bembury as health issues that make it impossible for the official to carry out responsibilities); absence from ten meetings; incompetence; neglect of duties; and corruption.

The amendment also states that an official cannot be recalled "for discretionary performance of duties," an essential protection for officials who may make unpopular decisions according to Bembury.

All three selectboard members agreed that they support the recall procedure with the amendments. The STM will start at 7 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School.

Usher Plant Smokestack

The draft warrant for the November 24 STM includes an article requesting \$98,000 for repair of the former Boiler Building smokestack at the Usher Plant.

Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp called this amount "a place holder" – competitive bids for repair work will be opened on November 5, giving the town a firm cost for the project.

However, Bembury provided the board with a recent email from a finance committee member, asking that that town decide definitively about whether to demolish or restore the building and/or the smokestack.

Bembury proposed that the board, the finance committee, and the Usher Plant Reuse committee meet jointly on November 3 after the STM is dissolved to consider the fate of the former Boiler Building and its smokestack.

Depending on the decisions made at that joint meeting, an article deciding the future of the building could be placed on the warrant for the November 24 STM.

Raises, Internet for Departments

When the board approved 10% raises for highway foreman Glenn McCrory and water and wastewater operator and supervisor Peter Sanders at its last meeting, the raises appeared to be contingent on approval of funding at the November 24 STM.

However, after reviewing the budgets for the departments, selectboard member and treasurer Margaret Sullivan said there was sufficient money in the current departmental budgets to pay for the raises and no need for town meeting approval.

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory reported a quote from Comcast of

\$14,532 for installing a high-speed internet line at the highway offices and wastewater treatment plant and providing internet, telephone, alarm, and data services over a three-year contract.

McCrory said that the current system is inadequate, with emails sometimes taking a day to appear in the highway inbox. Also, "Sometimes the fax machine dials 911 calls when it rains."

Assuming a monthly cost of \$434.50 for the services over a three-year contract, Comcast is offering \$7,500 worth of funding toward the installation.

IT consultant Jacob Smith said he would review the services offered and discuss potential reduction in the monthly cost with Comcast. However, he noted that if the monthly cost is reduced, the Comcast installation funding might also be reduced.

Human Resources

The board is considering moving the human resources responsibilities from being shared by the town administrative coordinator and treasurer to the treasurer's office, starting July 1, 2015.

Sullivan said that she and payroll/human resources assistant Julie Wonkka recently attended a Franklin Regional Council of Governments seminar on human resources.

Using information from the seminar, Sullivan said she would prepare a list of human resources responsibilities and note which Erving staff member or department is currently in charge of each responsibility. She will present the information at the November 3 meeting and make recommendations for which staff member or department should be carrying out the responsibility in the future.

An article on the November 24 STM warrant would fund 4 to 6 hours per week for HR work in the treasurer's office.

Cruiser Video System

Police chief Chris Blair provided a quote for \$5,215 for a digital video system installed in a police cruiser. This expenditure will appear on the warrant for the November 24 STM.

F550 Trade-In

The board approved the \$5,000 trade-in value offered by Stoneham Motors for the highway department's old Ford F550 truck with a cracked frame. The town bought a new F550 truck from Stoneham Motors for \$40,884.

Committees and Appointments

Bembury clarified that Craig Moore, whose resignation from the conservation commission was accepted at the last meeting, has served on the concomm since 1983.

Linda Downs-Bembury was appointed to the personnel relations review board.

CABLE from page A5

That evening, at 7:45 p.m., Fairbrother sent his email demanding her resignation, along with that of Earles.

Fairbrother has been critical for some time of the CAC leadership on other grounds. He has raised questions about the slow pace of the current negotiations with Comcast. Negotiations restarted two weeks ago after over a year's delay, but no town lawyer was present, and the CAC did not appear to have a unified negotiating strategy.

In addition, Fairbrother says that Earles and Dowd have appeared before the Selectboard purporting to speak for the CAC, at times when the committee had not met or voted on a policy.

Earles, for his part, says that CAC was never "out to get MCTV": "We have tried to work with them, but have had little suc-

cess. Our goal has always been to help the station improve itself and do the job it's supposed to do for the community."

Earles also said that CAC has repeatedly asked MCCI for their reports but have yet to "see them in full."

According to Dowd and Earles, in the report on MCCI submitted this week, the CAC is critical of a number of aspects of MCTV's performance. But he notes that with work completed, it is up to the selectboard to implement or reject the recommendations. "We've finished our work," said Earles. "It's in their court, now."

At their last meeting on October 8 with a Comcast representative to discuss the re-licensing, the CAC indicated it may take a good deal more time before the parties will be able to come to an agreement on a new license.



Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 10/24/14:

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Abigail Hoynoski

Grade 7

Chelsea Curtis
Jakob Burnett

Grade 8

Samantha Bocon

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Housing Rehab Loans Touted, Nuisance Dogs Ordered Leashed, Hybrid Flag Approved

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell's October 22 selectboard meeting was preceded by a public forum at 6:30 for updating the town's community development strategy, a necessary step which is part of the process for getting community development block grants (CDBG) used for housing rehabilitation loans to home owners. The loans do not come due until the house is sold.

M.J. Adams, director of community development at the Franklin Housing and Redevelopment Authority, met the board then, with Nan Riebschlaeger from Wendell's planning board. Council on Aging chair Nancy Spittle came in shortly afterwards.

Highway commission chair Harry Williston sat through the entire hearing. At the end, he told board members that the Wendell Depot road bridge over Whetstone Brook is in the planning stages.

He noted that regulations are changing and that Wendell's revolving loan fund for rehabilitating houses that belong to low- and moderate-income families has not been replenished in several years and has about \$50,000, enough for perhaps two loans. The waiting list is longer than two.

Adams said Wendell has several of the criteria that elevate the town's position in the competitive grant process: unemployment rate, equalized home valuation per capita, and the number of houses built before 1940.

Spittle brought up the fact that a large part of Wendell's population is over 60 years old, and people's needs are changing as they lose ability to care for isolated homes that require serious maintenance.

She mentioned the ongoing series of housing forums, and the idea of a cluster of cottages with possibly a large central house with a community room and four rooms that can hold people who need extra care.

Applications for CDBG money must be in by February 13 at 5 p.m. and having the community development strategy updated is a part of that process. Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich handed out copies of the community development strategy which was last updated in 2005.

Among the goals that have been accomplished are the new town office building, new library, septic system, and the conservation bylaw which can facilitate a higher density in one area of a property offset by a conservation restriction on the rest of that property.

Adams said the town can define its needs and she can be useful in a capacity other than applying for the CDBG.

Dog Hearing

The actual selectboard meeting ended with the continuation and conclusion of the dog hearing that began October 8. So many people attended this second part of the hearing that some had to stand in the hall outside the selectboard room.

Board members had two weeks to mull over the statements that were given October 8; in re-opening the hearing selectboard chair Christine Heard repeated the rules of the hearing, courtesy always, and comments

are addressed to the the selectboard and not to other individuals.

She said that the selectboard's concern is not to be kind or fair; the selectboard's concern is to ensure the safety and comfort of Ariel Barilla and other Wendell citizens.

Further, she was not inclined to go over the facts of the incident that occurred September 6. The undisputed facts are that Ariel Barilla was injured while trying to protect her dog, Ruby, from an attack that was started by Kodiak, and joined by Paddington and Mica, dogs owned by Yvette Segal.

Segal's three dogs were walking off leash in Wendell's state forest; a fourth dog, Farley, on a leash because of a sore foot, did not take part in the fight even after Segal dropped the leash to run forward and pull Kodiak out of the fight.

An attorney experienced with dog hearings in Northampton said that state law allows a dog to be walked under voice control in the state forest outside the area of the ranger station. She offered her services in community-based mediations, but ended saying that a decision and the responsibility belonged to the selectboard.

Heard commented that the town does have money in its mediation account.

Two people who were not able to come on October 8, Ariel Barilla's parents, Jerry Barilla and Beth Erviti, read statements they had written down so as not to leave out any important details. Jerry Barilla described an encounter he and Ruby had with Kodiak in January, after some other minor incidents, also with Kodiak. Kodiak and Paddington, he said, attacked Ruby, and he kept them away with the two walking sticks he had with him.

"I don't have confidence that anyone can walk four dogs at once with control."

**Jeffrey Pooser,
Wendell Selectboard**

Erviti told about a time when the four dogs came at her and Ruby, running as a pack until Segal called them off, and that Segal sincerely apologized, but only after Erviti experienced a moment of terror seeing the pack of dogs running towards her and her dog.

She said that, ironically, she had been on the other side of a similar situation with a prior dog, Bruno, and had kept him on a leash from then on.

Ariel Barilla said this incident changed her life, that she has a scar, lost her job and has lost sleep because of it. She asked for safe use of the state forest roads for everyone, and added that this hearing was about a nuisance dog, not a dangerous dog. The findings of a dangerous dog hearing would have had Kodiak euthanized already.

Segal said that her dogs meet other dogs with no problem. Wendell resident Jean Forward said that her dogs have played well with Ruby.

The animal behaviorist, Elise

McMahon, said this is a classic case that behaviorists deal with and she would "love it if you would utilize my experience."

The selectboard ruled that all the dogs involved must be on a leash whenever they are in a public space, and that Segal may walk no more than two dogs at a time. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said, "I don't have confidence that anyone can walk four dogs at once with control."

McMahon suggested a remote training collar as an option, but Segal saw no advantage in that, and Heard said other options were to keep the dogs on her own property, or walk them out of town.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said Segal has the right to appeal in Orange district court, but if the appeal failed, or the dog was found off a leash he would be subject to seizure and the owner may be prohibited from licensing a dog for five years; after being notified of the seizure the owner may file with the court to get the dog returned.

He said that if Segal found the selectboard's ruling unbearable she could appeal to the selectboard in six, eight, or twelve months.

Meetinghouse Hookups

Between 7 and 8 p.m., the selectboard took care of their regular biweekly business.

Aldrich told Nan Riebschlaeger, still in the room after the 6:30 public hearing, that she had spoken with the DEP expert on drinking water (for the meetinghouse) and learned that the town's well supplies two gallons of water per minute, or 2880 gallons per day. Actual use is not even close to that.

Projected use for a meetinghouse connection depends on the last recorded use of the building. If it was a church with a capacity of 100 people, use is calculated at three gallons per person per day, or 300 gallons per day, which, added to the use in town buildings is still within the well's ability to provide water.

Waste water is more complicated, but the first step is to find the capacity of the town septic system. The person who designed that system has died, and no one at the engineering firm, Stantec, was there when the system was designed, but they have records, and can find the system's capacity.

The town cannot leave an open ended ability for other buildings to connect into the septic line, but either a neighborhood shared system, or a community system, may be possible legally.

Veteran's Service District

Board members voted unanimously to leave the Franklin County Veterans Service District and join the new entity that will provide veteran services, the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service district effective July 1, 2015. The cost for FY'16 will be \$1,716.

The Wendell Flag

Aldrich said that the town's email list had a long string of exchanges about the proposed town flag design, whether it should include something about the pre-European inhabitants of this area, and how much use those people made or

did not make of these hills.

Keller brought up the long process that brought the current plan forward, and wondered where those comments were when the design process was happening. Submissions were requested through the spring and summer and a vote was taken at Old Home Day in August.

The artists who drew the two most popular designs got together and made a design that satisfied both of them and the selectboard, and which was feasible to produce.

Aldrich had laminated an 8 1/2 x 11 color drawing of their collaboration which she passed around the room, and board members were satisfied with it.

Keller remembered an effort made in 1996 or 1997 to get a town flag, an effort that "never got off the ground."

In the drawing that Aldrich had, the center circle is oriented so the words are upright when the flag hangs from its short side as it will in the statehouse.

Board members agreed that the circle should turn 90 degrees to conform with other flags, and so that it appears vertical when the flag is flying from a pole. Heard said a letter should be sent out, thanking everyone who submitted a design.

Mechanical Room Issues

Aldrich said that she found the temperature in the town office building mechanical room was 98.5 degrees. The vent to outside was closed, and she left the door into the hall open to let some of that heat out. Keller said he would call building engineer, Jim Slavav.

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Keller said he and Tom Chaisson went under the town hall in the crawl space and sprayed bleach to clear off the mold that was growing there. He said the heating system ductwork was covered with mold, and in poor repair.

Pooser said that it should be insulated, that a lot of heat is lost in that unheated space, and Keller countered, "replaced." Then he said that hot air furnaces might be obsolete, and there may be green community money, so that calls for meeting with the energy committee.

Heard said the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning) audit mentions all the town building furnaces, but that payback time is long.

New Brush Truck

Wendell has published specification for bids on a new brush truck to replace the 1972 brush truck that runs sometimes and whose brakes work sometimes. Bids are due November 4, at 11 a.m.

Kitchen Committee Grows

Three members were added to the kitchen committee, Gerda Swedowski, of Bullard Pasture Road, Heather Willey of Old Stage Road, and Ilna Singh of West Street.

Internet Meeting

Pooser said he would be late coming to the November 5 meeting because from 6 to 8 p.m. he will be at a last mile (internet connection) meeting with MBI (the Massachusetts Broadband Institute) at Swift River School. Pizza will be served.

THIS SATURDAY: REPARATIONS WORKSHOP AT GREENFIELD CHURCH

On Saturday, November 1, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield, Mass Slavery Apology will present a workshop titled *Reparationists are the New Abolitionists*. The program is part of the group's series of free monthly programs addressing racism in our society.

According to presenter Woullard Lett, "Some people have been introduced to the idea of reparations for the victims of U.S. slavery by a recent *Atlantic* magazine article, but the issue is not new, and its advocates have a long history. Moral authority, international law and contemporary social and economic conditions are all aligned with the call for immediate action."

Woullard H. Lett serves on the board of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), and is Legal Redress Committee chairman for the Manchester NH NAACP. He is also a member of the New England Regional Resilience Circle Network steering committee, a member of the Manchester Police Commission, and co-founder of two pan-Africanist, anti-racist, social capitalist organizations, Ujima Collective in Manchester, NH and Ujamaa Family Chicago.

Donations welcome. Child care is available by reservation. Please RSVP with number and ages of children to (413) 625-2951 or email@massslaveryapology.org For more information, see www.massslaveryapology.org.

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MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING NOTES

Town Meeting Votes For More Liquor Licenses

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO and DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE – Tipplers in Turners have a plethora of watering holes at which to wet their whistles. In fact, thanks mainly to new restaurateurs in Turners, Montague has reached its state mandated limit of alcohol licenses.

But now, thanks to the solid backing of Montague Town Meeting members, Millers Falls and Montague Center will have the chance to catch up a little, after they agreed to petition the state legislature to grant the town two additional all alcohol, on premises, liquor licenses: one for the former Montague Inn, at 485 Federal Street, and one for the hoped-for redevelopment of the Powers Block in downtown Millers.

For a chaser, town meeting also approved a petition for one new off-premises, all-alcohol license for the Montague Village Store.

Village Store owner Dennis Lynch added a personal appeal, saying his grocery is trying hard to serve the community with new products like fresh baked bread and yogurt, but locals tell him they often bypass his store to shop where they can buy alcohol in the same round trip. "I need the community to invest in me, so I can invest more in the community," Lynch said.

The meeting got off on a rather unusual note when Jeanne Golrick of Precinct 2 rose to question whether the meeting could be held at all. She said that state regulations required the warrant to be posted in all six precincts at least 14 days in advance of the meeting,

and that the library in Millers Falls had only posted the notice seven days in advance.

Moderator Ray Godin referred the matter to counsel, who said that according to his reading of the law two laws applied: the *General Laws of Massachusetts* and a Special Act. The special act only requires posting seven days in advance.

He also said that the moderator could ask that any votes at town meeting be recertified by the state.

Not yet satisfied, Golrick said she would be filing her own remedy.

When Godin put the vote to members as to whether they wanted to continue with the meeting or reconvene at a later date, town

meeting voted overwhelmingly to go ahead with the meeting.

Peter Golrick of Precinct 2 immediately questioned whether the license for the Powers Block, granted to developer Robert Obear under the Commercial Homesteading Act, was legal, since it was within 500 feet of a church.

Town administrator Frank Abbonanzio replied that it was under the purview of the board of selectmen, acting as licensing agents for the town.

In other business, the sewage treatment plant will be able to hire a new worker for the remainder of the fiscal year, which will help personnel at the plant handle the 26 hauls of sludge that are arriving

from 19 county towns each week, bringing in new revenue for the plant, according to plant worker John Little.

Also, the town created a special capital improvement account for the treatment plant, anticipating new sewer repairs, and funded it with \$100,000 from the retained sewer earnings fund.

Town meeting backed police chief Chip Dodge in his request to raise the starting pay for part time dispatchers from \$13 an hour to \$17 an hour, in an attempt to keep pace with Greenfield, where part time dispatchers are paid \$25 an hour, Dodge said.

A surplus in the Gill-Montague Regional School District's free

cash (excess and deficiency) account of \$213,039 will be returned to Montague this fiscal year, as per state law.

Town meeting decided to stash it in the general stabilization account, after separately creating and funding a \$350,000 stabilization account specifically for town capital improvement projects.

Finance committee chair John Hanold said, "For many years, we had to use town stabilization to pay for GMRSD assessments. That came to an end last year."

He said it was appropriate, therefore, for the regional school's free cash windfall to go back into stabilization, to rebuild the town's cash reserves.

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OCTOBER 30, 2014

Gay, Straight Alliance Works to Create School and Community Acceptance

By MAGGIE SROKA

TURNERS FALLS – October is LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Questioning) history month.

In honor of this, I would like to tell you more about the GSA at Turners Falls High School, and how they do their part to make the school community, and the community around them a more accepting place for people to express themselves.

GSA stands for Gay, Straight Alliance. Several students from the high school gather every Monday to talk about how they can improve the world they live in, starting with their high school.

Among the many opportunities for straight students to express their support is Ally week. (Ally means any non-LGBT person who supports and stands up for the rights of

LGBT people.)

At the Monday GSA meetings, members have done more than talk, they have taken action about advocating for their cause.

Students have designed surveys about acceptance at TFHS, and put posters up around the school, to educate the students and the staff.

Among the signs are these: “8 out of 10 students accept others for their sexuality,” or “9 out of 10 students would go out of their way to be kind to someone who is different from them.”

They have also single-handedly organized an event called the Day of Silence, a day when students “give up their right to speech” as a physical display of how people who are afraid to express their sexuality might feel silent.

A cluster of students make up see **ALLIANCE** page B6

Gertrude Woodard Receives Golden Cane from Montague Selectboard

By JOE KWIECINSKI

MONTAGUE – Gertrude Woodard has a five-point plan for longevity. Since the first recipient of the town’s Boston Post Cane Award since 1996 will turn 96 on Sunday, Nov. 9, perhaps we should pay attention. The honor is given to the oldest living citizen in Montague.

“To begin with,” said Woodard, “I never smoked because I didn’t want to waste my money. I have to confess that I tried it, but I didn’t like it and would always spend my money on hats. Today no women are wearing hats but in the past we wore hats and gloves with our Sunday clothes.”

“Second, I drink a lot of tea and always have. Third, I enjoyed my life tremendously. Fourth, I was blessed with a good marriage. And fifth, I have a dog. He provides me with plenty of exercise and a chance to meet my neighbors.”

Gertrude and Charlie Woodard were married for a remarkable 71 years until his death two years ago. “Charlie was a wonderful husband,” said Gertrude. “We had a lot of fun and a very fine life. He used to say he always had the last words when we discussed something: ‘Yes, dear.’”

Montague’s Boston Post Cane was last awarded Feb. 5, 1996 to 98-year-old Bertha Farnsworth. John Reynolds worked with the Board of Selectmen to revive the wonderful custom. Reynolds, a dedicated man, also combed through the town records to determine who was the most senior citizen in the town.

According to Reynolds, Edward A. Grozier, publisher of the Bos-



Gertrude Woodard, with her dog Sam.

ton Post, inaugurated the award on Aug. 2, 1909. Grozier sent some 641 towns in New England, excluding cities, an ebony cane with a gold head to be given to the eldest male citizen of the towns. J. F. Fradley and Co. of New York made the canes from ebony shipped from the

Congo in Africa in lengths of seven feet. Women became eligible for the cane in 1930 after lively debate.

Gertrude Woodard credits her overall good health for her sharp mind and zest for living at the age of 95. She lost her appendix at

see **GOLDEN** page B4



Members of the Gay Straight Alliance. Back row (l-r): Principal Thom Osborn, Princess Ramirez, Josh Gonzales, Amodeous Rivera, Jordan Wyman, and Monica Francis. Front row (l-r): Autumn Patterson, Solomon Scott, and Serena Smith.

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: THE TALE OF THE WITCHES OF MILLERS FALLS

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS – Last Sunday, somehow this story made its way into my hands. If ever you’re searching for local lore and curious tales about our villages, it’s always a good idea to visit the Historical Commissions, the Historical Societies, and the hidden back rooms of our libraries. You never know what will turn up. Something did turn up at the Erving Historical Commission museum this past weekend.

Those old scrapbooks that some dear souls faithfully compile, that then lie around gathering dust in forgotten corners of the homes of the older members of the family until they find their way to other forgotten corners of museum back rooms. In this instance, a sixty year old scrapbook donated by one Mrs. Florence Chaffin of Millers Falls, made its way into my hands.

And so on a Sunday in late October, sitting in Pearl Care Museum of Erving, old photographs and obituaries from the 1890s and 1920s appeared before my eyes as I slowly turned the pages of Mrs. Chaffin’s meticulous scrapbook.

These old clippings mention all-but-forgotten places such as Point Pleasant, the Durkee family burial vault along the Connecticut, and the infamous Durkee Tavern. Some of these sites are mentioned as being in Millers Falls, others could be situated in Northfield on the Erving line; all accounts place the Durkee Tavern near the mouth of the Millers River, a few hundred yards upstream from the French King Bridge on the old Northfield Farms Road.

Regardless of the movable location of the ghostly Tavern, local legend has forever bound the Tavern to the enigmatic person of old Granny Stowell. Now, looking at



Witch from Harper’s Weekly.

Granny’s reputation as a witch woman from our perspective of the year 2014, one must be careful to not leap too quickly in passing judgment on this woman.

Women were condemned as witches for all kinds of reason in ages past. (Please search out the recent novel by Wendell writer Kathy Becker called *Silencing the Women—The Witch Trials of Mary Bliss Parsons*. Becker writes a poignant tale about one of her ancestors thusly accused.)

So with Mary Bliss Parsons in mind, I’ll cautiously recount what has been written and said about Granny Stowell and her daughter Dycie, our own Millers River witches.

Old newspaper accounts and research done by Millers historian John Taggart generations ago (and recently brought into the current century and digitized by historian Ed Gregory) tell the tale of Granny and her dysfunctional family.

But first, back to the Tavern, inextricably tied to the legend of the Stowells. Newspaper see **WEST ALONG** page B8

BOOK REVIEW

Kathy-Ann Becker, “Silencing the Women: The Witch Trials of Mary Bliss Parsons”

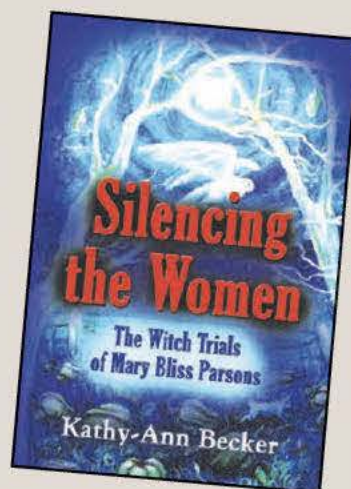
By DAVID DETMOLD

WENDELL – The death last week of Nancy Reagan’s court astrologer gave the nation pause to consider, however briefly, relations between the occult and America’s power elite.

And as Friday’s celebration of the dark side of life unreels, we in Massachusetts have the chance to reflect on the peculiarly sadistic pride of place the Puritans carved out in relation to psychic manifestations in their most basic form.

Intuition, divination, second sight, call it what you will, Cotton and Increase Mather called it witchcraft, and tied it together with crop failures, the unexplained deaths of infants, and physical ailments of obscure origin to blame it all on women, women who may have done nothing more than differ from the Puritan ideal of being dutiful, reverent and obsequious helpmates to their men.

Kathy Becker, until recently the town moderator of Wendell, has spent years researching and writing a moving story about one of her ancestors – Mary Bliss Parsons – who lived in



Northampton in the late 1600s, and was tried as a witch in Boston. Mary Bliss is not to be confused with Mary Lewis Parsons, who was also tried as a witch in Boston, in 1651, and put to death for infanticide.

That story is also told in Becker’s book. It may seem strange that two women with almost the same name, living in exactly the same time in the same part of Colonial Massachusetts, may have been brought to trial on the same charge – witchcraft – the eerie similarity of their stories gives substance to the book’s sloganeering title, *Silencing the Women* (Book Locker, 2013).

Becker traces her family tree nine generations back to Mary Bliss, who was born in England and emigrated

with her family to the Bay Colony in 1635, when she was just seven years old.

Becker pulls off a little witchcraft of her own by veritably inhabiting the psyche of her ancestor, so entirely that the first person narrative with which she tells her tale sounds completely natural to the time and setting, steeped in the pious worldview of Puritanism, where every moment of the waking day is seen as either a blessing or perhaps a test from God.

If you are interested in what life was like in Colonial Massachusetts, see it, as Becker does, through the eyes of a woman who helped break the first trail north from the small riverside town of Springfield to the rolling meadows of Northampton.

Becker tells of life in early New England with an immediacy that makes you feel the hardship and deprivation, the drive and determination, the religious fervor and love of family that nourished and sustained the colonists, themselves refugees from religious persecution in England.

But religious persecution see **BECKER** page B4

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Bears, Magnetism, Say What You Will

The STEAM program will feature a workshop for kids ages 3-6 on magnets on **Thursday, November 6** from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Using different types of magnets, we will discover what they can do and how they can be useful, and fun.

Please call or stop in to register.

On **Thursday November 13**, at 7 p.m. local author **Cammie McGovern** will be at the library to talk about her work. McGovern is the author of three adult novels, *The Art of Seeing*, *Eye Contact*, and *Neighborhood Watch*, and recently the acclaimed YA novel *Say What You Will*.

Put it on your calendar now: on **Sunday, November 16** at 1:30 the library will show a free family movie, *Disney Nature's Bears* on the big screen.

WEIRD HEALING! by OVERTURE



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

Free Legal and Financial Workshop for Alzheimer's Caregivers

TURNERS FALLS – The Alzheimer's Association is offering a free workshop on Wednesday, November 5 from 1 to 3 p.m., at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road.

The program, acquaints families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias with the legal and financial issues associated with planning for the long-term care of their relative. An Elder Law attorney will discuss important topics such as power of attorney, asset protection and Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

For more information on the program or to register, call (800) 272-3900.

Pet of the Week

Billy is sweet little guy who will warm your lap and your heart. A family with kids would be ideal for Billy - he loves everyone and will certainly keep the whole family entertained! Billy's favorite activity is snuggling but he can definitely be convinced to get up and play with his favorite people. When he gets excited he wiggles his rear to let you know he's happy! Billy is already housetrained and knows some pretty cool tricks like sit and stay too! Are you looking for a new addition to the family? Come on down and see if Billy is the guy for you!



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

BILLY

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Pull Over!



By **FRED CICETTI**

Q. What causes motion sickness?

Many people – including me – suffer nausea when traveling by boat, car or airplane. It also happens on rides in amusement parks and playgrounds. The symptoms of motion sickness are caused by conflicting messages arriving at the central nervous system. Different parts of your body let your brain know where you are and what you're doing. The inner ears let you know if you're turning, or moving forward-backward, side-to-side, and up-and-down.

The eyes also monitor the directions of motion and where the body is in space, such as upside down. Skin pressure receptors tell you what part of the body is touching the

ground. The muscle and joint sensory receptors tell what parts of the body are moving.

If all the signals tell the same story, there are no problems. However, suppose you're below deck in a heaving sea. Your body is getting information that the boat is moving violently. But your eyes see the unmoving walls of your cabin.

If you are susceptible to motion sickness, this below-deck scenario is almost guaranteed to make you look for a porthole to get rid of your last meal.

How about the example of reading in the car? Well, your body is picking up all kinds of cues that you're in motion, but your eyes see only the unmoving pages of your book.

Here are some tips to avoid motion sickness:

Always ride where your eyes will see the same motion that your body senses. For example, sit in the front seat of the car and look out the windshield to distant scenery; don't stare at the rapidly passing telephone poles outside the passenger window. I prefer driving so I am forced to look straight ahead.

If you're on a boat, go up on deck and watch the horizon. Request a cabin in the forward or middle of the

ship, or on the upper deck.

On an airplane, sit by the window and look outside. Also, choose a seat over the wings where there is the least motion. Direct the air vent at your face.

On a train, take a seat near the front and next to a window. Face forward.

Minimize head movement.

Avoid strong odors and spicy or greasy foods immediately before and during your travel. Don't overeat.

Don't smoke or sit near smokers.

Before your travel begins, take motion sickness medicine recommended by your physician. There are over-the-counter drugs. There is also prescription medicine in an adhesive patch or in oral form.

There are other treatments for motion sickness that may benefit some people, but they have not been proven to be consistently effective. High levels of ginger have helped some. There's an acupuncture point of the wrist that provides relief of nausea during pregnancy and after chemotherapy, but there is contradictory evidence about its effectiveness in treating motion sickness.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezer.org.

Senior Center Activities November 3 through 7

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is closed.

Monday 11/3

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

Tuesday 11/4

Closed for Election Day

Wednesday 11/5

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

Thursday 11/6

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. to noon Brown Bag & SNAP Applications
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

Friday 11/7

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Writing Group

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.

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 11/3 (typical schedule)

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
12 noon Movie

Tuesday 11/4

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Dance Fitness

Wednesday 11/5

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Thursday 11/6

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Noon Cards

Friday 11/7

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.

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A Parting in the Night.

The Library at Mt. Parnassus Pt. 46



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

As we came up to the soldier's fountain, a dark figure approached. The glow of his pipe revealed little of his features.

Cadmus cleared his throat and spit into the wishing well.

The smell of cedar and aromatic tobacco drifted on the wind.

"Old Clare?"

"Evenin' boys. Cold night at the wishing well."

"Trade's been brisk, though, just the same."

We looked back toward the temple. The fire in the naos had burned out completely now. The moon was up, paling toward new.

In the ghostly light, the white fields were pocked with cratered footsteps.

The lotus eaters, shadowed in the central chambers of the temple, sprawled among the rocks beneath the evergreens, lay about in attitudes of stiff repose, while the dealers with their guns and cell phones lounged against the columns, waiting.

"Ah," said Clare. "The enterprise of youth."

He drew on his pipe, and emitted a thin stream of smoke, along with a few halting lines of verse:

*In dim fields of Lethe
By Hypnos' cave there be
Assayers three who wait
The thronging souls
Like dying coals
That rattle at the gate...*

"A poor translation." He knocked his pipe out on the side of the wishing well.

"We're heading over to the Mean," I said. "Care to join us?"

"Not tonight," said Clare. "I had one too many at work."

He turned to Cadmus, and took his arm, and I followed one step behind as the two old friends walked together through the crusted snow.

At the corner of Fifth, Herr Klee's huge bloodhound, Orpheus, came bounding through the pines and bracken and almost barreled into us.

His muzzle was stained purple; a popsicle wrapper was stuck to the side of his snout.

"They enforce the leash law 'differently these days," said Clare, leaning on his cane defensively.

"Now how'd he get into that?" I wondered.

"In ancient Tyre," said Clare, apropos of almost nothing, "the city rose to wealth and power from a lowly gastropod mollusk - *murex trunculus*. Crushed by the thousands and left to rot in open vats, the

stench wafted o'er the sea, attracting the envy of pharaohs, kings, high priests, and any who desired to be clothed in a mantle purpled with putrescence and decay."

"My father owned a textile mill in Phoenix once," said Cadmus, surprising both of us.

Clare refilled his pipe and waited for him to continue, but Cadmus had nothing more to add.

Clare, smoking, began to quote from Pliny the Elder's *Natural History* about the proper way to prepare dye from shellfish.

The most favorable season for taking these is after the rising of Sirius, or else before the spring; for when they have discharged their waxy secretion their juices have no consistency. This, however, is a fact unknown in the dyer's workshops, although it is of primary importance.

"They could have used a good reference librarian," I said.

Shorty, a man who had fallen years ago from a third story window after a night of hard partying at the Mt. Parnassus Inn, hobbled by us on the sidewalk.

His longer leg dragged, and he took quick steps with his other one, jerking along his twisted body as one side tried in vain to keep up with the other.

Some of his vertebrae were missing. He made walking on a level surface look like climbing a steep, uneven staircase.

As we approached the church, I noticed how street artists had been at work repurposing the Lenten banner and the bricks.

Old graffiti is hard to scrub away, so someone from the church had altered the tagline by the side door, "Satan's Coming," to read "Santa's Coming" instead.

When he paused on the corner of Fifth, Clare turned and took Cadmus by both arms. I stood to one side, watching them.

Cadmus, gaunt and weather-beaten, with his hacking cough, and Old Clare, wizened and frail, with his cornel cane hooked on his wrist. Two old men, shipping water but still riding the main, hale and strong in memory.

They stood under the streetlight, looking in each other's eyes.

"Good-bye Cadmus," said Clare finally.

We watched for a while as Ol' Clare walked down the blue street toward his door on L. Then we turned the other way, and headed toward the Golden Mean.

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Altercations in the Alley; Venison Procured; Ancient Potato Cure Interrupted

Monday, 10/20

8:24 a.m. Report that a man who lives on Sunrise Terrace has been opening neighbors' mailboxes and going through their mail. Subject denied any involvement. Subject advised.

12:00 p.m. Caller from I Street who is caring for a neighboring property put away some flowers at the request of the property owner, but the third floor tenant gave him a hard time about it and threatened to put the flowers back outside. Both parties spoken with; caller advised of options.

12:48 p.m. Caller reports that last week when her 11 year old daughter got off the bus in Montague Center, a man approached her and asked her something to the effect of "Are you lost, little girl? Do you want to follow me?"

Daughter walked to the Montague Mini Mart and waited there until man was out of sight. Subject described as white male, 50s, medium build, black hair, brown eyes. Officers will be on lookout.

3:43 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts reports a male party sitting on the ground in the handicapped parking space with a bunch of belongings drinking from an open container of beer. Party stated to responding officer that he could get a room at the French King Motel. Courtesy transport provided. Motel found to be closed due to renovations. Party requested to be dropped off at the bowling alley.

4:35 p.m. Request for officer to dispose of needles found in grass on Masonic Avenue. Services rendered.

5:00 p.m. Request for officers to perform extra checks of the basketball courts at Unity Park; Parks and Rec staff report that youths have been skateboarding on the courts.

6:02 p.m. Caller from Food City reports that there is a white male, checkered shirt, in the restroom at their store with his pants down, or off, sitting on a bag of potatoes that he may have shoplifted. Medicare requested for male party with general weakness. Party removed to hospital.

7:45 p.m. Per Chief Dodge, the Montague Selectboard tonight voted to euthanize a dog owned by [redacted]. Chief Dodge will contact the animal control officer tomorrow to advise him of this outcome.

Tuesday, 10/21
12:43 a.m. Caller from Millers Pub reports that

he and his friend were just mugged by a male he met today. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with unarmed robbery; intimidating a witness; disorderly conduct; and disturbing the peace, subsequent offense.

9:24 a.m. Report that the Greenfield Savings Bank tent used at Pumpkinfest was stolen from Avenue A sometime Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Report taken.

2:21 p.m. Request for officer at Great Falls Middle School, where a parent just breached the security doors and is on the first floor. Parent stated to caller that no one was going to stop her from going to her son's classroom. Parent removed from school. Charges pending. Under investigation.

3:51 p.m. Following an incident at Aubuchon Hardware, [redacted] was arrested and charged with shoplifting by asportation and consuming alcohol on a public way/park.

5:24 p.m. Caller reports heavy smoke and two suspicious males running from the area of the train tracks near the bridge on East Main Street. TFFD and Erving PD advised. Report taken.

Wednesday, 10/22
12:55 p.m. A juvenile male was arrested at Turners Falls High School.

1:03 p.m. Party from Walnut Street reports that some of her medications were stolen on Friday 10/10. Report taken.

2:04 p.m. Caller from West Street noticed Sunday afternoon that he was missing several rolls of copper pipe and wire. Report taken.

2:43 p.m. Caller reports that a dog is locked in a car on Fifth Street and that items in the car appear to have fallen on the dog, who seems stuck. Responding officer reports that the dog does not seem to be in distress and is nestled in. Owner came out and moved the stuff, which was a garbage bag full of laundry.

Thursday, 10/23
12:47 a.m. Caller reports that her mother just saw a male enter or attempt to enter several vehicles on Seventh Street. Paperwork found missing from one vehicle.

10:53 a.m. Report of 2 construction barrels washed into Turnpike Road by heavy rain. Checked with DPW, who advised that the barrels were put there by the Water Department. Officer moved barrels to side of road. Water Department

will send someone to better secure the barrels.

1:38 p.m. Animal control officer advised that he visited Coolidge Avenue and followed up with Jody Rattigan, who advised that her dog is not at her residence and is out of town. Rattigan further advised that she has hired an attorney to assist her with the appeals process.

1:43 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that her tires were slashed overnight. Referred to an officer.

3:50 p.m. Hit and run accident at Cumberland Farms. Report taken.

3:57 p.m. Officer flagged down at Scotty's by a woman who had just been run off the road by a small grey SUV.

4:38 p.m. Caller reports a disturbance in the alley between Third and Fourth Streets involving 5-6 males and a black Mercedes that just pulled up with no plates. Found to be a verbal argument over sneakers. Vehicle reported to be undriveable; had been pushed out of a garage that was being cleaned out.

5:23 p.m. Caller reports that there are 10 people, both male and female, in the alley arguing; appears to be escalating. Parties spoken to and advised not to return to this location tonight.

9:48 p.m. Caller advises that he hit a deer with his car on Turners Falls Road. Caller not injured; car damaged; deer deceased. Second party on scene to pick up the animal. Caller bringing car to station to park while they deliver the deer to his uncle's house.

Friday, 10/24
11:34 a.m. Assisted with disorderly student at TFHS. Peace restored.
3:54 p.m. Caller reports that he just saw a male light the dumpster near St. Stan's on fire. Officers dispatched; TFFD en route.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct; attempted arson of property; and disturbing the peace.

9:13 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports a suspicious grey vehicle with four occupants; caller speculates that they are smoking marijuana. Responding officer advises one occupant, nothing illegal going on.

9:44 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports suspicious activity behind the building involving a vehicle; made reference to a party in the building "getting stoned from cocaine." Responding officer advises that

only suspicious activity is a party unloading their groceries.

Saturday, 10/25
6:24 a.m. Caller states that practice green adjacent to the clubhouse at Thomas Memorial Country Club was damaged by a motor vehicle. Report taken.

10:29 a.m. Report of fight in alley behind Basically Bicycles. Peace restored.

12:29 p.m. Caller reports that his bicycle was stolen from the front of his house on Third Street within the last ten minutes. Caller later located bike in the area of Cumberland Farms.

1:34 p.m. Owner of Madison on the Avenue spoken to regarding items for sale on sidewalk/town property. Officer will be following up with Town Hall on Monday.

2:31 p.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering on Fifth Street. Extra patrols requested.

8:11 p.m. Caller reports being hit with what he thinks was a taped volleyball at Poplar Street and Greenfield Road. Parents of involved children spoken to.

10:24 p.m. Caller reports residents "stealing electricity" on Chestnut Street, running extension cord from third floor to basement. Concerned about fire hazard. Message left for Board of Health.

Sunday, 10/26
3:07 p.m. Six year old boy reported missing from his home on Turnpike Road; last seen by parents between 1:30-1:50 p.m. TFFD, Erving bloodhound, and MSP Airwing and search team requested. Child located at residence.

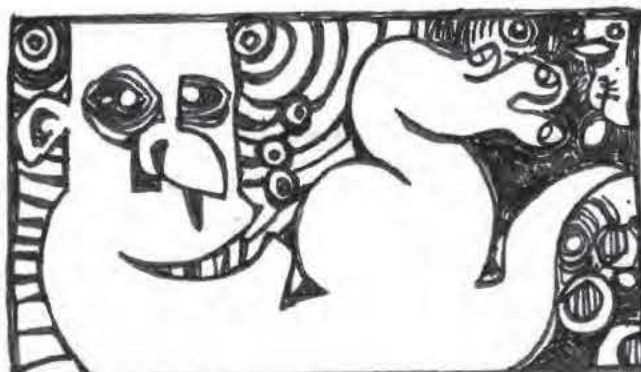
3:30 p.m. Three participants from the Shea Theater group that is meeting in the MPD community room were observed running around west side of station, using metal hand railings on the stairs as a balance beam, and jumping over the rails as if they were hurdles. Person running program advised.

8:11 p.m. Caller reports being struck by vehicle in Avenue A crosswalk near Second Street. Mirror on vehicle hit caller's arm. Medical attention declined. Vehicle last seen heading towards F.L. Roberts. Investigated.

10:48 p.m. Female party reported walking in the middle of the travel lane on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge heading into Gill; wearing a brown jacket, has brown hair, and is carrying a red Solo cup. No Gill officer available; MSP advised.

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GOLDEN from page B1
age of 12. "That's the only thing I've lost," she laughed. "I'm still doin' good for an almost 96-year-old girl. I live alone and can take care of myself. The Lord has been good to me."

Gertrude had her driving license renewed a couple of weeks ago. "I prayed all the way over to the Registry and thanked Him all the way back."

Woodard still goes out to eat with friends and attends services every Sunday at the First Congregational Church on L St., where she has worshipped her entire life. She also drives to the grocery store, hairdresser, and the post office.

And Gertrude continues to be a member of the Eastern Star, faithfully attending meetings in Greenfield. She's been a member for 47 years.

In addition, Mrs. Woodard takes her 13-year-old schnauzer named Sam for a walk twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, for a total distance of a mile and a tenth.

At 95, she still takes pride in the fact that in 1936 she was the first in her family to graduate from high school – donning the cap and gown at Turners Falls High School. There were six children in her family.

Always active, Woodard went to work immediately after high school at the John Russell Harrington Cutlery Co. before the business closed and moved to Southbridge.

Woodard went on to work at Montague Rod and Reel as World War II raged. She then went on to employment as a full-time bookkeeper for Harold B. Allen at International Truck Sales and Service in Greenfield for 35 years.

Her husband, Charlie, worked at ITSS before completing his career at Western Mass. Electric.

"I still can't believe I was given the Boston Post Cane," said Woodard. "My mother lived to be 89, and my father 81. There's gotta be someone older than me in Turners Falls. I lived my whole life in Turners. And I've lived 50 years here on Crocker Ave."

Selectboard chair Chris Boutwell and selectman Mark Fairbrother awarded Gertrude Montague's Boston Post Cane in a special ceremony at her home. Also on hand were her family and neighbors.

The stick is also known as the Golden Cane. The town will take custody of the historical artifact, while it awarded Woodard a medallion for permanent keeping.

"I'm going to put a chain on it," said Gertrude, "so that I can wear it around my neck."



BECKER from page B1

is not left behind on the Atlantic crossing. The Puritans brought it with them and soon let their preachers and judges unleash it on their own brethren – and especially on their sisters – in the wild new land they came to settle and tame.

Do not look for sympathetic treatment of Native Americans in this story. That would be out of character for a woman carving a homestead with her husband and children out of the woodlands beside New England's great river in the years just before and immediately after King Phillip's War.

But do look for a gripping account of survival, communal strength, and communal intrigue among the settlers themselves, for that is what Becker delivers.

You will see Boston, Hartford, Springfield, and Northampton with new eyes after reading her book – see them in their original outlines, in the people who shaped them and helped them grow into the cities they are today.

And you will find yourself taken by the age old struggle of all women, any woman, to find and stay true to her inner voice amid the power struggles of the men around her, the men who in Colonial days literally held her fate in their



Kathy Becker

hands, even if that meant ultimately tying her to a gibbet to hang in the town square.

I won't reveal how Mary Bliss Parsons' story ends. For that matter, in the way Kathy Becker tells her ancestor's story, it never really ends: read it, and it will continue to resonate inside you. Mary Bliss Parsons is one woman the patriarchy could never really silence. Thank Goddess for that.

And those Salem witches? Don't believe the hype. They were just wise women after all.

The book is available locally at the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield and at the Wendell Country Store.



Community Call For Prayer at Leverett Peace Pagoda

On Sunday, November 2, starting at 9 a.m. and running until 1:30 p.m., the "Day of Prayer" will begin with a Walk for Peace and Healing from the Amherst Town Common, to the Leverett Peace Pagoda, walking half the distance and covering the other half by transport.

From 2 to 4 p.m., an Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace and Healing will be held at the Peace Pagoda, at 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett.

A light reception will follow. The Day of Prayer is a Community Grassroots Initiative endorsed

by the New England Peace Pagoda. All are invited.

All can join in for any part of the Walk for Peace and Healing, walk for a mile, an hour, or the full distance. A light lunch will be provided at midday for the walkers.

The Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace and Healing will include meditations, music, and song.

Guests may park at the Peace Pagoda parking lot and wait to walk up the hill with the walkers. There will also be a shuttle for those who need to ride up the hill to the Pagoda starting at 1:30 p.m.



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Paid for by The Committee to Elect Dylan Korpita

Beaver Moon Gathering at Great Falls

On Saturday, November 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Great Falls Discovery Center anthropologist David Cornelius will talk about events of the King Philip's War in the 1670's which led to the infamous massacre at Great Falls (Peskeompskut) in Turners Falls.

He will also relate stories of the Indians involved in the fight and the causes that resulted in the war. His presentation will include the absence of Iroquois warriors and the safety felt by the Nipmuck in this out of the way place, the fictitious rumor of Philip's involvement, and the fear of Mohawk attack more than one by settlers.

Cornelius has a B.A. in Colonial and Native American Studies and is about to earn his MA in Anthropology. He will share the story of King Hendrick, supreme Chief of the Mohawks, who was born in Agawam, MA of a Mohican father and Mohawk mother.

Cornelius has connections to the Mohican Nation and the Mohawk Nation on his father's side. His mother was descended from the Puritans. His ancestors died on both sides during King Philip's War.

David Brule, Nolumbeka Proj-



ect Board member, will talk briefly about the recently awarded National Park Service (NPS) Battlefield Grant which will support gathering a comprehensive overview of the massacre.

The Advisory Board is comprised of three Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), Wampanoag of Aquinnah, Nipmuc/k, Narragansett, with long distance collaboration with Stockbridge-Munsee, Mashpee Wampanoag, Mohegan; five Historical Commissioners (Montague,

Deerfield, Greenfield, Gill, Northfield), a retired state archaeologist from RI, and an NPS historian who is a local resident.

One of the main points is to include ALL oral histories, including Yankee. One of the innovative products will be a tribal history and perspective written by each individual tribe, preserving their own viewpoints, without filtering them through a project editor, etc. The hope is to create a balanced presentation, pointing out the multiple perspectives on this event.

The gathering is named in honor of the full moon on November 8 and is free. Traditionally, the Beaver Moon marked the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs.

Another interpretation suggests that the name Beaver Moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. It is sometimes also referred to as the Frost Moon.

There will be an opening ceremony with Strong Oak, a display of Native American traditional gardening, a raffle drawing, and light refreshments for sale.

This event is sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, a Native American advocacy group www.nolumbeka.org.

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Allen Fowler's Abstract Landscapes: On View at Great Falls Harvest

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – The work of Allen Fowler is on display at the Great Falls Harvest in celebration of the restaurant's one year anniversary. An educator, artist and writer, Fowler has made his home with his daughter in Turners Falls for the past four years, but he's been in New England since 1996.

He talks of drawing being a passion all his life and not surprisingly graduated college with a minor in art. He later returned to graduate school receiving a Masters in Fine Arts from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Fowler says, "I have an affinity for abstract expressionism, its use of gesture, the energy and spontaneity, the color fields and graphics that suggest the landscape. In equal measure, I have always been struck by our need to slice, dice and structure the world around us from our gridded cities to the geometry we impose on the natural world."

The pieces on exhibit at the Harvest include a number mixed media collage – agricultural landscapes and a continuation of Fowler's 2013 *As If Mountain* series, which feature works inspired by typical hill town scenery of Western Massachusetts.

As you approach them, you begin to see the grids he talks about as both farm fields and mountains reveal the geometric elements of the collage, from acrylic paintings and pencil sketches to weathered painted wood pieces and photographs which have themselves been sliced and diced.

Fowler has recently opened Sliding Scale Gallery at River Station, 151 Third Street in

Turners Falls. The airy space has given him an opportunity to start painting in oils for the first time in nearly a decade. The result is a series of four oils on canvas inspired by Fowler's recent revisiting of the work of Franz Kline.

These distinctly Turners Falls works feature scenes from the village including vantage points along the power canal. The darker colors and tones of the oils bring up memories of cold, blustery walks along the bike canal and remind me that winter is approaching.

When he's not painting Fowler writes plays, and more recently ventured into writing young adult fiction, which was inspired by reading with his daughter Georgia. He says she is the impetus for this new direction in writing. He celebrated a Block Party release of *Alexandra Stepp and the Summer of Quiet Light* last August.

The first in a four-book series, *The Summer of Quiet Light* recounts the early days of Alexandra Stepp's journey from little girl to young woman. While exploring the woods of Vermont with her cousin and her best friend, twelve-year-old Alexandra Stepp experiences a bewildering ability to see light emanating from within all that surrounds her – from within the forest animals, the flowers, grasses and trees, even from within the rocks and boulders.

It is a wonderful gift but a challenge to control and impossible to understand. This is the summer of the Quiet Light, and Alexandra will turn to this gift to save her friends and elude capture by the ancient spirit she has awakened. She will also meet White Feather Woman, a medicine woman, who knows of



COURTESY ALLEN FOWLER

Allen Fowler mixed media collage – "As If Mountain" Series 2 No 2 (2013)

both the danger and the wonder that this gift-sight could bring.

Fowler anticipates publishing the second book, *Alexandra Stepp and the Swift-Footed Wind* in the summer of 2015. If you missed

the Block Party release, the novel is available at the River Station Studio, Loot, and Funk*Shun in Turners Falls; at Off the Common Books in Amherst; at World Eye Books in Greenfield; and on-line at Amazon.com.

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH TO RE-ELECT

State Representative

Steve Kulik

How Others Describe Steve Kulik:

"Steve Kulik and I have worked together for years on behalf of the people of Franklin and Hampshire counties, in fact, all of western Massachusetts. He is an experienced, effective leader and partner. I look forward to continuing to work with him, and he has my full support in this election."

~ Senator Stan Rosenberg,
Senate Majority Leader

"There is no better leader in the House for the small, rural communities of Western Massachusetts than Steve Kulik. It takes a team to advocate for expanded broadband and other distinct rural needs. I know that anything I have been able to accomplish fighting for these communities is because I have had an incredibly able, hardworking and knowledgeable partner leading the way in the House. That partner has been Steve Kulik, and I urge you to re-elect him to continue that work."

~ Senator Benjamin Downing



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As your State Representative in Montague, Leverett, and the other 17 towns in the 1st Franklin District, I always work hard to make sure that our communities get the attention and support from Boston that they deserve.

We have accomplished much through the years in working to meet important local needs such as increasing local aid and education funding, supporting better services for our veterans, improving our local roads and bridges, strengthening supports for senior citizens, and bringing new economic opportunities with our investment in rural broadband service.

But there is much more to do in the future, so I ask for your support in continuing to allow me to be a voice for the values and priorities of this district and all of western Massachusetts.

I thank you for your past support, and I respectfully ask for your vote to re-elect me, Steve Kulik, as your State Representative on Tuesday, November 4th. Thank you.

Steve Kulik

Endorsed by *The Republican* (October 26th issue):

"We hope the voters of his district will return this energetic and effective legislator."

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 28, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Strathmore Purchase Fails Narrowly

On an issue likely to play a key role in the future of Montague's economic development, town meeting on October 21 failed to muster the 2/3 majority needed to approve the town's purchase of the Strathmore Mill. With six members leaving early or abstaining, the measure failed, 52-30.

Following the vote, town planner Robin Sherman said, "We're not giving up." Before the meeting had adjourned, she reached the Strathmore's manager by phone, who agreed to allow the town 4 to 6 more weeks to answer concerns raised during the debate, and to call a second town meeting on the subject.

Expressing a common complaint, Deb Radway of Precinct 1 said, "He bought that mill two years ago for \$40,000, and now he wants to sell it for \$300,000.

If the town does take control of

the Strathmore, even for a limited period of time, Precinct 2's Mike Naughton wanted to know, "Who is going to be in charge? The town, in the person of Frank [Abbondanzio]?"

Wendell Conservation Restriction Questioned

The terms of the conservation restriction for Fiske Pond have not yet been finalized, and more community input will be gathered before a final document is crafted, members told a concerned sportsman at the Monday meeting of the open space planning and conservation committee.

Chair Charles Smith said Paul Godfrey, a biology professor at UMass, had studied the area with his students and described the collection of unique habitats at the site. He advised the committee that hunting, fishing, and logging would be detrimental to the preservation of these habitats. Much of the state land that is open for hunting does not support the same diversity of wildlife.

Myron Becker said he was un-

officially representing a group of anglers who opposed the proposed exclusion of hunting and fishing at Fiske Pond. Becker expressed concern about people moving into town from urban and suburban areas and making restrictions that eliminate traditional land uses and alienate long-term residents.

Railroad Salvaged?

Leaving traffic concerns for another day, Montague's Zoning Board of Appeals last night gave preliminary approval to Belcher-town developer Mark Kislyuk's plans for a \$4.5 million renovation of the 110-year-old former Griswold Mill, known as the Railroad Salvage Building, on Power Street.

Kislyuk hopes to put together financing to purchase and redevelop approximately 120,000 square feet of mixed commercial and residential space, with 2/3 divided into 60 one-bedroom apartments, 16 two-bedrooms, and 12 studio apartments. The commercial space will go for offices, or for other use with ZBA approval.

ALLIANCE from page B1

the heart of the GSA. They have put hours of work and effort into educating the school about personal expression, and how it is acceptable to identify with what you will feel inside.

I firmly believe each and every one of the students would be one of the "8 out of 10 students who accept others for their sexuality," and are definitely the "9 out of 10 students who would go out of their way to be kind to someone who is different from them."

Student coordinators, Serena Smith (12th grade) and Jordan Wyman (10th grade), have been the student leaders of the GSA club this year.

"I think the best thing the GSA does is it really creates a safe environment, and a place for people to

be themselves, free of judgment," Smith says. "I also really like how the people in our school community come together and are determined to make a difference."

Their job as student coordinators is to plan events, invite speakers, and organize the meetings when their advisor, Mrs. McLaughlin, is unable to attend.

Talking to the students and hearing how they are so eager to stand up for people who may not have the courage to stand up for themselves is really a beautiful thing to see. It is refreshing to see a group of students so actively involved in a cause they feel passionate about.

I had a great time talking with them and learning more about the GSA, and I hope they keep making Mondays a bit brighter for the student body of TFHS.



Happier Valley Comedy Show

The last time this show came to The Happier Valley Comedy Show, it played to standing-room-only crowds who left awed and inspired by this unique meeting of scripted actors and improvisers.

And now they're back on Saturday, Nov. 8th at 8 p.m. at the Arts Block Cafe in Greenfield. *SCRIPTED/UNSCRIPTED* features a cavalcade of talented improvisers and stage actors from the Pioneer Valley in a half-scripted, half-improvised, totally unique and fun show and combines one actor performing from a script with one improviser making it all up on the spot to mix up a wild and wooly show unlike anything thing you've seen before.

Audiences definitely will want to get tickets in advance online to guarantee their seats at this sure-to-be-popular show.

This time around, the show stars the *SCRIPTED* actors Jason Czernich, Sarah Wilson, Rachel Marie Braidman, Mark Teffer, Stephanie Carlson, Marina Goldman, and Phil O'Donoghue and *UNSCRIPTED* actors Pam Victor, Laura Patrick, Christine Stevens, Maureen McElligott, Mosie Senn-McNally, Scott Braidman, and Maile Shoul.

Audiences can look forward to a full evening of comic entertainment rated PG-13 in this handicapped-accessible space. For more information about The Happier Valley Comedy Show, visit the show website at www.happiervalley.com. Tickets are available in advance at www.artsblock.com.

THE HAPPIER VALLEY COMEDY SHOW:
SCRIPTED/UNSCRIPTED
Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

The Arts Block Cafe
289 Main St., Greenfield, MA
(413) 774-0150

BALL from page A1

just get the first down. Tionne Brown found an open Emmitt Turn and Emmitt ran all the way into the Scarlet end zone, and with five-and-a-half minutes remaining in the first quarter, Turners led 14 to nil.

Mahar is a good team. They're big, physical and were not about to give up. This was evident in their next drive. They started on the Scarlet 30 and had a nice sustained drive, moving up the field in short bursts. But on first and ten from the Tribe's 35, the Powertown D came alive.

Back-to-back tackles for losses by Jalen Sanders and Trent Bourbeau and a key stop by Alex Carlisle led to a fourth and 9. On the next play, Quinn Doyle picked off a pass and ran all the way to pay dirt and Turners Falls took a 21-zero first quarter lead.

"A swarm of Indians." The over-head announcer, whose duty it is to call the names of the ball carriers and the tacklers, had some difficulty listing all the Powertown tacklers because so many of them were in on the tackles. At one point he simply said "And he's taken down by a swarm of Indians."

What a wonderful way to describe the defense-by-committee gang tacklers. And although the lion's share of the tackles were made by Alex Carlisle, Trent Bourbeau, and Tyler Charboneau, 15 different Indians made tackles or assists in the game. In addition to the names I've already mentioned, Jack Darling, Nick Croteau, Will Roberge, Colby Dobias, Tanner Castine, and Cullen Wozniak each made tackles or assists.

When Mahar got the ball back, Owen Ortiz made a couple of nice tackles as did Jalen Sanders and the Blue forced a fourth and 1.

Mahar went for the first but turned the ball over on a fumble. Turners took over with seven minutes 40 left in the half. The Tribe advanced the ball but were unable to convert a fourth and 6.

Mahar got the ball with 4:37 left in the half and likewise, were unable to get the first down. So, as



Owen Ortiz scores a touchdown.

time was elapsing in the half, Powertown took possession.

And as is their practice, Turners scored with less than a minute left in the half. Alex Carlisle caught a pass, and after catching the ball, he cut back against the grain, faked one way and scampered all the way into the Scarlet end zone. And Turners was up 28 to nothing at the half.

Both teams banged up and down the field but were unable to score for most of the third quarter. But with three minutes, 19 seconds left in the quarter, Mahar scored their first touchdown of the night when they converted a first and goal from the 6 yard line.

Turners Falls answered on their next series. After a nice long sustained drive, Owen Ortiz caught a TD pass and Powertown led 35 to 8 with nine minutes 9 seconds left in the game.

Thirty seconds later, Mahar scored a touchdown of their own and narrowed the margin to 35-14. Blown coverage meant a wide open Senator was able to catch the ball and run all the way to pay dirt. When they got the ball right back

on an inside kick, it looked like the Senators were in position to score again.

But the swarm of Indians wouldn't let that happen. Mahar ran seven plays but each time the Swarm descended on the ball carrier and on fourth and 5, Quinn Doyle picked off the pass and gave the ball and the momentum, back to the Tribe.

Turners took over on the 41 yard line with seven minutes left in the game. The one-two punch of Trent Bourbeau and Jalen Sanders moved the ball to the Scarlet 16.

It was during this series that Trent passed the millennium mark. Trent Bourbeau joined the elite class of thousand yard rushers, attaining that milestone in only seven games. On Fourth down and 4 yards to go, Jalen Sanders put the icing on the cake and put Powertown up 42 to 14.

Emitt Turn, who was a perfect 6 for 6 in PATs, kicked the ball all the way into the Scarlet end zone for a touchdown. Turners' D continued to swarm and when the offense took over, they ran one play and then Tionne took a knee to end

the game.

Well, Turners keeps winning. This team that Springfield calls the "smallest team in Western Mass." has found a way to win every single game. They've won the close ones and the blow outs. They've beaten the small schools and the city schools. They've won in the heat and the pouring rain and the cold dark autumn nights.




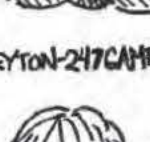


At home, on the road, in the afternoon or at night they continue to win and to baffle the skeptics along the way.

And with one more regular season game to go, the Intercounty League Champions are poised to add to their very impressive 2014 resumé.



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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories, with Angela. Children are invited to come in their pajamas. 6:30-7:00 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:

Wendell Free Library, Herrick



Zydeco Connection at Deja Brew in Wendell on Saturday, November 1, 9 p.m.

Room Gallery: *Artists from the Blackstone Studio Printers in Worcester: Lisa Barthelson, Sally Bowditch, Nina Fletcher, Susan Mampre, Jacqueline Ross, Karen Nunley, Jean Murphy, and Kathy Murray*. Prints on display through November 1.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Winter Hours now through May. Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Local libraries have passes for area museums. *Wendell Free Library* has: Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Historic Deerfield, Mass MoCa, and more. *Leverett Library* has: Clark Art Institute, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Historic Deerfield, Springfield Museums and more. Check with each library for availability & restrictions.

CALL FOR ART:

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:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

Smith College, Northampton: Lecture *Cosmographics: Picturing Space Through Time*. Artist, photographer and filmmaker Michael Benson will discuss

graphic representations of the universe through time, using images dating to the early 17th century. 11:30 a.m. Carroll Room, Campus Center.

Rag Shag Parade and trick-or-treat, Greenfield and Turners Falls.

Deerfield Inn, Old Deerfield: *Zombiefest - Monster Bash*. Commonly referred to as New England's most haunted inn. Spooky decorations, prizes for costumes, menu specials, \$.

Smith College, Northampton: *Theatre Performance "The Taming of the Shrew"* by William

jams and jellies, maple & honey products, hand knit items, handmade soaps, jewelry, & watches, holiday decorations, hand sewn quilts & bags, handmade wood crafts, toys, & games, and so much more. Breakfast and lunch available. 9 to 3 p.m.

Blue Guitar Performance Space, Easthampton: First Saturdays Soirée, this month featuring David Brule reading from *West Along the River*, and poems in Irish. Dregs Malarkey and 'the board of harmony', playing harp music from Celtic, medieval, and renaissance traditions. Light refreshments served, BYOB. \$, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Shea Comedy Players, Improvised and Uncensored*, comedy for adults only, \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Booty Nights 7, Halloween 2*.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Family Dance* with David Kaynor, 5 p.m. All ages welcome. Admission by donation; all proceeds help keep the hall viable. Potluck, social hour, and evening contra dance to follow. at 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

W.E.B. Du Bois Library, UMASS Amherst: *Long and Winding Road: The Legacy Of The Back-to-the-land Communes Of The 1960s*, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Greenfield Community College, Downtown Campus: *Senior Symposia: Art and Appetite*, presented by Art Institute of Chicago curator Judith Barter. From colonial to contemporary times American artists have used depictions of food and eating to express cultural, political, and social values. Using a range of images from the recent major exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, *Art and Appetite: American Painting, Culture and Cuisine*, Barter will bring a feast of such art, from the colonial still life to Andy Warhol. \$, 2 to 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Smith College, Northampton: *Otelia Cromwell Day Ceremony*

and *Keynote Address "Eavesdropping on America's Conversation on Race,"* by Michele Norris, National Public Radio. Sweeney Concert Hall, Sage Hall, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus: *18th Annual Gem, Mineral, Rock & Fossil Show & Sale*. Crystals, gold, dinosaurs, trilobites and gems. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rubblebucket*. Presented by Signature Sounds, \$, 9 p.m.

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WEST ALONG from page B1 accounts, preserved in this priceless scrapbook, placed the Stowell house and the Tavern in roughly the same vicinity.

The Tavern itself was famous as a stopping off place for the various stagecoaches that ran up to Northfield, and as the scene of many a raucous carousing when the log drivers came floating down the Connecticut out of the wilds and looking for an even wilder night!

The Stowell home was just a bit downriver, high on the banks of the Millers, just at the mouth, and approximately near the current site of Cabot Camp. Granny, her husband, and daughter lived there at the foot of what was described as "brooding hills, with the dark angry Millers River below."

Granny's husband himself was convinced he had married a witch, and that he had heard her selling herself to Satan, out behind the barn one

winter's night...

It seems that their daughter's name was Dycie Stowell, whose full name was Boadicea, the ancient pagan name of a very strong woman of mystery and legend. Dycie was bound out as a servant to the proprietor of Durkee's Tavern.

There, Dycie fell in love with a river man by the name of Will Darby. The problem was that Will already was engaged to be married to another young Millers Falls woman.

This woman was convinced that Dycie was casting a witch's spell over Will, so she resorted to a remedy of the time to break that spell. She baked a cake. In the cake she placed some of Will's hair. The story doesn't tell us who was supposed to eat the cake, but it never got that far.

Granny suspected something and sent Dycie to destroy the cake. During the furious struggle between the two women, the cake was indeed destroyed, just as a violent lightning

storm broke out.

The very lightning bolt struck a huge elm at the Tavern which fell on the poor Will Darby. Of course, everyone assumed that it was the Stowell witchcraft that was responsible for the tragedy, and apparently Granny didn't mind boasting for years that it was indeed Dycie's spell.

This story of Dycie and Granny Stowell was recounted in *Harper's Weekly* in February, 1882, forever tying together the Witches of Millers Falls and Durkee's Tavern on the banks of the Connecticut River.

The postscript to this dark tale is even darker. When Granny finally died, she was buried late at night in the old cemetery on East Mineral Road, not far from the mouth of the Millers River.

Local legend has it that Granny's husband makes his way there every Witches' Sabbath on October 31, to

dance on her grave.

And in fact, to find out ourselves, a few of us ventured up to Granny Stowell's grave a few years ago on Halloween night, to see what we could see.

As the night wore on, and as we waited for the witching hour, we fortified ourselves with some of the Devil's drink, fiery whiskey, that seemed to burn its way down even more so than on ordinary nights.

We waited at Granny's grave, but that grave told no secrets, no Stowell widower came to dance on the grave, and feeling sheepish, we finally drifted away leaving Granny in peace.

It wasn't until we stepped outside the low cemetery wall that we stopped in shock, hair standing on end! Who had placed a smashed-in frosted cake and the lit, grinning jack-o'-lantern on the hood of the car?

Who indeed?



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