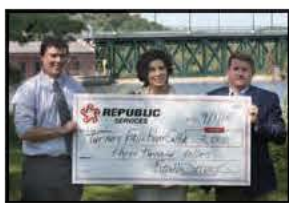


A SIZABLE DONATION

Page A8



A MAJOR FIGURE OF LEVERETT'S PAST

Page B1



AS FAST AS NECESSARY

Page B1



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YEAR 13 – NO. 42

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

After Meth Lab Find, Leverett Chiefs Renew Call for Cell Coverage

By ANN TWEEDY

The recent discovery of an Airbnb rental in Leverett gone dangerously wrong is a case in point for police chief Gary Billings and Sgt. Scott Minckler.

The police department was contacted by the owner of a property who noticed a peculiar smell, and found chemicals in her home, after renting it out over the popular website. The substances were identified by fire chief John Ingram as methylamine hydrochloride and phenylacetic acid, both used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Chief Billings said he doesn't believe it was a "full" meth lab. The perpetrator also stole small but valuable items from the home.

When the officers arrived at the scene, they coordinated actions with state police and crime investigators. Because there was no cell phone reception at the location, Sgt. Minckler had to stay in the building and use its land line to keep in touch with other officers and investigating parties. Minckler said the exposure to the chemicals left him feeling ill.

The incident is still under investigation by police detectives and narcotics officers, under the office of the assistant district attorney of Franklin County, and a suspect has not been found. The owner of the property did not meet the individual prior to renting the home. Billings said investigations revealed that the email address used

see LEVERETT page A6

Stay Tuned...

Publication of Part 2 of "Who is FERC," Jeff Singleton's commentary on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has been delayed until next week's edition, due to space limitations. We apologize to our readers!

THESE LAST LONG DAYS OF SUMMER



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Turners Falls' Fourth Street was closed to traffic, and open to face painting and impromptu water-balloon fights, August 22.

White Light, Bright Street: Illuminating The Avenue

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Avenue A may appear to be under construction, but it's actually just in an advanced stage of recovery. The Avenue A Lighting and Streetscape Improvement Project that began last Monday will restore or enhance features of the original streetscape improvement that took place in 1983. The plan for this fall includes replacement of streetlights on Avenue A as well as construction of a pedestrian plaza on the southwest corner of Third Street and Avenue A with urban-fashion curvy benches.

For the first half of the 20th century, Avenue A was sheltered by a roof of high-branching American Elms that tied the opposite sides of the street together under a canopy of



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The \$396,550 downtown improvement project kicked off this week.

their boughs. But following the mid-century die-off of New England's elms due to Dutch Elm Disease, the avenue was left a wide wasteland of pavement and concrete, and a deterrent to human ease.

The first streetscape improvement, back in 1983, healed the street with the planters, streetlights, and brick sidewalks that are now thought of as iconic elements of our downtown.

The improvements happening this month align with goals named by the

2013 Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan. Among these goals are walk-ability, accessibility to those with disabilities, and safety.

The new pedestrian plaza will create a gathering space comfortable for those on foot, and will replace much of the brick sidewalk there with concrete, easing the locomotion of wheelchairs. The new streetlights are intended to make Avenue A a safer place, by eliminating the dark spaces that prevent bystanders

see LIGHTS page B8

Turners Falls Water District Land Surveyed for Gas Pipeline

By MARK HUDYMA

Land belonging to the Turners Falls Water Department was surveyed in late August by representatives of Kinder Morgan, to prepare an environmental impact study for a gas transmission pipeline the company proposes to build through the county. At an August 26 meeting, the district's water commission discussed two issues related to the proposed pipeline: a letter it will send to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) outlining its concerns with the project; and the surveying and potential use of the department's land.

Jeff Singleton of Montague presented a letter that town meeting approved and submitted to FERC, raising concerns about the safety and impact of the pipeline, with water-related sections given emphasis for the benefit of the commission.

"We were advised to get some questions in now, so they'd have a heads up," said Singleton. "If you have questions, this is the formal process to get concerns on the table. I think they need to know your position on the pipeline."

"We've read this over," said commissioner Kenneth Morin. "It's construction, not destruction."

see WATER page A6

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Flag Deemed Too Beautiful for Boston

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On the night of the Wendell selectboard's August 26 meeting the new and colorful town flag, quilted by town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, was draped over a file cabinet and hanging in loose folds. A large onion, almost the size of a softball and grown by selectboard member Dan Keller was on the board table. At the meeting's end chair Christine Heard picked it up and conceded that it was heavier than the onions she had grown.



Over a year ago, state senator Stan Rosenberg contacted the Wendell selectboard because Wendell did not have a flag hanging in the State House as do most of the commonwealth's other towns. The selectboard asked for designs, and at the 2014 Old Home Day, voters chose a design by resident and artist Donna Horn.

With another resident and artist, Pam Richardson, and some discussion at selectboard meetings, a final

see WENDELL page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Milestones: Feds Bail on Discovery Center; Cable License Approved; Montague Center School Sold

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard at one of the longest meetings of the year, August 24, addressed three central issues: the abrupt withdrawal of federal support from the Discovery Center, a key anchor institution in Turners Falls; the sale of the former

Montague Center School building to Greenfield developer Mark Zacheo; and the approval of a license agreement with the cable company Comcast.

The Great Falls Discovery Center (GFDC), located in a former mill complex on Avenue A in Turners Falls, houses a group of exhibits

that display the "natural cultural and industrial history of the Connecticut River watershed." The facility also houses a large meeting room used frequently for educational, political and cultural events.

According to a statement by Don Clegg, board president of the Friends of the Discovery Center, "2014 broke attendance records with more than 12,000 visitors and this July, 2015, the Center had more than 2,000 visitors."

Thus, he said, "it came as quite a shock" when the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ended all its support for visitor center activities in early August: "We were not told until August 5, and the effective date was August 14."

Activities supported by the federal agency include programming, booking events, calendar updates,

and school field trips. In addition, the agency has announced it will stop paying its share of the center's utility bills.

"The Town of Montague has been one of the partners [of the center] and should have been told by USFW of these changes." According to Clegg, "The GFDC has no plans to close. It is a state park with the Mass State Park System, and the Friends are also not going anywhere. However, there will be a drop in programming and services until some alternative solutions can be found."

Clegg did not speculate as to why the federal agency had withdrawn its support. He questioned the stated reason given by the agency, but noted that "if we look back a little bit, they have been increasingly decreasing their activity at the center."

see MONTAGUE page A5



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The center opened its doors in 2004 as a federal, state, and local partnership.

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Toward a Better Life

270,000 people are estimated to have crossed the Mediterranean from the north shores of Africa into Europe so far this year. This seems like a staggering figure, but it is the equivalent of only .03% of Africa's population, and .04% of Europe's.

Migration has been the central story of human history. Until recently, the logistical machinery of human transport has not been met with much in the way of opposition. Now, the two are caught in an arms race – both figurative and literal.

As of last year, there are more mobile phones than humans on the planet, which means that any given traumatized survivor of war, government repression, economic deprivation and environmental collapse has an improved chance of hooking into networks of travel to a better life.

In the face of this evolving, safety-seeking collective intelligence, the partisans of Earth's old nation-states are losing coherence – and making up for it in belligerence.

Europe, for example, is perfectly capable of absorbing, integrating, and benefiting from the new generation of arrivals, but as a half-cooked postnational society, the European Union finds itself instead incapable of agreement as to how they should be distributed internally.

Unsurprisingly, in the union's wealthy, core countries such as Germany and Britain, attitudes toward accepting migrants are significantly more favorable than in those peripheral zone countries, such as Italy and Greece, that are wracked by debt and austerity (on top of being ports of entry for immigrants from the south).

Newcomers and outsiders, of course, make perfect scapegoats. The majority of today's European refugees originated in Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan, all countries torn apart by the violence of terror and totalitarianism. But there is no clear line separating them from "merely" economic migrants. And the specter of the stranger at the door is fodder for far-right opportunists in every country, an easy focal point for all our material and cultural anxieties.

And so, even in Germany, bands of masked men are setting fire to the buildings their government converts to refugee shelters. A summer surge of migration along the overland route from Turkey to Germany provided Macedonian, Serbian, Hungarian and Austrian politicians a chance to look tough to their constituencies, deploying

barbed wire and tear gas, even as the world shuddered at the discovery of 71 corpses in a chicken truck abandoned on an Austrian road.

In a familiar story, increased policing of movement creates new opportunities for human trafficking and, at the extreme, slavery.

Much like the European Union, the United States has proven politically incapable of developing a workable immigration policy. Here, the structural failure comes not from tensions between member states, but from our two-party, winner-take-all political system.

Escape from El Salvador and Guatemala, for example, is a matter of life and death, not simply degrees of comfort, for many migrants. But the native animosity toward those who have come north from or through Mexico in the era of NAFTA has resulted in a permanent caste of politically disenfranchised Americans for Democrats and Republicans to bat back and forth on a schedule determined solely by two-, six-, and four-year election cycles.

And we're descending face-first into the quicksand once again, with a GOP frontrunner fantasizing about making our home into a gigantic, great armed fortress, "again," and his rivals falling over themselves to recommend drones, or in the case of Christie whatever FedEx uses to track packages, to keep everyone in legislated locations.

Even Vermont's Bernie Sanders, progressive darling of the day, has joined in the bashing, calling unrestricted human movement "a Koch Brothers proposal."

This is outdated and obtuse. (The world's hottest manufacturing profits are now gleaned in export-processing zones, bonded logistics parks and free ports, nodes that can exist only in relation to unequal borders.) And it's a strong hint Sanders is a disappointingly backward-looking "labor candidate."

We only get one life, and it is starkly determined by the location of our birth. No moral code that claims to value human lives universally can tolerate the construction of walls that consign so many to permanent deprivation.

And in particular, if energy, food, durable goods and money are to flow everywhere on the planet's surface, the idea that most people should be held at gunpoint within the patchwork of our grandparents' territories amounts to nothing more than a plan to lock down vast pools of low-wage, disempowered labor.

It will not last forever.

CORRECTION:

In an August 20 article on Montague's cable advisory committee (Vol.13#41, "Montague's Selectboard Relying on Two Cable Advisors"), we incorrectly said that last fall, "an acrimonious chain of events... led to the resignation of every former member" of that committee "but [Jason] Burbank," and that John McNamara and Mark Fairbrother were then appointed to the body.

In fact, McNamara had been appointed earlier that year (June 2014), so the five resignations only brought it down to two.

We apologize to our readers and to John for the error.

In happier news, we note that the town has negotiated and signed its contract with Comcast (see story, page A1). Good work!



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Letters to the Editors

Straight Outta Enron

Thanks to Jeff Singleton for all that history on the industry-captured federal agency FERC.

A few points, however: Readers might also be interested to know that Jeff's reference to California's rolling blackouts being "also blamed" on Enron should give us pause here in Western Mass.

Kinder Morgan was born straight out of Enron. Many of the same players are involved, and we suspect KM may be using a similar playbook of manufactured "shortages" today in the Northeast.

We call these guys corporados for a reason. Besides lies and nefarious business practices, they are climate criminals.

Further into the article, Jeff states: "burning natural gas

emits less CO2 than coal." This may be true at the electrical generation plant, but as pointed out in a study at the Howarth-Marino lab at Cornell, so-called "natural gas" has a methane greenhouse gas footprint larger than coal – and there's nothing "natural" about fracked gas, given all the chemicals involved in the process.

This is not to say we should return to burning coal, but to point out that fracked gas is "A bridge to nowhere"!

Hopefully Jeff intended to address these points in the much-anticipated second half of his article. We look forward to reading it in the Reporter.

Don Ogden
Leverett

For Bees, or Not for Bees

Reliable sources report that one in three bites of food we take requires pollination; bees are chief among pollinators. Most of us are aware by now that the bee population has dropped precipitously in the past 20 years.

It will soon be fall, and favorite among many are chrysanthemums. While other reliable sources contradict this, my experience suggests bees (and butterflies) prefer asters to mums. I have experienced this phenomenon year after year; sometimes a medium-sized aster plant will have 15 to 20 bees on its flowers. I did not observe any on the mums I used to buy.

Please consider this as you choose plants to decorate for fall. It's imperative we all join in to encourage the health and growth of the bee population.

Mary Kay Mattiace
Turners Falls

Why We Build Cages

Solitary confinement is a form of torture.

Why does America keep so many human beings in solitary confinement? The phenomenon must be seen in its broader context.

The collective will of America is violent and punishing. So systemic is the violence and punishing that the practice has taken on a life of its own. Thus, we continue keeping human beings in solitary confinement even though the majority of Americans would vote to eliminate the practice.

At the very depths of her collective psyche America knows that having four percent of the population consuming twenty-five percent of the resources of the earth, while a billion human beings live in squalor, is a glaring global injustice and a moral outrage.

The seventy-five percent, seeing these excessive levels of consumption paraded before them constantly in the media, get envious, and resentments build up. Many are living on the barest subsistence and naturally want the standards of living that Americans take for granted.

To counter this threat, America must have 2,000 nuclear warheads ready for deployment – to protect her 'stuff.'

At every stage of her development America has initiated staggering levels of brute force upon the unacceptable other while preaching the brotherhood of man – a basic democratic ideal. Force has become America's institutional imperative. The individual, be he a citizen or an alien, can easily be sacrificed to the higher good, which is a world in which all the bad people are dead or locked away.

In this context, the fact that America has 80,000 human beings in solitary confinement on any given day can be understood. Those who are living the good life have a strong incentive to keep the unacceptable other down, because the unacceptable other wants what they have.

Out of this defilement arises the obscenity of SuperMax.

Ralph J. Dolan
Haydenville

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

September is Turners Falls History Month. Programs begin Saturday, September 5, from 10:30 to noon with a tour of the Patch neighborhood, led by a DCR Park Interpreter.

The Patch is a small area of land sitting in the middle of the Connecticut River, sandwiched between the power canal on one side and the largest river in New England on the other. Meet at the corner of Avenue A and Eleventh Street in Turners Falls, at the canal side rail trail.

Nine free events are scheduled throughout the history month and can be found on calendars at greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org and turnersfallsriverculture.org.

Sponsored by Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) at the Great Falls Discovery Center and Turners Falls River Culture.

As part of Royalston's 250th celebration, the Town's Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Athol Bird and Nature Club

are cosponsoring Saturday walks this fall to five outdoor gems, each from 10 a.m. to noon.

The first walk is at Chase Forest on September 5, led by naturalist Christine Long, a graduate of a New England Wild Flower Society program. Meet at the forest on the west side of Route 68, between Royalston and the south village.

Calling all Elementary School Students to the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, September 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. for a **Back to School Coloring Contest**.

Come and show off your creative coloring skills. GSB will have a standard picture for all contestants to use. Age groups will be divided and limited to 3-5 and 6-8; three levels of prizes within each age group.

All entries will be displayed within the lobby at Turners Falls and the public will be asked to judge during the week of September 8-12 with the winners being announced on Monday, September 14. Crayons and entry sheets provided.

This is the last weekend to enjoy the sprinkling **water whale** at Unity Park. The whale stops spouting on Monday, September 7, at 7 p.m.

The Gill/Montague Senior Center is offering a free nutrition workshop, "**Healthy Eating for Seniors**" on Tuesday, September 8, from 1 to 2 p.m.

Get food tips from the Food Bank's Nutrition Team, sample a healthy prepared recipe and learn about healthy delicious meal and snack recipes, reading nutrition labels, shopping & cooking for one or two, reducing sugar, sodium and saturated fats and eating more veggies, fruits, and whole grains.

The class is open to the public. Call Roberta at 863-9357 to sign up.

Starting Tuesday, September 8, The Salasin Center will once again offer a 16-week series of "**The Nurturing Program**" for families in addiction recovery.

This is a highly acclaimed program dealing with the many challenges of parenthood. It will take place on Tuesdays from 1 to 2:30 at the Salasin Center, 474 Main Street, Greenfield. The program is free, and childcare is available. For more information or to register (required), please contact Lynn at (413) 774-4307 x3, or email lynnnorwood@wmtcinfo.org.

State senate president Stan Rosenberg will host a public comment session on the **proposed Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline** on Thursday, September 10 at the Greenfield Community College Dining Commons, from 6 to 10 p.m.

The format of the comment session will be essentially the same as the July 29 FERC scoping session held in Greenfield, with three minutes allotted to each speaker.

Sen. Rosenberg encourages speakers to also submit written testimony, and to focus on: geology and soils; water resources and wetlands; vegetation and wildlife; cultural resources; land use, recreation and visual resources; socioeconomic; air quality and noise; cumulative impacts; and public safety.

Rosenberg has announced he will travel to Washington, DC on September 30 to personally de-

liver local testimony on the project to Cheryl LaFleur, commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

There will be a **Youth Speak Out** for teens of color to talk about their experience in local schools on Saturday, September 12 at the First Congregational Church in Greenfield, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This presentation is suitable for teachers and school administrators, parents and students, and the general public. Educators are especially welcome.

Young people will describe their experiences in the schools, and the audience will also view the PBS documentary *A Class Divided*, ask questions, and participate in discussion.

Admission is free, and donations are welcomed. After the program, event hosts Mass Slavery Apology will offer a lunch of home-cooked Ethiopian food. (Suggested donation \$5 to \$20.) Reservations are requested.

For more information, see www.massslaveryapology.org, or contact email@massslaveryapology.org. To reserve childcare or a seat at lunch, email, or call (413) 625-2951.

At 4 p.m. that Saturday, *E.T: The Extra-Terrestrial* will screen at the **Wendell Free Library**, as part of the monthly Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series.

Admission is free and all ages are encouraged to attend this family-friendly event.

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department let us know the **ground breaking for the Unity Skate Park** is likely to begin on or around Monday, September 14.

The Montague Common Hall in Montague Center is holding its **annual Tag Sale** on Saturday, September 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain date is the next day.

They are accepting **donations of items** in good condition to sell. No electronics, please. Contact Tim Van Egmond or Mary Melonis for more details, or to arrange drop-off of items.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By LEE WICKS

I've heard the word THEY a lot this summer. When referring to MCTV, people like to say, "I wish they would do a gardening show or a cooking show, or film some artists at work in their studios."

When referring to the Common Hall, formerly known as the Grange, people say, "I wish they would do something about access, the mold, or cultural programming."

"After all," they say, "We have such interesting people living here."

And most recently, after Old Home Days, I heard, "They should bring back the Friday night dance recital, and the Saturday night music."

Now, I believe all of the above are fine ideas. The only problem is that there is no "they." Our fragile local organizations don't have big staffs. There is no customer service department filing away suggestions.

There's just us, a cadre of poten-

There's Only "Us."

tial volunteers who have the power to make our dreams for local television, or a local meeting space, or a harvest festival come true.

I'm comfortable writing, but not so much with the technology of shooting and editing videos. I've been told time and time again that it's easy to do, and the folks over at MCTV are eager to teach anyone who comes forward. It's on my proverbial bucket list, and recently I'd made a practice of suggesting this to friends when they talk about the programming they would love to see.

As a reporter I enjoy delving into people's lives and asking personal questions. The process of doing this with a camera rather than a notebook sounds like fun. I think it's worth a try, especially as demographics change and there are increasing numbers of retired people with time and creativity.

A few weeks ago people interested in developing the Common Hall met

and formed a Board. Soon that newly formed Board will elect officers and form committees. This historic building offers a community space for the entire town and beyond.

There is no space in Town Hall or the library for dances, dinners, concerts, parties or lectures. It would be wonderful if someday the Common Hall has efficient heating and insulation, a full slate of weekly activities and a large community of "friends," who support its ongoing maintenance and development.

Again, it's up to us. Volunteers are needed for everything from lawn mowing and weeding to painting, fundraising and event organization. On September 26 there will be a big tag sale at the Hall to raise money. Lots of people will be there if you want to step forward and see how you might help.

Then there's the church. One of the highlights of last summer (2014) was a wedding that used

the Town Common, Town Hall, the church kitchen and the public land at the end of North Street. I don't know how this collaboration came about, but it suggests that with enough energy it can happen. Already the church has offered classes and workshops to the community on everything from Buddhism to mask making to free summer concerts.

I am not a member of the church, but I've felt welcome at any event I attended, and I can't believe the church members who work hard to put Old Home Days together would refuse help in any form.

Our community is filled with invitations to use our energy, creativity and professional expertise. The organizations are in place, but THEY can do little without us, and we should not complain if we aren't willing to step forward and help.

Lee lives in Montague Center and is a frequent MR contributing reporter.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Johnson Challenges Retirement Package

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard voted on August 24 to approve highway employee Dana Moore's request for an early retirement package. At the August 10 selectboard meeting, board member Jacob Smith said that, for a lump sum payment of approximately \$30,000 to Franklin County retirement fund, the town could increase Moore's retirement payment by approximately \$2,000 per year.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said that he had serious reservations about funding the retirement package: "Everybody's going to expect this."

Smith replied that Moore had worked for the town for almost 30 years, and that the town had provided retirement packages to people who had worked fewer years.

Johnson said, "I don't see how it benefits the town." He noted that the town pays its workers well and provides good benefits.

Smith remarked that, if the package is approved by the selectboard, it must still be voted at town meeting and in the state legislature.

Johnson said, "I can put it before the people. Let them decide."

Selectboard chair William Bembury said he had some reservations about the package, but was in favor "of some form of this." He made clear that no early retirement packages should be available to Erving Elementary School employees. Bembury noted that Moore's retirement would "open up a potential position for someone younger, at less pay and benefits."

Bembury and Smith voted for approving the retirement package, and Johnson voted against it. The package will be presented as a warrant article for the September 28 special town meeting (STM).

Administrative Coordinator

Bembury said he had received emails from citizens asking that the town hire an administrative coordinator before January. Former administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, who took an early retirement in July, is receiving a salary until December 31, 2015.

Bembury is filling in by working at town hall four hours a day, Monday through Friday. "Four hours a day isn't cutting it," Bembury remarked.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden said, in regard to coverage at town hall, "We're spread pretty thin."

Bembury told the board that he had "taken it upon myself" to contact the finance committee and ask for \$15,000 from the FinCom reserve fund to pay the salary of a new administrative coordinator before January 1, 2016. The board will consider this request further at the September 9 selectboard meeting.

The board is looking for community members for the town administrator search committee. Interested citizens should contact the selectboard by September 21.

Renovator's Supply

At its August 10 meeting, the board signed a letter to Claude Jeanloz, owner of the Renovator's Supply building, asking for a list of lessees in the building, including

names, business names and contact information.

The letter stated, "On occasion we are finding out after the fact about businesses that are operating with a town business license and the town is concerned also that if emergency personnel were ever to respond to a fire or any other type of emergency at your building, they would not be aware of any chemicals or any other kind of special materials or even who or how many people might be in the building at any give time."

Jeanloz responded by letter that, after consulting his counsel, he respectfully declined to provide the information, because he considers himself already in compliance with local bylaws. He suggested a meeting with the board at the end of September or early October.

The board decided to consult town counsel for advice on how to proceed.

Artifacts & Archaeology

Historical commission members David Brule, Cyd Scott and Brad Peters asked the board to approve a town archaeology accountability policy and to support funds for security measures to protect town archaeological artifacts at the Pearl B. Care historical building.

The accountability policy requires professional archaeologists to provide the historical commission with a copy of their project permit, a research plan, and other documentation, and requires amateur archaeologists to inform and meet with the historical commission prior to beginning any work. The commission also requests permission to visit research sites and receive reports and artifact inventories.

According to Brule, the purpose of the policy is "educational, to share knowledge of the town's history." He also told the board that, in regard to archaeological sites, "Erving is a highly active area."

The board approved the policy, after receiving assurances that landowners would not be restricted from looking for artifacts on their property. "We can't force the landowner to do anything," Scott said. The policy was modeled on policies approved in Deerfield and Northfield.

Scott told the board that the town would be receiving documents relating to seven archaeological digs conducted in Erving - "five with significant artifacts," according to Scott. The town will also be receiving the artifacts to preserve and display at the Pearl B. Care building.

Scott said the digs were completed in conjunction with Route 2 work, and that he had been working to get information on them for a while. "I've been pursuing the state archaeologist to give back the stuff found here," Scott said.

Because the artifacts and documentation of the Route 2 digs are valuable, the commission asked the board to support a request for \$2,500 for security measures at the Pearl B. Care building. The board agreed to include the funding as an article for the September 28 STM.

Fire Department

Fire chief Philip Wonkka said that lighting at Stations 1 and 2 would be upgraded to energy-efficient LED

lights. After applying rebates provided by Eversource and National Grid, the cost to the town will be approximately \$15,000.

Wonkka reported that the old fans that distribute heated air to the stations use a lot of electricity, and that the poorly insulated stations are hard to keep heated. Even with the thermostat turned down, "we crank through a lot of oil," he said.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory was asked to find out how much current the fans are drawing. The electrician who installs the LED ballast and bulbs will be asked to look at the fans as well.

Wonkka told the board that money left in the line item for purchase of the pumper truck could be used for the electrical work, subject to vote at the September 28 STM.

The board signed the Franklin Regional Council of Governments draft emergency evacuation transportation plan with Wonkka. At the August 24 meeting, Wonkka commented that in the plan, "it was convoluted on who is responsible." However, after consulting with other chiefs, Wonkka recommended at the August 31 meeting that the selectboard accept the draft plan.

According to the plan, county firefighters will be trained to drive Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) buses, and could be called up under the Tri-State mutual aid system to drive during an evacuation.

Elementary School Boiler

The board accepted the bid from Atlantic Power Services of Seekonk for replacing the boiler at Erving Elementary, despite reservations about Atlantic's availability for warranty repairs, as it is located distant from Erving.

The contract will be signed after Atlantic employees pass a CORI (criminal offenders records investigation) check. As of the August 31 meeting, Atlantic was still working on obtaining signatures for those checks.

Appropriations Closeout

The board began to review accounting line items in the fiscal year 2016 budget that have met their goals and have money left over. The board is considering re-purposing the left-over funds for other town needs.

Other town needs identified since the FY'16 budget was written include: expenses for the elevator at the former Pleasant Street School building, now the recreation department headquarters; unexpected secondary school special education costs; and the security upgrade for the Pearl B. Care building. However, the accounting spreadsheets available to the board were not up to date.

The board will meet again on September 9 to review updated accounting information.

Tax Work-Off for Seniors

The board reviewed the procedures for the senior real estate tax work-off program, approved at the June 29 STM. The program will allow property tax reductions for people over 60 who work for the town as volunteers. The property tax exemption of up to \$750 will be available for ten households.

The seniors in the program must

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work for a town office or committee and have the skills needed for the jobs. Under the procedures, applications would be due by September 1 for the next fiscal year, and the senior would be required to work from January 31 of one year until February 1 of the succeeding year.

Town Employee Phones

The selectboard created the list of town positions that require cell phone use. People holding these positions are eligible for partial reimbursement for cell phone expenses or for coverage under the town's service plan.

The positions are: selectboard members, highway department employees, water department employees, wastewater department employees, administrative coordinator, IT department.

The police chief and fire chief will be responsible for determining which police and fire department employees should be included on the list.

Community Compact

The board signed the Community Compact, which the *mass.gov* website defines as "a voluntary mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth."

Fifteen cities or towns have signed the compact since it was established in June. Bembury noted that Erving is the first small town in western Massachusetts to sign the compact.

Under the compact, the town agrees to focus on best practices in from one to three areas. The areas chosen by Erving are: 1) housing and community development; 2) financial management and capital planning; and 3) transportation and citizen safety. The state will provide guidance in these areas through the state division of local services.

State technical assistance on best practice areas, extra points on scoring grant applications and grants available only to compact communities are the incentives for signing the compact. The community is required to implement best practices in the chosen areas over a period of two years.

Selectboard Minutes Available

Bembury told the board that selectboard meeting minutes from 2003 to 2007, requested by citizens under public information laws, had been given to town clerk Richard Newton for distribution. Bembury said that cleared minutes from executive sessions would be available soon.

Appointments

Paul Wasilewski was appointed to the senior center maintenance position. Wasilewski will start at \$15 per hour, effective September 1.

Joseph Bucci and Robert Turner were appointed to the Council on Aging. Ann Marie Newton resigned, leaving a vacancy on the council.

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design was created. Nancy Aldrich volunteered to create the flag, and she finished quilting it in time for it to be displayed at Old Home Day this year.

The flag looked so good on Old Home Day that citizens considered it too much of a work of art to send off to the state house, where Wendell residents will see it rarely if at all. At this meeting selectboard members agreed.

Board member Jeffrey Pooser suggested that someone should take a fine quality photograph, and from that make quality reproduction for sending to Boston. It would also be possible to print smaller flags for citizens, for t-shirts, coffee mugs and other items.

Keller said he has the necessary photography equipment, and Pooser said he would help hang the flag for the picture taking. Board members thought that a good place to hang the flag is on the selectboard office back wall, where people entering the room can see it.



KATIE NOLAN PHOTOS

Town administrator Nancy Aldrich, who quilted the flag, with Pam Richardson and Donna Horn, who collaborated on the design, at Old Home Day.

Bear Mountain

Fire chief Joe Cuneo and Bear Mountain residents Peter Gallant, Pam Richardson, and Sean Barrett met the board with DCR representative Dwayne Ericson to discuss maintenance and the condition of the roads through the state forest. Barrett said he came just to learn about the situation.

Gallant and Richardson have had a home on Bear Mountain for 19 years and have taken on the responsibility for – and expense of – maintaining the road out from their house, but he said he was stopped by a state official from working on more of the road because of liability. Parts of the road are not passable by a full-sized fire truck, and some are not passable even with Gallant's 8-wheel vehicle: "There are places you won't get to."

Four fire ponds that showed on a map Gallant provided have not been maintained, and have filled in with debris. (Heard said she has not known of fire pond maintenance in the 35 years she has lived in Wendell.) Gallant asked if state workers would travel over their property to overhaul the fire pond that is just past what they own. He said he doubted whether the state has a maintenance plan.

Ericson said the state "is doing what we

can," but he could not commit to any level of repair. In the last ten years, personnel have been cut by 50% and their work level has increased. The state will respond to an emergency, but without an emergency response he admitted that maintenance efforts will be limited. He said the state would not put materials or equipment on private land, that state work is aimed for the benefit of the public as a whole.

Heard asked what, short of an active and spreading fire, the state would consider an emergency.

Gallant asked if Ericson had any objection to him continuing with the maintenance he has been doing, and asked if the state would consider supplying materials that he would use to maintain roads in state land.

Pooser suggested legislation that would limit state liability, saying he saw no difference between what Gallant has been doing and what he is proposing to do.

Keller said to Ericson, "You can see why the town is concerned." There is no access for the equipment needed for containing a fire on state land that will be fought by Wendell firefighters. Officials will meet after Labor Day and see what there is on the ground.

Town Trucks

Cuneo stayed to meet with the next person who came to the meeting, cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey. At their July 1 meeting, Mackey asked the selectboard if it would transfer the town's old brush truck to the cemetery commission.

Before making a final decision the selectboard contacted Cuneo and before this meeting Cuneo did some internet research on the two surplus trucks the fire department has, a 1972 four-wheel-drive International with no power steering, the department's former brush truck, and an olive-drab, military surplus mid-1990s diesel Chevrolet D30.

Both have low miles, both need work, and both are likely to bring the town more money if sold to specialized interested audiences than they would if they were sold at an annual auction of surplus property. Cuneo found that either vehicle could bring in up to \$12,000 from the right buyers and he said that the fire department has been spending money and would like to return some to the town.

Mackey said that the D30 was difficult to maintain, but the International was of more value to the town if it is transferred to the cemetery commission. He has been using his own truck for the cemetery work, and the work is too heavy for his small truck. A new truck that would serve his needs would probably cost more than the \$12,000 the International might bring in, and would be more complicated and more expensive to maintain.

Mackey said he is familiar with those old trucks, and they are much simpler to work on than newer vehicles. Having been garaged most of its 40-plus years it has a solid frame and little rust. It has a water tank that he could

use when he plants trees at the Osgood Brook cemetery, and if called for it could be used by other town departments.

Board members considered, and decided to sell the Chevrolet and keep the International for the cemetery commission.

If the International is less useful than Mackey expects, it can be sold later.



"Appropriately inappropriate" Karen Copeland accepts the Wendell Citizen of the Year award from selectboard members Jeffrey Pooser and Dan Keller.

Surplus Auction

Cuneo gave Aldrich a list of surplus fire department equipment for the town auction of surplus property. Board members suggested September 26 as a possible date for that auction, and Keller said he would contact Ted Lewis about being auctioneer. Aldrich will ask other town departments for a list of their surplus materials.

Hardware & Software

Pooser said that his preference for backing up information on maintaining security on the town's computers and backing up the information they hold is town facilities engineer Jim Slavos. Pooser has not yet been able to speak with Slavos directly, but he said that Left Click of Amherst has replaced their \$12,000 estimate for the service with a more reasonable figure. He said he would sit and talk with them.

Pooser also said the broadband committee has been meeting weekly to sort out options and complications of building, maintaining, operating and providing connections from homes to the fiber-optic network for which the annual town meeting authorized borrowing. It is too early even to hire a consultant because not all of the necessary questions have been raised. But the physical work of a pole survey and the "make ready" phase of construction can begin while that process is still going on.

Because the number of officials doing the job dropped from four to two, and one of those two is closer to retirement Massachusetts is withdrawing support for CAMA, the software Wendell uses for assessing property and setting

the tax rate. A replacement software would cost \$20,000 but less expensive options may exist. The town can publicize two RFI's (requests for information) and make a decision based on the figures the responses generate.

Other Business

* Wendell will need a special town meeting to pay two bills of prior years and to transfer sick leave money.

* Aldrich reported that the New Salem selectboard decided not to approve a proposal to add fencing at the Swift River School. Since the proposal requires approval from both Wendell and New Salem selectboards, Wendell's decision is now irrelevant.

* Wendell's 2014 Holiday craft fair was held at Swift River School and organizers feel that it was poorly attended at least partly because of that location. In the town hall space has been tight, but in the Swift River gym vendors were spread thin. Organizers want to move back to the town hall, hold the fair on Friday and Saturday and leave Sunday open for Good Neighbors. They asked the selectboard to waive the fee because the fair benefits Swift River School, and board members agreed to that suggestion.

* Along with surrounding towns, Wendell was awarded a community development block grant for homeowners to use for loans to bring their homes up to code. But the town is looking for people willing to serve on a committee or participate in an elderly housing study.

* The town needs a plan for drinking water in town buildings, in the event of the central water supply becoming contaminated. Closing town buildings is not an option, but getting a supply of bottled drinking water is.

* DCR gave Wendell a framed picture that acknowledges the part of the New England Scenic Trail, formerly called the Metacommet-Monadnock Trail, that passes through town and was moved east of Jennison Road to avoid some private land where the public is no longer welcome. Board members decided that the picture can hang on the wall behind Aldrich's desk in the selectboard office.

* Keller said that research on the property lines around the dam next to Lockes Village Road near the south end of West Street shows that the dam is all on private land, and so the land trust alone will be responsible for responding to the state demand to take it down or repair it. Either option is expensive.

* The board of health inspected an empty building on Stone Road with health agent Wibby and building inspector Phil Delorey, and did not condemn it although the property looks bad. Taxes are past due, and the owner is a mortgage holding company.

* The selectboard formally acknowledged and thanked Judy Hall for all the work she did to get a \$7,000 grant that paid for part of the expense of rebuilding the town hall kitchen.

They thanked the entire kitchen committee.



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Board member Sarah Doyle said that Fish and Wildlife has been "grossly underfunded" for many years, and that she had "no doubt" that funding was an issue.

Town planner Walter Ramsey recommended that the selectboard appeal to the state's delegation to Congress, and shared a letter he had drafted on behalf of the town. His letter noted that the exhibits are owned by the federal agency but are within a state facility.

Ramsey emphasized that the center was a collaboration between the town, state and federal government. In the letter he also noted that in the federal agency's recent "comprehensive plan" the Discovery Center was praised as a "flagship institution," but that the proposed staffing options eliminated staff for the center.

Ramsey's letter also pointed out that although the plan had not been finalized – it was still in its "public comment" period – the federal agency appeared to be implementing one

of its central recommendations.

Board members felt that copies of the letter should be sent to the state legislative delegation. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio recommended that the letter reference planned cultural activities with Native American organizations, including those funded by the federal Turners Falls battlefield grant.

The board approved the letter.

Center School LDA

In other news, the board executed a deed, and a Land Development Agreement for the sale of the former Montague Center School building. Developer Mark Zaccheo, who was present at the meeting, told the board that the final closing of the sale would take place on or around September 9.

Over two years have passed since the building was awarded to Zaccheo, who plans to transform the structure into a 22-unit, energy efficient apartment building similar to several complexes he owns in Green-

field. The project encountered significant opposition from residents of the neighborhood, required a change in a zoning bylaw by the Montague town meeting, and involved a number of changes in Zaccheo's original response to the town's Request for Proposals (RFP).

Critics have questioned whether negotiations and changes in the original RFP have been consistent with state procurement law. At the meeting Zaccheo stated that he had some suggestions for "expediting things" to streamline the process in the future. "It really was amazingly stretched out," he acknowledged, stressing the need for more timely communication with the lawyers involved.

Even as the agreement was about to be approved by the selectboard, confusion was created by a number of "small changes" inserted by the town's lawyer over the previous weekend. Neither Ramsey nor Zaccheo seemed to know what these "little language tweaks" involved.

"It's not really my doing," said Zaccheo, noting that he had signed the document prior to the revisions. The only revision he could recall was that "negligence" had been changed to "gross negligence."

The board balked at approving changes they had not seen and that no one could explain, so they voted to approve the original agreement.

Zaccheo said he hoped to close with the bank on September 9.

Extending Cable

Earlier in the meeting Jason Burbank, the chair of the town's cable advisory committee (CAC), requested that the board approve and sign a ten-year license agreement with the cable company Comcast. Negotiations between the town and company have dragged on for nearly a year and a half, on hold over the previous winter while the CAC reorganized.

"It's a beautiful contract," declared Burbank. "I'm not sure it's much more beautiful than a year ago, but maybe it's a little more beautiful."

Burbank said the town had not been able to obtain most of the changes it had requested, with one exception: an extension on Meadow Road in the southern part of town. The company had not granted any new "points of origin" requested, but had agreed to one at the Discovery Center, which the town had not requested.

The town will also receive a "lump sum" of \$34,000 to finance capital expenditures at the local access station, MCTV.

Burbank argued that the agreement was "as good as we are going to get under the circumstances, the circumstances basically being Comcast." Abbondanzio agreed.

The board approved the license agreement, and voted to place it on the warrant for the upcoming special town meeting.

Paving Paradise

Ramsey asked the board to approve an application for a state Massworks grant to construct a

see MONTAGUE page A8

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to book the rental through Airbnb was likely attached to an alias name.

Neighbors did notice activity at the home, but didn't manage to get the important detail of the license plate number on the vehicle.

Billings identified the location as one of the town's many "dead zones," with no cell coverage. Police typically use cell phones to triangulate locations. Another such dead zone affected recent efforts to find a lost child near Lake Wyola. (The child was found safe with another family member who had neglected to inform the caregivers.)

Improved cell service would also

allow police and emergency personnel a secure and private channel for communications, as scanner and radio signals are public to anyone with the right equipment.

Billings said he is willing to address the selectboard and community at large about this issue, to dovetail efforts with fire chief John Ingram. He acknowledged the historic and consistent difficulty in selling a cell tower to Leverett residents.

Prior discussions in town, including at annual town meetings, had some residents voicing concerns about cell towers' potential negative impact on property values, and negative health effects.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD****Worries About Records Law**

By ANN TWEEDY

Leverett's selectboard had all three members in attendance for its August 25 session, which opened with an update from fire chief John Ingram, with firefighters and their families in attendance.

Ingram confirmed there were 32 medical assistance calls in town since February, when the new computer system started. Tom Hankinson asked why there had been so many. Ingram responded that it could be due to the fact that people are living longer and not moving out of town.

The greatest difficulty cited by Chief Ingram was how the lack of cell service affects their services, in light of the many calls they receive. In a follow-up email, Ingram explained, "The cell coverage is so poor in Leverett, that the public safety is not able to communicate in an emergency to other agencies or to get other resources to help at an emergency."

"It has put safety personnel at risk during some calls not having cell coverage. Also if a member of the community needs assistance and their [land] line is not working, they would not have phone service to get help."

At the selectboard meeting, Ingram went on to explain: "One of the calls we did early this month involved a meth lab in a rented house. It wasn't a full meth lab, but chemicals were involved.... The police officer sent to the scene had to stay in the house and use the land line because there was no cell service." (See story, page A1.)

Chief Ingram said he was working with police chief Gary Billings to formally present the need for better cell service to the town.

Ingram said that Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell and Montague Center Fire District will receive an award from the 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program through the federal Department of Homeland Security. Ingram wanted to let it be known that he came in the middle of the process, and that other districts should receive the positive attention. He said the involved departments would decide how the funds would

be spent in their respective towns.

Ingram then said the most important reason he was there was to honor three members of the Leverett Fire Department for their actions in response to the fatal accident in May near the intersection of Cushman and Shutesbury Roads. One of the two men on motorcycles died shortly after the accident, but the other man is recuperating in Virginia, relearning to walk and talk again, due to the fast and clearheaded response of the firefighters.

Ingram asked Captain Amy Rice and firefighters Shelly Hicks and Hank Silver to stand. The three were given Certificates of Commendation for their clear thinking in response to the accident that helped save a life.

Firefighter Shelly Hicks assisted in ventilating the surviving motorcyclist and continuing to ventilate en route to Springfield.

The three were given a standing ovation by all present.

Also present were the two junior firefighters, William Ingram and Max Carlin, training with the department on Thursday nights.

New Floors

The board discussed how to best prepare for a scheduled four-day town hall floor resurfacing. Town administrator Margie McGinnis discussed possible strategies for town hall personnel to continue work, and meetings to be held, while the sanding and polyurethane treatment of the upstairs and stairway to town hall takes place during the week of September 8 to 11.

One strategy was closing town hall for the week. Board chair Peter d'Errico noted this was a bad week to close, as school is starting.

Another was working and meeting downstairs, but McGinnis said this would be difficult, as the computers are necessary for personnel.

It was decided that all personnel would be notified and that it was necessary for them to make arrangements. McGinnis quipped, "If only we could use ladders, we could all access our office."

New Cabinet

McGinnis then shared that she

WATER from page A1

Certain things have to be done.

"I work in asphalt, an industry that uses a lot of gas.... They shut off all commercial gas, even before Kinder Morgan was all hot and heavy in the news," he continued. "I just put a few houses on gas."

The town's comments call on the project to follow environmental law, including the Clean Water Act, as well as Article 97 of Massachusetts's state constitution, which could require "Tennessee Gas Pipeline to obtain legislative approval to develop permanently protected land as a condition of any certificate."

The commissioners agreed to draft a similar letter with their concerns, requesting impact studies on public and private water supplies.

However, they upheld their previous decision to allow the company survey access on water department land on the north side of Green Pond, part of the town's Water Protection District and a designated backup drinking water supply for Turners Falls.

"Because the town meeting voted, 5 to 1, against the pipeline, I brought with me a form letter to rescind permission for the surveying that you gave permission, said Turners Falls resident Diane McA-

voy. "Even if they've already done the surveying, it'll be on the record, and you'll be taking a stand."

"We had that letter before," replied Morin, "and the board felt no need to sign. People get the impression that all construction is destruction, that's not true. I think people should work more with them than against them...."

"As far as this statement, going by wells - if they were blasting, it might affect wells, but they're just trenching," he went on. "I'm not interested in signing."

"I'm not interested in signing," echoed his fellow commissioners, Stephen Call and Bruce Merriam.

Water superintendent Michael Brown confirmed that surveyors working for Kinder Morgan had already been on water department property, conducting an environmental impact study, for several days as of the August 26 meeting.

"I spoke to Berkshire Gas today," said Morin. "They pushed a 12-inch main across from Hatfield to try to feed UMass. They get shut off about 15 times a year and they have to truck gas from compressor stations. We don't have all the answers..."

"There was a guy calling me back from Kinder Morgan, Phil Chipman, he's down in the Aga-

wam office. He told me tonight if there were any questions tonight to step aside and call him."

"So, what do you want to do?" asked Singleton.

"There were some paragraphs in [the town's comments] I have no problem backing," Morin replied. "This board has no problem backing them."

The commission said they would draft a letter to be sent to FERC repeating the town's concerns, as well as questions about possible runoff resulting from the company blasting through ledge ground outside of the department's land.

The meeting ended with John Collins, a representative from the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club, speaking to the commission about the possibility of the Ramblers buying a piece of land from the water department.

Brown raised concerns that the land may be protected for watershed use, and that the parcel's value would require a public bidding process, suggesting it could be donated instead. The commission agreed to bring a recommendation to the annual meeting of the water district, where any deals concerning land must be voted on.



After members of the public left, the commissioners' conversation returned to the pipeline proposal. The following excerpts were transcribed from a recording the department provided to our reporter:

"This Kinder Morgan thing... That girl, I don't think she was too happy," said Morin.

"If the federal government wants it, it's going to go through. All these people aren't going to stop nothing," a second man replied.

"Well that's what this guy who - this guy's a good friend of Kinder, like I say, he's the head of it. He says they have no say in it, it's a done deal," Morin continued.

"I hate to blow or burst their bubble, but what they need to be

working on is the fine points - get this taken care of.

"I was talking to several of the guys that've been at the meetings, and I - I just, I get sick of reading the same editorials about how it's going to destroy wildlife. It's not the case, you know?..."

"[Inaudible], if they wanted to. I mean, look at when 91 went through - they moved houses! It happened. And I mean unfortunately, there's 700 million people on this planet, you need to do something. And right now, gas is"

"This town's in good shape for water, but I don't need some honkies up there doing excavation.

"And I want to make sure we have input on that, and would [inaudible] around myself. If I've got to be up there every day while it's

going through, I would do it.

"He said they'll have a separate firm overseeing the construction, but I said I want - this board, if we see something going on, I want to have a direct talk with them. I don't want to be going through Kinder Morgan, or somebody out in Texas.

"And I mean, if it's through the conservation commission, and I'm not even sure how much say they're going to have... But they're not going to go in there and destroy wetlands. They're not that kind of outfit.

"These guys get pipelines all over the United States. He says they're already doing one in Connecticut. Now, I thought Connecticut might be more snobbish than in Mass., you know, but, anyways..."

had completed the application to the state's Community Compact Cabinet, after five questions were answered online. She said that the areas chosen for targeted assistance through the Governor Baker-created entity were financial policies and technology security.

McGinnis was commended for her quick response, which may help secure state funds to help back up the broadband servers and the new fiber system for phone lines, in addition to other tech interfaces.

A Burdensome Proposal

McGinnis also discussed her drafting of a letter to state representative Stephen Kulik and state senator Stan Rosenberg regarding the potential cost and burden to Leverett should the House vote to implement changes to public records requests.

Board member Julie Shively said that if implemented, it places an un-

fair burden on the town administration.

"If people want something you have a limited amount of time to respond, and one person can make up to 15 requests a month," Shively explained. "One nutter could really sabotage us. We could be spending all our time searching for them."

McGinnis responded that requests would have to be fulfilled with no reimbursement: "we can't charge to search titles and we can't charge for search time."

"Our town only has two staff people," added d'Errico. "How could they do this?"

Other News

Ethan Dickinson was recently hired as a driver/laborer with the highway department. He was unanimously approved by a special department screening committee.

The date and location for the

broadband celebration were identified as October 2, at 3 p.m., in the field between the elementary school and library.

McGinnis discussed her idea for wrapping the nearby POP (Point-of-Presence) building at the Safety Complex with a big ribbon to favorable reception.

When discussing the people invited to the event, including some VIPs, d'Errico was firm that he felt those who did the most work should get their due recognition, and that this should remain a Leverett-centric event.

McGinnis discussed meeting Aaron Osborne, the new director of finance and operations at the Union 28 elementary school district. McGinnis said that they discussed the new streamlined process for finances and that, in her opinion, the direction of the new administration feels like a sea change.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Back to School: District Officials Check In About Changes at Gill Elementary

By TIA FATTARUSO

Last Monday's Gill selectboard meeting was school-heavy as the first day quickly approaches. Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan filled the board in on the district's hopes for the coming school year, grateful for an opportunity to get back in the habit of wearing his tie after a summer off.

Sullivan said the district's strategic plan, finished about a year ago, drove budget and professional development decisions.

This revised curriculum aims to have students doing things that are relevant and rigorous rather than being taught to standardize testing requirements.

Elementary small group reading instruction intends to allow students to develop at their level of readiness and emphasize developing foundational reading skills. A writers' workshop model will be implemented to increase the amount of narrative writing kids do.

Spanish and theater are newly being offered in eighth grade this year, too.

"Largely, some of the reasons people leave and go to charter schools and choice out is because they want their students to have rich experiences like these," said Sullivan.

Sullivan added that writing is the most "high-leverage" way for students to learn. He said he hopes to increase parent and guardian involvement, and better communicate the accomplishments of students to the community.

Selectboard member John Ward asked what channels would be used to spread that information. Sullivan joked that he was an accounting, not a marketing, major, but is trying to expand that skill. He has spoken with WHAI about a weekly radio spot, plans to increase the school's social media presence, and is open to hearing about other ideas.

"As a parent, I can tell you that my daughter loves the experiential part of her learning... It seems very simple, but it gets the kids excited," said board member Greg Snedeker.

New Gill Elementary principal Conor Driscoll offered the board a rundown of that school's incoming staff. New teachers this year are Vanessa Sackett in second grade, Amanda Linzi in fourth grade, and Jackie Chase in fifth grade. Britany Cooley is a new special education teacher, and Ashley Keogh will be teaching music.

"One of the projects that I inherited was to help devise a solution to an ongoing school space issue," Driscoll continued.

While the library and special education have been shared space in the past, Driscoll spoke of plans to integrate the library into the computer lab, and reclaim the library for special education.

He had also met earlier in the day with the PTO, and expressed excitement about events and fundraisers they have planned.

Board chair Randy Crochier asked Sullivan how the district is looking for school choice, how many in and out, and asked after a rumor that half of the incoming class of Turners Falls High School freshmen had applied to Franklin

Regional Technical School.

"I don't think it was that high - I think it was about the same number as typically go," Sullivan said, adding that he would not have the school choice numbers until after school has started.

Heather Powers, Gill resident and mother to a first grader, represented the PTO to share with the board their idea for each classroom to build a scarecrow this year. The PTO would like to extend an invitation to local families to build their own, and sought the board's approval to use the town common to display them all in October for a few weeks.

The board was strongly in favor of the idea, and Crochier suggested using sandwich boards to further advertise the spectacle.

Power went on to say that the scarecrow display had snowballed into the idea of a Gill fall festival for next year, not as large as Turners Falls' Franklin County Pumpkinfest, or Bernardston's Scarecrow in the Park, but a smaller, nostalgic throwback to previous years' local gatherings.

All seemed in favor, and Snedeker mentioned that the greatest challenge to think about would be parking.

The board received, and thoroughly enjoyed, handsome handmade thank-you notes from the elementary school, with pictures of students participating in the programs made possible by the Quintus Allen, garden, and vernal pool grants.

Rec Back!

Tim Little and Sherry Little represented the hope for a new Recreational Committee. The board authorized town administrator Ray Purington to approve any expenses to make the committee work. This include \$533 for soccer shirts - grey shirts with "Gill" and a soccer ball on the front, and numbers on the back, in dark purple - and a possible cost for a Port-A-Potty.

Levels to be offered are skills and drills, five on five, and seven on seven, and will be as inclusive as possible, extended to home-schooled and choiced-out students.

Buildings; Lights

Purington has been working with Eloise Michael, director of Four Winds School, on its lease renewal. According to Purington, a "high side" protection for the town on heating expenses would require the school to pay anything above and beyond the 2007-8 cost of \$6,426.33. As the building is in the midst of changing over to air-source heat pumps, that agreement will change this year to a total utility expense cap of \$8,252, which rolls that year's cost of electricity and oil together.

While electricity rates are currently going up as oil is crashing, Crochier pointed out that, "we're going to pay for this oil price somewhere eventually."

Ward thanked Michael for being in Gill, and noted that the building's ramp and gutters need fixing before the school year's start.

The Riverside heat pump installation is in progress, and LED streetlights were about a week away.

"If they would do nice efficient lights like that on the Gill-Montague Bridge as well..." Ward started, and Snedeker piped in with Montague's plan to install LED streetlights akin to Greenfield's in downtown Turners Falls.

"We'll have LED lights on both sides of the bridge. That bridge is going to stand out like a sore thumb without LED lights," Ward said.

"You mean it doesn't now?" responded Crochier. "Maybe it'll stand out like two sore thumbs, one on each side of the river."

The board met again on August 31 to approve the LED purchase from Eversource. The 45 lights will cost the town \$16,017.52.

Other Updates

According to Purington, the USDA approved the well agreement between the town and engineers, though the envelope they sent to town hall happened to have the Orange mobile park agreements, not Gill's, he said, but Gill's will be signed and delivered to the USDA Tuesday.

The town hall downstairs offices are coming along beautifully, look natural, and the rooms look larger than expected, everyone agreed.

Highway superintendent Mitchell LaClaire is still working on quotes for a plow and winter ready work for the new truck, and leaning toward a steel rather than steel/plastic combination plow. Purington said he wouldn't expect today's steel plows to offer the same longevity as the ones already in circulation in the highway department.

Last week, the selectboard made a site visit to the highway department with LaClaire and a representative from JC Madigan, Inc. to analyze the truck's needs. On the 31st, the board approved new tires, at \$3,009, and a plow, at \$9,800, to make it winter-ready.

Gill received a request for support from Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, who is applying for a MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant to help to construct a 30-space parking facility on the corner of Canal Street and Third Street, a re-mediated brownfield site currently home to a sculpture park, with the hope of encouraging development of the Strathmore mill buildings.

"Tell him we're concerned about what's happening with the sneakers," Crochier said.

Ward expressed concern about permeability and run off.

"Have they done their due diligence?" he asked. "In the letter of support... maybe we can voice our concern about the lighting, the energy-using of the lighting," Ward added.

The board enthusiastically approved the appointment of Tom Hodak to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, and the appointment of firefighter William Dorcy.

Contract renewal negotiations with police chief David Hastings are ongoing.

There will be a midterm update on the battlefield mapping study Saturday, September 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium.

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Charge of Assault on Officer Dismissed

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD - The charges that downtown business owner Rodney Madison assaulted Montague police officer Michael Sevene and engaged in disorderly conduct were dismissed last Friday at the district courthouse, when Madison accepted a deal to plead guilty to a lesser charge of disturbing the peace, paying a \$50 fine.

Sevene arrested Madison during a July 6 incident on Avenue A, during which Madison says he was himself attempting to initiate assault charges against fellow antique store owner Gary Konvelski.

"All the way along the line, people could have handled things differently," said Madison's attorney, Timothy Flynn, on Tuesday. "I think it was something that was a little blown out of proportion.... It was somewhat of a shame that it ended up in the courts."

Flynn added that he hoped "everybody learned something," including Madison, who during the incident was loudly expressing his frustration that Sevene would not assist him in filing charges against Konvelski.

"Unless the officer witnesses [an assault]," Flynn explained, "all they can do is summon them in for a show cause hearing."

Konvelski declined to comment on the case, and no charges were filed against him stemming from the incident.

According to Madison, on the afternoon of the arrest, Sevene asked him to explain what Konvelski had done to him during an altercation between the two merchants over the placement of ornamental flower boxes on the sidewalk.

"I told Officer Sevene that [Konvelski] was physically aggressive with me, and he asked me to show him what Gary did," Madison said. "I poked out my belly, and our belt buckles touched. At the time, he didn't arrest me."

According to Sevene's police report, which makes no mention of any solicitation of contact, Madison

"stepped into me and Chest bumped me causing me to step backwards."

"If he felt like I had chest bumped him," Madison said, "it's strange he didn't arrest me on the spot." Instead, their conversation continued until the later arrival of staff sergeant Christopher Williams, who "suggested that I be arrested," a point on which Madison's and Sevene's accounts concur.

Madison was arraigned that week on the charges of assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct, but was offered the opportunity to settle for a lesser charge before the case went to trial.

"The DA's office had spoken to the officer involved," said Montague police chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, "and he said he didn't have any problem with them dismissing the assault and battery. However, he was concerned about the [disorderly conduct] charge."

"I guess as a result of that, Rodney pled guilty to disturbing the peace."

At his second pretrial hearing in Greenfield, on August 28, Madison entered that plea in the presence of about twenty supporters, who took up a collection to settle the fine.

"I reluctantly accepted a plea bargain.... I asked my lawyer what it would look like to go to trial," he said after the hearing. "I asked him how many black jurors he has seen, and he told me, in his many years, he's only had one black juror in Franklin County. So I wasn't sure of my chances."

Madison, who is black and has been an outspoken local proponent of the Black Lives Matter movement, also described the charges as "racially motivated, and unjust," and says he felt this was "borne out" by the offer to dismiss them.

"These charges happen across the country," he said. "It's part of this criminalizing and dehumanizing black folks.... None of this looks good when I'm applying for a job. I still spent hours in jail, and suffered the indignity of being handcuffed and riding in the police car."



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MONTAGUE from page A5
thirty-space parking lot on the corner of Third Street and Canal Road.

The town-owned parcel is currently the site of an aging youth sculpture park. Ramsey said that those involved with the original sculpture park project were aware that the space would eventually be turned into parking. The parking lot is considered crucial for the redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill complex on the other side of the Turners Falls power canal.

Public Comments

During the public comment time that began the meeting, Turners Falls resident Aiyana Masla asked about progress in investigating options for racial sensitivity training for town employees, including the police. Selectboard chair Michael Nelson stated that the town's insurance company has "many programs available for various topics, a couple of which involve the topics that you are requesting."

Nelson said he had given a print-out on these two topics to the other selectboard members "as we were coming upstairs," to be read by the next board meeting so we can "see where we want to go with it."

There was also a lengthy discussion initiated by Turners Falls store-owner Rodney Madison of the process for filing a complaint about the police department. The board seemed to feel that the complaint had to go through the "chain of command" and be filed with the police chief before

being taken up by the selectboard. However, if the complaint involved the police chief it could be taken up by the selectboard.

Other Business

Highway Department head Tom Bergeron announced that Greenfield Road, from #149 to #191, may be closed for the winter. "The walls are taking longer than expected," he said.

The board discussed the disposition of an abandoned property on 36 Green Pond Road, currently owned by the town. The discussion focused on what to do with the decaying structure on the property. Bergeron and building inspector David Jensen advocated selling the property with the structure intact. The board agreed and voted to put the property up for auction.

Mickey Longo of the Turners Falls Airport requested that the board approve the construction of a new door on the main building so that pilots and others can access rest rooms without being given keys to the entire facility. The board approved the request.

It also approved the request of Dan Kramer to move the location of Element Brewing Company's pouring license to the business's new location on 16 Bridge Street in Millers Falls. That building was formerly the site of the People's Bakery.

The board approved requests by Ya-Ping Douglass, Erin MacLean and Rodney Madison to place objects on the sidewalk in front of their

FACES

Left to right: Montague town planner Walter Ramsey and Turners Falls RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto accept a donation to RiverCulture from Bruce Stanas of Republic Services of Chicopee.

Republic contributed \$3,000 on Tuesday to the town organization, a partnership of art and business intended to promote cultural programming in Turners Falls.



& PLACES

Avenue A businesses.

Gary Konvelski, owner of Gary's Coins and Antiques, who said he was "born and raised in Turners Falls," stated that he was concerned that flower pots in the alleys detracted from the "mill town" ambiance of the village.

Madison replied that he thought it was "mind blowing" that flower pots in alleys would undermine the local mill town feeling.

The board did not seem concerned with the issue, except to the degree that the pots might impede snow plowing in the winter.

Chris Mason of the Montague Energy Committee requested that

the board approve a letter to the state on the status of the town's Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant. The board approved the letter, but a few days later prior to sending it, heard from the state that Montague had been awarded the grant.

Ariel Elan requested the board thank state senator Stan Rosenberg for a number of actions he has taken involving the proposed natural gas pipeline planned to run through Montague.

These include requesting that Berkshire Gas suspend its moratorium and that FERC, the federal agency that will approve the pipeline, extend its public input period on

environmental impacts. The board agreed to thank Sen. Rosenberg.

Acting as the personnel board, the board voted to appoint Jamal Holland as a reserve police officer.

At the end of the meeting, member Rich Kuklewicz requested that the board once again put the noise ordinance involving outdoor music on the agenda. He said that he was still receiving complaints about Hubie's Tavern, and had measured noise levels outside the business on several occasions.

Kuklewicz said his goal was a "fair and level playing field for all," and that "what we have now is very liberal."




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YEAR 13 – NO. 42

B1

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

Why Raise Chickens?



JAMES DRESSER ILLUSTRATION

By KATHLEEN BUREK

MONTAGUE – Why raise chickens? The first, simple answer is freshness. There is a big difference between eggs from poultry commercially raised and poultry raised at home. The time that commercially produced eggs spend in storage or transit allows them to slowly lose water.

How can you tell a fresh egg from a stale one? Hard boil it. If the dent in one end where the air pocket was is good-sized, chances are your egg is stale.

It makes nutritional and economical sense to raise your own chicks for eggs and meat. An egg is a living thing, even if not fertile – the hen lays her quota of infertile eggs without ever seeing a rooster.

The egg is protein in large part, all usable by the human body. Just a couple of eggs a day will provide an adult with one-quarter to one-third of his daily protein needs, and few calories. If you have a problem with cholesterol, a good rule of thumb is 3 eggs a week, combined with the exercise you will get taking care of your birds.

How to start: I like to raise day-old chicks, which you can get from a reputable hatchery such as Myers, Murray McMurray, Cackle Hatchery, My Pet Chicken, and many others found online.

You will need a heat lamp for your chicks when they arrive by mail. The post office will call for you to pick up the peeping babes.

Make sure when you bring them home that you dip their little beaks in water for a drink. It is a long trip from the egg to you.

Have a nice cozy box to put them in under the heat lamp that serves as the mother hen. Gradually raise the lamp as you will see them moving away each day.

This takes about 4 to 6 weeks depending on weather.

Feed them chick starter feed for this time period. At about 6 or 8 weeks, you can switch their feed to chick grower.

As with all feeds, add the new grain gradually by mixing it in with the older variety. Feed them grower until your first egg appears, then switch to layer.

What breed of chicken is best? There are so, so many breeds of chickens today it is unbelievable. Cuckoo Marans, from France, lay chocolate eggs (chocolate colored). The Australorps, Rhode Island reds and barred rocks are old standbys, being very productive and hardy, starting to lay at 4-1/2 to 5 months..

You can find out which breeds are most productive in the numerous chicken catalogs.

An old saying is “April chicks, September eggs,” and that way they will get a good start before the winter sets in. Although I must admit that I bought Australorps in August, and they were laying in

see CHICKENS pg B5

The Life & Times of Major Richard Montague: Leverett’s Tax-Dodging Baptist Ranger



HELEN RAMSPOTT PHOTO

Major Richard Montague's headstone.

By ANN TWEEDY

LEVERETT – The old stone wall surrounding the cemetery on Jackson Hill Road has a number of interesting headstones, but one in particular stands out for its ominous epitaph. Major Richard Montague’s tall headstone reads:

*Travelers Behold as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so must you be
Prepare for Death & Follow me*

Major Montague’s life was a complicated one, and although we will all follow him, it’s less probable that anyone in contemporary

times was “once as he.”

For example, no one in Leverett in recent years has been “mulcted of a fine hog” by the constable as payment for taxes due the Congregational minister. In the years between the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War in which Richard participated as scout and soldier, he broke with the family tradition of Puritanism/Congregationalism and became a Baptist, founding the first Baptist church in Leverett.

Richard and his fellow Baptists took issue with the town of Leverett’s insistence that they pay the standing order tax. At this time, the

see THE MAJOR pg B6

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: NORTH TO TADOUSSAC



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – Sweltering in the semi-tropical rainforest heat hanging over the Connecticut River Valley, we were counting on getting away from it all by heading north to the province of Québec this August.

Hoping to find some relief from the heat in the St. Lawrence River Valley, I was also expecting to cross paths with my great-grandfather 10 times removed, Lou-



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

This reproduction of a Beluga Whale stands in front of the “Centre d’interprétation des mammifères marins” in Tadoussac, QC.

is Hébert, and possibly catch a glimpse of the infamous Etienne Brûlé, a legendary but ill-starred explorer and *courreur des bois* who hangs out somewhere on an obscure branch of my family tree.

So one muggy morning a week ago, we said good-bye to the busybody catbird clan who keeps track of things on the lawn and helps run a tight ship in our back yard. We gave the rose-breasted grosbeaks and goldfinches a full feeder to work on for a week, and we headed north.

You know what it’s like when you hit the open road: the car’s motor is purring, you start eating up the miles and a week’s vacation lies ahead.

We made good time on Route 91, through magnificent northern Vermont countryside, and got to the border three hours after setting out.

A few friendly questions from the officials at Canadian customs and we were in! The country flattened out, French language programs beamed in on the car radio, and we moved north through the land of my ancestors.

We reached Québec City in the mid-afternoon, in you guessed it, the same sweltering semi-tropical rainforest heat hanging over the St. Lawrence that we thought we had left behind in Massachusetts! That didn’t hold us back, we could commiserate about the heat in French now with the shopkeepers and café waiters.

Once in town, we always head for a parking lot near the ramparts of Old Québec near great-grandfather Louis

see WEST ALONG pg B4

Festival of the Dogs – 2015

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GILL – Sponsored by the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, the second annual Festival of the Dogs will be held at Schuetzen Verein, Barton Cove in Gill from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 12.

Kathryn Dwyer, Media Coordinator for the past year at the shelter, says, “We use the event as a fundraiser. It’s our biggest, and the only one put on by the shelter itself.”

The festival consists of fun for dogs and owners, and will include a dog show, dog parade, canine demos, buffet lunch, silent auction and raffle. The event will also have a photo booth with funny props for dogs and owners.

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter serves 17 Franklin County towns. Its mission, as stated

on its website, is “to provide a safe, welcoming facility for stray, lost or unwanted dogs and find homes best suited for each individual.” They are group of mostly volunteers, led by shelter director Leslee Colucci.

On the website, she states a desire to “help every dog that enters our facility in every way possible.”

The shelter has held other events in the past: “We have sponsored a toenail clinic,” Dwyer stated, “and a rabies clinic. Just this year, some of the dogs were in the Marshalls of Montague parade. There were a variety of mixed-breed dogs that showed up.”

She says that at the September 12 event, there will be a contest where “people will be able to make up names for their breed of dog.”

Beside being given the most interesting breed names, the dogs will

be judged for best photo of themselves, best trick, best-dressed, best in show, and best in participating with their owners in a rally course. The prizes will be toys for dogs.

The raffle prizes are Bruins and Red Sox tickets, and, as Dwyer explains, “All the golf courses in the area have donated gifts to the shelter, for either the silent auction or the raffle.” This year’s sponsors include Brown Motors, for the second time, and Dillon Chevrolet, both of Greenfield.

It sounds as though the whole thing was a lot of fun last year, and will be again, while at the same time helping the shelter raise money.

Tickets are \$25 per person and may be obtained at the shelter, or at the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange. See ferdogkennel.org for more information.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Slugs Rule!



TEFFANY HEERMA PHOTO

A typical New England slug slithers home after a hard night's work.

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – There are several themes that occur in my work as an artist. Some of them are edgy, some are educational, mundane, others sexy, or even angry, but the one that I believe has brought some joy to the world has definitely been my ongoing series featuring slugs.

Yes, the lowly creature of the garden despised for its voracious appetite for vegetation, and loathed for its slimy slithery jelly-like body.

Since we are now at the end of the growing season, and the level of anger directed at slugs must surely be ebbing for the time being, I’d just like to slip in a few words about this fascinating member of the phylum *Mollusca*, entering through the perspective of my artistic study of their form.

It’s fun to watch people encounter my little clay slug figurines. They will invariably smile, and if they are with someone else they will go, “Look – slugs!” Sometimes people will say, “Look – snails!” to which I will say, “no, these are slugs; they are homeless snails.” Snails and slugs are part of the same family, along with oysters, clams, octopus and squid. In fact, slugs still have a vestigial shell beneath their skin indicating their evolution from snails.

Imparting character and personality to a half-ounce lump of clay is a little tricky, but I’ve developed some techniques in 20 years of sculpting them. First, there are several basic attitudes of slug-dom. One is the perky, curious look about, with the whole upper body lifted up and reared back to check things out.

Then there is the stre-e-e-tch, where the slug extends itself horizontally to an amazing length, keeping the entire underneath of itself pressed against the ground. There is the defensive huddle, which is the opposite attitude, where the slug becomes as short as possible, basically just a hump.

The curious attitude is the most popular. I do not bother making a depressed-looking slug; that would just be too sad. I have also taken to anthropomorphizing them with the addition of a smiling mouth, and sometimes give them little arms that clutch a tiny red heart (these I call “sentimental slimers”).

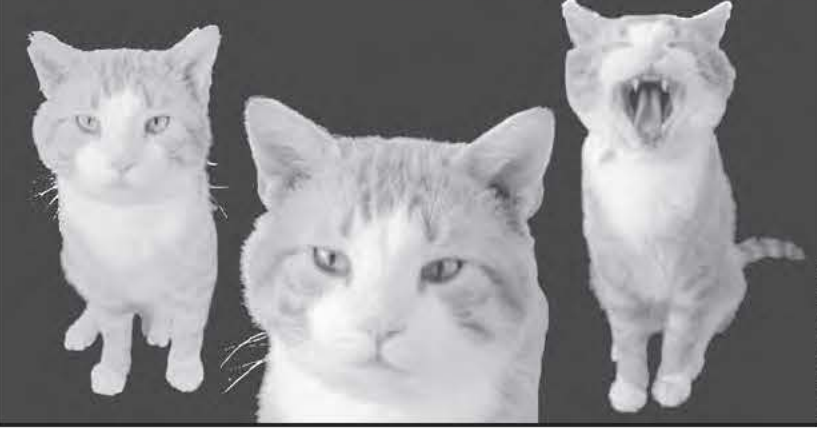
So, about slugs: how the heck do slugs move around? They have a “foot,” which is basically the whole underside of their body. Bands of muscle fibers going in two different directions alternate expanding or contracting and that’s what moves them around.

The mucus extruded from two places underneath helps provide traction and protection from sharp things. Slugs can move across crushed glass or the edge of a razor without harm!

But they won’t win any races.

see SLUGS pg B3

Pet of the Week



"MARMALADE"

I had a pretty rough start here. I was living outside before I came to Dakin. When a gentleman brought me here, I had an ear infection with mites, a cut on my foot, and positive for FIV.

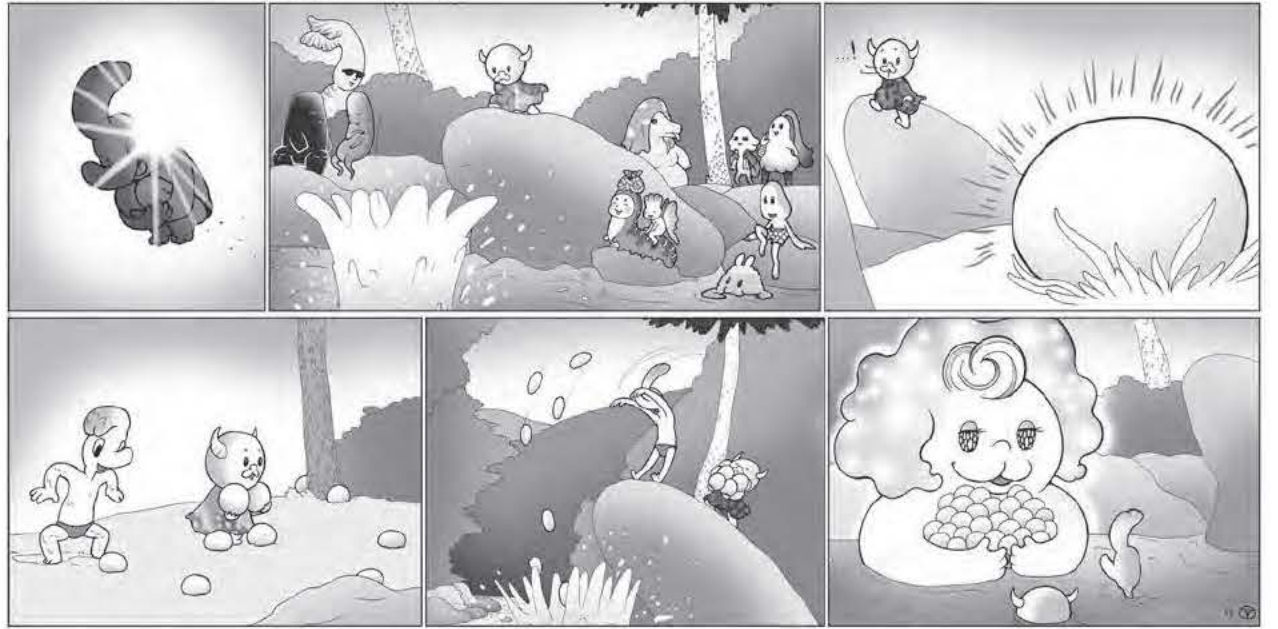
I am doing great now! Having FIV means I have to stay indoors only, but I'm as healthy as can be and we can live normal lifespans

with love and routine vet care.

The person who brought me here said I have a lot of stamina and spirit and I deserve a good, comfortable life! Come visit me as soon as you can!

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

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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

Senior Center Activities September 7 to 11

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

Monday 9/7 CLOSED

Tuesday 9/8

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Seniors Healthy Food Talk

Wednesday 9/9

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
11 a.m. TRIAD Picnic
Noon Lunch

Thursday 9/10

9 a.m. Tai Chi, Veterans' Outreach
10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
Noon Lunch

Friday 9/11

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

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us. Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch - Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by

Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Daily 11:30 Congregate Lunch

Monday 9/7 CLOSED

Tuesday 9/8

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 A.M. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 Painting Class

Wednesday 9/9

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 9/10

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
12:30 p.m. Jewelry Class
6:30 p.m. Garden Meeting

Friday 9/11

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

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Late Summer Music and More

By PAM KINSMITH

This week at MCTV, we say goodbye to summer and hello to the beginning of a new school year. As always, production work continues here at the station, with the following new programming available for your entertainment:

Now available for download and as part of our regular TV schedule is the Fourth Street Block Party. The event featured live music, face painting, a parade, and other activities for everyone to enjoy.

Three more performances have been uploaded from shooting at the 2015 Upper Valley Music Festival.

We're sure you'll love the storytelling and guitar stylings of John Sheldon. Get your groove on to Shokazoba, or the Mary Jane Jones Band, who both rocked the house.

Review the latest agenda items from the August 26 joint meeting of Montague's finance committee and selectboard, now available for viewing.

Lastly, the August 25 Gill-Montague district school committee

meeting is available for viewing as well.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capturing the moment!

Call (413) 863-9200, email infomontaguevt@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Can a Coffee a Day Keep Cirrhosis Away?

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



Q. I'm a social drinker who has several glasses of wine every evening, but I'm told I can avoid any liver damage if I drink plenty of coffee. Sounds ridiculous. What do you think?

There was a study of more than 125,000 people who drank coffee. The study showed that one cup of coffee a day cut the risk of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver by 20 percent. Four cups a day reduced the risk by 80 percent. It's not known yet why coffee protected livers in this study.

Even "social drinkers" can develop cirrhosis, a condition that causes irreversible damage to the liver. Whether you get cirrhosis depends upon the amount of alcohol you drink and a predisposition for the condition.

If you drink a lot of alcohol, you will hurt your liver. However, you will not necessarily get cirrhosis. You have a one-in-three chance of getting cirrhosis if you drink 8 to 16 ounces of liquor a day (or the equivalent in other alcoholic drinks) for

15 years or more.

More men than women get cirrhosis. There is a theory that more men get cirrhosis because they're heavier drinkers.

Women can't tolerate as much alcohol as men can. Studies show that a much higher percentage of women, consuming less alcohol than men, suffer from cirrhosis.

In the United States, excessive alcohol consumption is the single greatest risk factor for cirrhosis. Chronic infection with the hepatitis C virus is the second leading cause of cirrhosis.

The liver, which is located in the upper right side of the abdomen, is the largest organ within the human body. (Skin is the largest human organ.) The liver weighs about three pounds and is - believe it or not - about the size of a football. You cannot live without a liver.

The liver is a multipurpose organ that performs hundreds of tasks. Among its functions are the digestion of fats, removal of harmful substances from blood, production of cholesterol, control of infections and the coagulation of blood.

In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces healthy tissue; this blocks blood flow through the liver and pre-

vents it from working efficiently.

At the onset of cirrhosis, there may be no symptoms. As the liver deteriorates, the following may occur: internal bleeding, fluid retention in the legs and feet, bruising, yellow skin and eyes, fluid in the abdomen, itchy hands and feet, dark urine, loss of appetite and weight, nausea, fatigue, and red spider veins.

Although liver damage from cirrhosis is irreversible, treatment can help prevent more damage and reduce complications. Giving up alcohol is the primary treatment. Improving nutrition is often part of treatment, too.

A doctor can diagnose cirrhosis through symptoms, a medical history, a physical exam, and tests.

Tests that are often used in diagnosis include a computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or a scan using a radioactive substance that highlights the liver. A doctor might look at the liver using an instrument that is inserted into the abdomen. A liver biopsy - tissue sample - can confirm a diagnosis.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezers.com.

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(413) 625-9411

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Truck in Bushes; Mattress Dumpings; Planter Vandals; "Baby Somethings"

Monday, 8/17

11:21 a.m. Caller from West Mineral Road reports that his vehicle was stolen overnight. Keys were in the vehicle. Report taken. Vehicle owner later called to advise that he located his vehicle on fire in the wooded area behind the Ramblers Club; advised the vehicle is mostly burned but is still actively burning at this time. TFFD, MCFD, and MSP advised.

12:04 p.m. Caller reports that he was just threatened by one of his tenants, who was holding and waving around a knife. Summons issued.

Tuesday, 8/18

2:58 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and possession of a Class B drug.

Wednesday, 8/19

6:09 a.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reports that his car is missing from his residence. Officer advises that vehicle may have been "dragged" from its parking spot. Made contact with repo company, who advised that they repossessed the vehicle last night but forgot to fax paperwork to MPD when the repo was complete. Caller advised of situation. Paperwork received.

10:10 p.m. Caller from L Street complaining of neighbors working on cars late at night. Caller is concerned about oil spills, noise from air compressor, etc. Caller advised that officers were on another call but would respond as soon as available. Caller called back; did not talk to dispatch, but could be heard arguing with a male party over a dog and where the dog was going to the bathroom. Responding officer spoke with caller and neighbor. Peace restored.

Thursday, 8/20

1:14 a.m. State police request K9 unit to assist with a breaking and entering at The Wok in Deerfield. Building searched; no one located.

10:21 a.m. Caller concerned about how fast logging trucks are driving down East Chestnut Hill Road. Caller read an entry about this problem in the police log in the Montague Reporter and provided additional information about the company and the trucks. Referred to an officer.

11:28 a.m. Caller reporting a dog in a vehicle in the Big Y parking lot in Greenfield. Caller referred to Greenfield PD; number provided.

11:37 a.m. Report of a hit and run in the Freedom

Credit Union parking lot on Avenue A. Officer observed damage to caller's vehicle. Accident not visible on surveillance footage. Report taken.

1:35 p.m. DPW received a call from the owner of Carroll's Market with complaints regarding two ongoing issues: (1) patrons of the Millers Pub are parking in front of Carroll's Market taking up spaces that the store's patrons would like to use, and (2) patrons of Millers Pub have been regularly congregating on the sidewalk and consuming their drinks outside the establishment. Officer called market back and advised them of options.

4:16 p.m. Caller from Highland Avenue advises that he was bitten by a dog while on a bike ride this afternoon. Caller has dog's tag number as well as owner's information. Caller states that he was bitten on his left calf and that the skin was broken. Caller's wife is en route to bring him to urgent care. Caller is looking for information on dog (up to date on shots, previous incidents, etc.). Caller advised that this information would be passed along to an officer and that the animal control officer would follow up. ACO advised of call; Board of Health also notified.

8:50 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

11:08 p.m. Caller from Montague Street reports that her two tri-colored beagles, Bella and Justice, are missing. They do not have their collars on and may have been sprayed by a skunk during escape from yard. Patrol units advised. Report that beagles were spotted by Hillcrest House Projects. Reports from Coolidge and Morris Avenues of dogs barking/yelping. Officer advises that the dogs are running around the neighborhood but will not come to him. Dogs retrieved by owner.

Friday, 8/21

10:25 a.m. Officer spoke with a crew working in the road without a detail officer. Crew was contracted by Town of Montague. DPW superintendent contacted and advised that he assumes liability if there is an accident and a detail officer was not requested. Two detail officers requested for Monday.

11:16 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street reports that a child has been running around upstairs since 6:00 a.m., disturbing his peace. Officer advises quiet

upon arrival; advised of options.

Saturday, 8/22

3:07 p.m. Report of a sinkhole at Ninth and K Streets. Officers will be putting barricades out. Hole is 3'x3' across and a foot deep. Officer requests that DPW be contacted for the undermined portion of road and for barricades. DPW foreman advised and will be responding.

7:52 p.m. Report of a vehicle where one of the occupants appears to be spraying fluid from a fire extinguisher out the window. Last seen on Turners Falls Road in Greenfield heading over the hill toward Stop & Shop, then parking near the intersection on French King Highway by the S&S lights. Greenfield PD advised.

10:44 p.m. Report of an intoxicated male causing a disturbance at G and Eleventh Streets. At one point, subject was hitting a stop sign with either his hands or an unknown object. Neighbors heard the commotion and came out of their residences to yell at the subject. Officers advised and on scene; off with a subject matching the description. Subject was upset that people were speeding on his street, so he started banging on a sign to get their attention. Subject advised of proper way to address his concern.

Sunday, 8/23

3:45 a.m. Caller from Avenue A believes that downstairs neighbor is taking a sledgehammer to the walls; does not believe neighbor has permission to be doing so at this time of day. Officers spoke with female party inside and located male party outside. Male party stated he had been making some noise earlier but has since come outside for some fresh air. He was advised of the complaint.

10:14 a.m. 911 caller reports that a glass object fell out of a planter in front of Madison on the Avenue and there is now shattered glass on the sidewalk. No one has been injured yet by the glass to the caller's knowledge. Officer advises there is glass on the sidewalk from what appears to be vandalism to the planter. Several items were smashed. Officer pushed glass to side as much as he could but advised the business owner who maintains the planter will have to clean up the remaining glass. Officer made contact with store owner downtown and advised him about the glass.

No suspects at this time.

10:24 a.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle (box truck) in the bushes at/near Railroad Salvage. Caller observed the vehicle pull in. Officer advises that box truck is still backed up into the bushes; located two subjects fishing and a pickup truck.

2:51 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Fifth and T Streets: oil from an oil change dumped into the storm drain and oil pan discarded in bushes. TFFD advised.

5:12 p.m. Report of a raccoon at the base of the caller's driveway on East Mineral Road; has been wandering around slowly for a couple of hours. Caller did not observe any foaming at the mouth or other signs of illness. Animal was put down.

Monday, 8/24

6:45 p.m. Caller from Winthrop Street advising he was scared by a bear he saw in the area a short time ago. Bear was just walking through; no disturbance caused. Caller is at his apartment now; just wanted to inform the PD.

Tuesday, 8/25

8:57 a.m. Party into lobby to report that off of Lake Pleasant Road, across from the Ramblers Club, someone had dumped 8-10 mattresses and a large number of car tires. Spoke to Ever-source, who advised they no longer own any land there and it's all under DCR control. Message left for DCR. Responding officer checked area; in addition to items already listed, there are TVs, sofas, and many other items dumped here.

4 p.m. Report of a tree down on a house on Edward Avenue and a second tree threatening to come down. TFFD and patrol units advised. DPW contacted for tree crew.

5:20 p.m. Caller from Willmark Avenue reports finding three baby somethings in her yard while picking up sticks/branches from the storm. Caller thinks they might be puppies or kittens; advises they are little and pink, no hair and eyes closed. From description, sounds like squirrels. Animal control officer contacted; caller advised to leave animals right where they are and not to touch them. ACO stated the mother will come back for them when the weather breaks.

Wednesday, 8/26

7:39 a.m. Report of a blue truck hooked up to a fire hydrant near Farren Care Center. Caller advises that there was a company name on the side of the

see MPD page B4

SLUGS from page B1

They are notoriously slow, but just how slow is debatable: sources I have looked at online have clocked slugs going anywhere from 6 inches to 30 feet an hour.

The mucus secretion is the thing that people find most repugnant about slugs. When you try to wash it off, it seems to make even more slime. That's because the mucus absorbs water - which makes sense, since nothing is more dangerous to a slug than drying out. If you want to clean your hands after touching a slug, it would be best to rub them together until the mucus pills up like rubber cement.

Another use for this mucus is navigation. Slugs can find each other, and slither their way home, by following these trails. There are even several varieties of mucus made by a single slug, with different kinds for tracking, clinging to vertical surfaces, sex, etc.

They are in touch with the world through sensory glands all over their bodies. That makes it an extremely cruel and painful death for them to be "salted," one of the traditional methods of slug disposal. (This is also bad for the soil.) Their eyes, located on stalks at the top of their head, can only see shapes dimly, and sensitive feeler stalks located beneath the eyes collect information on the immediate environment.

Of course, they have a mouth, as anyone who has battled slug damage in the garden knows too well. They rasp their food (and sometimes each other) with their "radula," a ribbon with rows of backward-pointing teeth, a feature unique to mollusks. They rasp several times their body weight in food every day.

Slugs are hermaphrodites, able to mate with themselves if necessary, but preferring consensual relations with another slug. They will each release and receive sperm, and later lay fertile eggs in clutches of 3 to 50. Due to their oversized sex organs and sticky mucus, they sometimes have trouble separating after sex, so occasionally one slug will gnaw off the other's penis, who will after that only mate in a "female" capacity.

The mating rituals of some types of slugs can be very elaborate and lengthy. You can see videos on YouTube of great grey slugs corkscrewing around each other while suspended in the air from a strong thread of slime.

There are some very odd varieties of slugs, most of which live in the northwest part of the US, where the weather stays moist more months of the year. Most people have heard of the banana slug, which can grow up to 10 inches long and be yellow. The European black slug curls up

into a ball when attacked and likes the strawberry crop of the state of Washington.

Then you have your great grey garden slug with leopard spots, which practices cannibalism.

One variety amputates its own tail when attacked. Another will swing its tail vigorously in defense, and yet another will secrete a special slime to gag predators.

And slugs do have lots of predators, because they are a tasty, protein-packed snack. Birds, including hens and ducks, love them, as do hedgehogs, shrews, frogs, toads, ground beetles, newts and more.

If your garden is being eaten by slugs, pick them off your plants during the night by hand. Because they shouldn't dry out, slugs are most active at night, and huddle under leaves, rocks, logs and other places during the day.

Most people prefer to bait them into traps such as shallow trays of beer. This is a nice way to go, very preferable to being salted to death. Slug poisons are available but these are also toxic to many creatures including humans so their use is discouraged.

You could also defend your garden by planting things that slugs do not like as a barrier, or by surrounding plants with copper strips which will give the little guys a shock. You could also create a sacrificial garden area where you encourage slugs to feast on the plant varieties they especially like, in the hope that they will leave the rest of the garden alone. But they are likely to treat this as an appetizer for a larger meal.

On the brighter side, slugs aid soil decomposition, and their poops are good fertilizer. Though they are almost universally loathed, they seem a good natured sort of creature to me. In comparison to hornets or wasps or snakes, for instance, they are downright huggable. When they stretch out and explore with their tentacles, they have such a curious, cute look.

Plus, they provide artistic inspiration for myself and several other creative slug-lovers that I know of in the region. For instance, there is a jeweler who makes bronze slug rings and necklaces, and there are several children's books using slug characters. There is even talk of a "B horror movie" being shot locally that will involve a giant slug "attack" on Turners Falls.

Townpeople are already under the benign watch of a very large "gastropoda pulmonata": if you look carefully in the early evening, you may also notice the glowing solar-powered eyeballs of a four-foot-long slug perched above a certain doorway on Avenue A.



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MPD from page B3

truck; he could not see what it was, but did not believe it was from the water department. TFFD and officer advised. Officer checked on company (Wind River Environmental); advised they were contracted out by DPW for a job. There is a meter on the hydrant measuring how much water they are taking. TFFD advised; someone is coming down from the TF Water Department to check on the situation as well.

4:02 p.m. Caller from CT River Liquor and Wine advises that an intoxicated male is causing a disturbance on Avenue A. Male is stumbling in and out of businesses and yelling at people on the street. Officer checked area and known hangout areas for party; unable to locate. Caller called back advising he believes other patrons have bought the male party more beer, and he is now back sitting on the bench near the store.

6:25 p.m. Caller from Pizza House advises that the male party on Avenue A has now been in a physical altercation with another male on the Avenue. Second caller did not see anything physical, only parties yelling. Units on Third Street with male party; bringing him to L Street, where a party agreed to take responsibility for him for the night. All witnesses stated pushing/shoving only; no injuries.

8:07 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street advises of a possible "drug deal gone bad"; parties in vehicles yelling louder and louder in street. Officer advises he was approached by some people on bikes in the area who stated that the people arguing left in separate directions prior to his arrival.

Thursday, 8/27

1:45 p.m. Report of ongoing suspicious activity, including drug transactions and people being loud and swearing in the parking lot, at a recently renovated apartment building on L Street. Incidents have involved residents and non-residents. Caller requests extra patrols in area and that narcotics officer monitor activity at this location.

7:15 p.m. Caller reported that she had pulled over on Millers Falls Road to use her cell phone when she was approached by an agitated male. Male came up to

caller's window and asked what she was doing. Caller explained that she was using her phone, that this was not the male's road, and asked what he was doing. Male stated, "You'll see," and walked into his garage. Caller left the area at that time. Report taken.

Friday, 8/28

3:44 p.m. Report of ongoing drug activity in an L Street building.


4:11 p.m. Caller from Taylor Hill Road advises that her dog is in a thicket on her property fighting with or playing around with another animal, possibly a fisher cat or groundhog. Caller is not sure if her dog has any injuries but did not hear any sounds of distress. Message left for animal control officer and environmental police, who contacted caller.

6:01 p.m. Report of people swimming in the area marked no trespassing (water supply) in Lake Pleasant. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 8/29

1:33 a.m. Caller from Newton Street reports trouble with his neighbor; states that a male party who lives across the street was on caller's private back porch with a flashlight. Caller contacted landlord, who advised him to contact the PD. Caller has had numerous items stolen from the unsecured basement as well. Caller later reported that neighbor and female party are in the basement at this time. Officers en route; all parties spoken with and advised of their options.

1:52 p.m. Two 911 calls received from a Vladish Avenue residence. After two rounds of silent 911 call procedure were completed, the caller began pressing 911 again and asking for the number for Peter Pan bus company. Officer checked on caller, who advised he is fine and was calling the bus company to plan another road trip. Caller called back on 911 looking for the number for the supermarket. Explained to the caller that he should dial 411 for directory assistance and that 911 is for emergencies only. Officer visited caller's residence to assist him with other concerns.

11:34 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on ten default warrants. 

WEST ALONG from page B3

Hébert, whom I always visit when in his town.

I have to explain: Louis himself stands thirty feet up on a stone pedestal, looking very heroic. As well he should. Starting in 1617, Louis, his wife Marie Rollet and their children, were the very first European family in all of North America to stick it out and survive the harsh northern winters. A few years ahead of the Plymouth Pilgrims, I might add!

Louis Hébert is the man whose address I visited on the Rue St. Honoré just outside the Louvre in Paris, in a story I wrote in this column back in 2009.

Louis was an apothecary living in a sizable house with his father's family back in the early 1600s in Paris. Samuel de Champlain was getting together a crew of adventurers and tradesmen to establish a settlement in Nova Scotia in 1603. He needed a ship's doctor – or the next best thing, an herbalist and apothecary – and Louis Hébert was the young man for the job.

Champlain and Hébert were unsuccessful in establishing a permanent settlement in Acadia (Port Royal) in 1606 after three years of trying, but by 1617 Louis was back in North America, heading to a site called Kébec with his wife and family. They settled on a spot not far from where the hotel Château de Frontenac now stands, and held their own in a hostile climate for the rest of their lives.

Louis himself died in an accident on the ice in 1627, and his son Guillaume died at an early age without leaving any male heirs to carry on the Hébert name. But his daughter Guillemette Hébert married a certain Guillaume Couillard, and they founded a line of descendants that made its way down my family tree to me, sitting there at the foot of Louis Hébert's statue in 2015.

There are likely close to 100,000 of us by now who can trace our lineage to Louis and his daughter Guillemette!

Louis and his family were for many years the only European family to inhabit the current site of Québec City, whose population now numbers in the millions. A guide book recommends that every visitor stop by the statue to recognize the courage of Louis and his family; they held out, and paved the way for the solid foundations of *La Belle Province*. So, that's what I did that sweltering day, feeling pretty smug, along with the other 100,000 of us who descend from the first family!

Again, hoping to escape the city's heat, we gladly headed further north, down the St. Lawrence, aiming for Tadoussac, where we hoped to cross paths with Etienne Brûlé, visit the fiord of Saguenay, and meet up with a beautiful little white whale, the beluga, who inhabits the fiord.

The road north follows the river, and we motored by the famous Ile d'Orléans, where so many of us of French Canadian descent have ancestors who settled that island.

Further on, we passed through Château Richer, where generations of my family lie buried in the church yards: the Guyon, Matteau, Couillard, even the lovely Guillemette Hébert found her final resting place there.

We zipped past the celebrated St. Anne de Beaupré, magnificent cathedral and destination of many pilgrims and tourists. (And for whom the former French church in Turners Falls is named!)

Settling into the journey we took direct aim at Tadoussac, the furthest

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north we would venture, on this trip. This town is situated on a point of land where the fiord of Saguenay joins the St. Lawrence, mixing the waters flowing down from the interior with the salty tides flowing upriver from the North Atlantic.

This is where these rich waters create a haven for more than six species of whales, and where we were determined to meet up with the beluga.

Crossing the mouth of the fiord on the ferry (free of charge and running 24/7!), we saw the small town of Tadoussac emerging from a brilliant bank of steam-white fog. Imagining Champlain, Louis Hébert, or Etienne Brûlé setting their eyes on this beach head for the first time, after a two month North Atlantic crossing, the same thrill of that vision of the New World shot through us.

Fiord waters swirling as they hit the great river's current, the white cloud bank, the sea birds flashing and winging before us in the golden late afternoon sun, and the rolling fin-back whales grazing before us, all that surely inspired the likes of Champlain and Brûlé each time they saw it.

These two men had an interesting business relationship: Etienne had been recruited as a 16-year-old to join a number of other young men to come to New France to learn the native languages and serve as Champlain's interpreters and intermediaries with the tribes in the beaver pelt trade.

Brûlé himself went considerably further than Champlain had planned: he got himself adopted into the Wendat (Huron) tribe and spent the next thirty years exploring and running the northern rivers. He is credited with being the first European to visit all the Great Lakes, and explored even down to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

Much to Champlain's dismay and disgust, Etienne preferred to drop all his Catholic upbringing and loyalty to the King of France, and became

totally immersed in the Huron culture and language, eventually being disowned by Champlain.

But as a young man, he sojourned at Tadoussac with Champlain and Hébert in 1608, and participated in the great *tabagies*, consuming vast quantities of *tabac* (tobacco) in days-long feasts as guests of the Innu (Montagnais).


I spent time exploring the streets of Etienne or Champlain, but nothing was evident to attest to the role of this village in the history of my family, or Québec for that matter. Instead the town was choked with tourists fleeing the summer heat of Montréal and Québec City. There are shops, restaurants, cafés and hotels everywhere, and it felt like any given small town on Cape Cod in August, except that everything is in French!

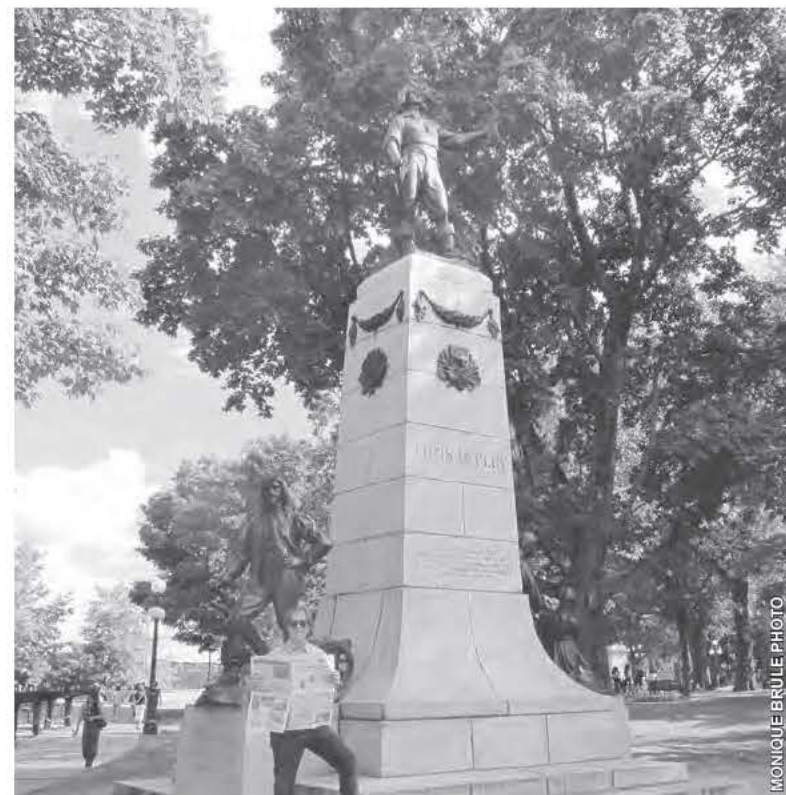
The highlight of the visit turned out to be the delightful white whales. They are stressed and hard pressed by the boat traffic on the St. Lawrence, but they find something of a refuge in the fiord where they breed and raise their young in somewhat protected circumstances.

From the porch of our room in a B+B high up on the hillside dune overlooking the bay and the town, we first sighted these snow white whales far below, a group of six grazing and breaking the surface rhythmically in the early morning sun, as they had since the dawn of time.

Later in the day, we ventured down to the edge of the bay, and from a rocky point near the Marine Mammal Education Center, we watched their activity to our heart's content.

All too soon, it was time to head home. Within two days, we were back where we started, after our week's immersion in French and our questing for ancestors.

The best images that stayed with us however were those of the little whimsical white whale, hanging on to existence for dear life in the cold fiord waters of Tadoussac. 



The author reads the Reporter at the statue of Hébert in Québec's Old City.

DIAL/SELF Golf Tournament to Benefit Area Youth

On Saturday, September 19 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. golfers will take to the course at Thomas Memorial in Turners Falls to swing their clubs and raise money to support the young people who benefit from DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services' programs.

The tournament format will be a 4 person team scramble with a 9am shotgun start. The cost per golfer including cart is \$65, which includes free hot dogs on the course.

There will also be an on course beverage cart. Prizes include generous gift certificates to local eateries

Mesa Verde and Hillside Pizza, and the longest drive and closest to the pin winners can celebrate with Ginger Libation from Artisan Beverage Cooperative.

Online registration is open now at www.bikereg.com/2015dialselfgolf or people can call or email Starr Pinkos at (413) 774-7054 x113 or spinkos@dialself.org to reserve a spot. Registration by September 8 is encouraged, but not required.

The agency runs a number housing and outreach programs for youth and young adults. See www.dialself.org or call 774-7054 for more info.

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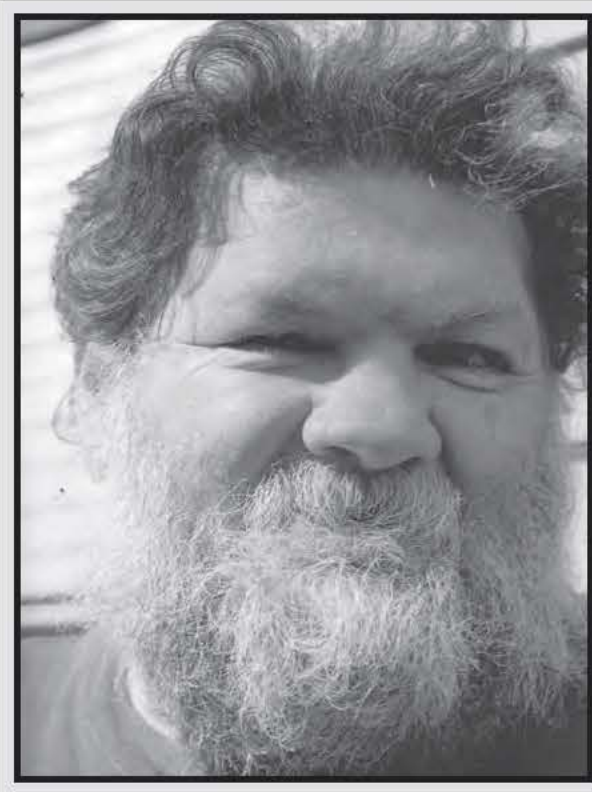
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Allen Smith

September 6, 1955 –
February 19, 2014

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Sometimes I turn the corner and I think I see you,
but it's not you. So, yes, I miss you.

Joyce, Arthur, Frank, Kia, and friends.
We love you. Thanks.



WEDNESDAY AT THE BRICK HOUSE:

Joan Shelley & Nathan Salsburg

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – For a little old mill town clinging to the edge of East Coast civilization, Turners Falls has been seeing more than its fair share of excellent touring acts recently. Next Wednesday, September 9, another lucky booking will grace the community performance space at the Brick House, in the form of Louisville, Kentucky-based Joan Shelley and Nathan Salsburg.

Shelley writes and plays original songs informed by a deep understanding of Appalachian ballad traditions, and Salsburg, a former archivist at the Alan Lomax archive, makes an excellent accompanist, weaving intricate finger-picking around her singing. Their twin guitar approach is quietly dazzling.

The rest of the impressive studio lineup on Shelley's new album with Salsburg, *Over and Even* – including harmonies by Will Oldham, and piano by Rachel Grimes of revered chamber-folk ensemble Rachel's – won't be along for the tour, but their involvement should come as a hint to certain listeners that more is going on here than the typical introspective singer-songwriter-guitarist fare a given ten-second snippet might indicate.



Shelley's songs carry an unadorned depth and calmness. This realm of genre revival has often been connected to experimental slants – folk-rock, psychedelia, 'weird' 'new' americana – but they stand on their own merits, direct and mature. The vibe is older, wistful, and of the hills.

It's Wednesday's opening acts, if anything, who might betray the duo's outsider cred: a rare appearance by Connecticut River Valley space-rock heads Sunburned Hand of the Man, pared down to an acoustic quartet for the occasion;

and Matt Valentine, once of Tower Recordings and now of MV+EE, performing solo. (Whether MV'll show up with a bank of effects pedals or stay with the evening's theme and keep it clean is unknown at this point.)

The show is \$10, on the 9th, at 8 p.m., and is for all ages. The Brick House is a substance-free space, conveniently across the street from a cafe and bar. Kudos to production company Northern Routes for the latest in the string of pearls they draw through Franklin County.

CHICKENS from page B1

February when every one else's were taking a break! House the chicks in a nice dry coop or old converted shed.

Make a few roosts as chicks like to be up off the ground at night. Put in a couple of nesting boxes for your eggs.

One book I read about nest boxes suggests putting a curtain over the front so the chick will have a nice little private place for egg laying.

Plenty of water at all times is extremely important. One day without water drops egg production by 30 to 50 percent.

Having a nice hen yard to exercise in is also important, and some folks free range their chicks.

After all this preparation, caring and waiting for your chicks to lay their eggs, the long-awaited moment has arrived... One early morning you trudge out to the hen house and check the nests and there it is, that first egg! A treasure to behold. You are so excited – eggs, fresh eggs, full of all good things that nourish your body.

They start coming, more and more, depending on how many chicks you have, a dozen a day more or less.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was September 1, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

FCC Approves Low-Power Radio

On August 3, 2005, the Federal Communications Commission notified Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI) that their application to construct a low-power FM radio station in Montague has been approved.

According to the terms of the license, MCCI may construct a 147-foot broadcasting tower off East Chestnut Hill Road, near the Leverett border, to broadcast an 8-watt signal at 105.3 on the FM dial.

"I think it's a great thing for Montague," said MCCI board president Michael Muller. "It would be great to be able to bring public access radio to town."

Farmland Preserved in Montague Center

This spring, as a result of combined efforts of Mark and Wendy Beaubien and the town of Montague, 18 acres of prime farmland along the Sawmill River, near the heart of Montague Center, will be permanently restricted to agricul-

tural uses, rather than developed as a residential subdivision. A popular walking and biking route through farming country will not be burdened with the added traffic that development would bring.

The successful purchase and registration of the land under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program required rapid decision-making, expert advice, and considerable patience.

Books & More on Avenue A

Richard Gobeil has wanted to start a small bookstore for a long time. Now his love of books has found a retail outlet in the first floor storefront of the new renovated Moltenbrey building on Avenue A, across from the Shea Theater and the Colle.

"We believe that bookstores are a type of business that promotes development, awareness, and acts as a service to the community," said Richard Gobeil. "Hopefully it's something that'll continue to help this area grow, culturally and economically."

"If you look at any downtown that's growing and flourishing, there's almost always a local bookstore."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Various Vehicles Looted, Crashed, Checked, Smashed

Monday, 8/24
12:40 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for court warrant.
Tuesday, 8/25
10:40 a.m. Assisted disabled motor vehicle with a tire change on Route 2 at Prospect Street.
11 a.m. Took report of larceny from a motor vehicle at Weatherheads convenience store.
6:37 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency at Erving Elementary.
7 p.m. Report of tree on the lines on North Street. Advised Verizon and highway department.
9 p.m. Alarm at French King Entertainment Cen-

ter. Same secure.
10:30 p.m. Alarm at French King Restaurant. Same secure.
Wednesday, 8/26
11:55 a.m. Report of suspicious activity on Gunn Street. Open door; no issues found.
Thursday, 8/27
11 a.m. Arrested [redacted] for court default warrants.
12:50 p.m. Welfare check request on Mountain Road. Subject found to be out.
4:13 p.m. Assisted Massachusetts state police on scene of motor vehicle crash at Route 2 and

Mountain Road.
8 p.m. Took report of malicious damage in parking lot of Weatherheads convenience store.
Friday, 8/28
12:45 p.m. Animal complaint on Pratt Street. Animal control officer advised.
5:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for larceny over \$250, breaking and entering into a motor vehicle, and shoplifting.
Saturday, 8/29
12:12 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

7:40 a.m. Collected syringe found by resident walking on Paper Mill Road.
12:50 p.m. Accidental 911 misdial from River Street.
4 p.m. Checked on suspicious vehicle left at parking lot.
10:22 p.m. Report of two subjects at French King Bridge. Gone upon arrival.
Sunday, 8/30
12:50 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with motor vehicle crash on Gulf Road.
6:15 a.m. Call of an abandoned motor vehicle at old IP paper mill on Papermill Road. Same found with windows smashed out.

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This 1883 etching depicts Rogers' Raid on St. Francis.

THE MAJOR from page B1

Massachusetts Colony was chafing under British control and personal liberty and freedom from constraints was a popular theme. The Puritan Congregational tax was let go in most of the Commonwealth for Quakers and Baptists.

Leverett's imposed fine was due to a technicality, perhaps because the church was in its initial stages and congregants met in Richard Montague's barn for a time. Eighteen congregants, who also refused to pay the tax, were hauled to jail six miles away – most likely in Greenfield. They stood trial and were made to pay the fine.

Another oft-documented incident is Montague's biblical smack-down of the Constable as he took the hog, telling him, "Your claim to that animal may be good, for your master took possession of many such years ago in Gadara." (He was referencing the casting out of demons into swine in the New Testament.)

A dream journal of sorts is mentioned in one source, the *Meeting of the Montague Family at Hadley, Mass., August 2, 1882*. On May 5, 1771, Richard recorded that he dreamed of wandering through the woods and saw a hawk tearing after a dove. The dove was joined by more doves that appeared to "congratulate her on her escape from the barbarous cruelty of the hawk...my soul rejoiced with them, as I thought. I felt glad at their liberty and safety."

Rogers' Rangers

The liberty and safety of his home was much on his mind in his earlier activity as a ranger in the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763) based on a powder horn he carved at Fort Number 4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire. The powder horn has yet to be located, but the hunt is on.

The *History and the Genealogy of the Montague Family* records that "this powder horn is a specimen of ingenuity, having many devices carved upon it almost with the precision of a steel plate engraver, viz.: a hawk, cock, fish-hawk, several fish, a wild goose on the wing, and one standing: a deer and a house. It bears the following inscription: 'I, powder, with my brother, ball, I'm hero-like, I conquer all.' Made at Charlestown, No. 4, July 5, 1759, by Richard Montague."

The name is said to be beautifully and elaborately carved in German text.

This same rhyme was popular with the Rangers at Number 4, as it is repeated on horns exhibited at the Flynt Center of Early American Life in Historic Deerfield, and on view in other collections. The other horns tend to feature battle scenes, often crudely drawn, and it is curious that Montague's motif featured pastoral scenes and a house.

Richard perhaps found solace in art in his time with the Rangers during the French and Indian War. Based on accounts, he likely suffered greatly, and witnessed and committed atrocities. He is identified in several books as having been a part of Rogers' Rangers in their raids and campaigns at Crown Point (a fort near Lake Champlain) and St. Francis (a Jesuit mission in Canada) during the French and Indian War.

Rogers was Robert Rogers, a New Hampshire colonist who adapted native techniques to scout, spy, and raid. The Rangers were seen as native replacements for the British, as most natives were driven away from their lands by the colonists. The French and Indian allies outsmarted the English and colonial forces for many years.

Raid at St. Francis

The attack on the Abenaki village at St. Francis is never fleshed out completely by the chroniclers of past centuries, perhaps because it would disturb the notion of the brave, woods-wise colonist as Ranger; the Natty Bumppo of Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*.

Gordon Day's 1981 study, "The Identity of the St. Francis Indians," explores their perspective on the attack of the native village of Odanak, renamed St. Francis by the Jesuits who established a church and mission there along the St. Francis River, just north of Montreal. Many of the natives at Odanak were refugees from the colonial wars in the south – King Philip's War, King William's War, Dummer's War, etc. – and they allied with French soldiers in Canada, far away from English settlement. Many converted to Catholicism and attended the Jesuit mission.

Someone from the Rangers unit of Stockbridge Indians warned the French and Abenaki of the Rangers'

activity, and a large group of men from the village, along with French soldiers, were waiting to intercept them at the reported place.

But the Rangers, unable to cross a river, changed their course at the last, and attacked from a different direction. The unguarded village was having a large celebration that some record as a wedding. The majority of people in the village were women and children.

The Jesuit leader, Father Pierre-Joseph Antoine Roubaud, was not present at the attack, but discovered the ruins, as he wrote to Count de Vergennes: "Most of the village burned to ashes including my house. Considerable Indian corn and Indians were burned. Ten men and twenty-two women and infants dead...Because of lack of provisions, Major Rogers divided his party. My savages took prisoners and destroyed three-fourths of the detachment." (National Archives of Canada, FM, 5, Vol 515)

Robert Rogers took six Abenaki captive: one identified herself as Deerfield resident Eunice Williams' Indian sister; another was an Indian boy who spent time with Susannah Johnson when she was captive at St. Francis. The Rangers beat a hasty retreat, hotly pursued by French and Indian forces. Many were attacked and killed.

They had no time to hunt or gather food, and starvation took many; the party divided under command of the officers. Rogers was allegedly against this division, and it led to more suffering.

One of the six captives was Marie-Jeanne Gill, the wife of Abenaki chief Joseph Louis Gill. "According to ranger Lieutenant George Campbell, she (Marie-Jeanne Gill) expired on the trail and 'her flesh kept them alive, except poor Jenkins who did not eat.'" (from *The History of Rogers' Rangers*, Vol. 4)

Another divided party got lost in the White Mountains, searching for a shortcut to Concord while carrying a heavy solid silver Madonna stolen from St. Francis. "Tradition states that they wandered for days through the mountains... they crawled under some rocks and perished in the delirium brought on by hunger and despair, blaspheming and hurling horrible imprecations at the silver image on which, in their insanity, they blamed all their sufferings. One of them seized the statue, tottered to the edge of a precipice, and exerting all his remaining strength, dashed it down into the gulf below."

Another party under Sergeant Evans ate their leather accoutrements (after parboiling), then turned to birch bark, and then the remains of a massacred party of rangers.

"Evans revolted at the thought of eating human flesh and refused his portion. A night or two later he overcame his hesitation and creeping up to one of his Rangers' large knapsack he discovered three human heads and cut off a piece, broiled it in the coals and ate it. He declared it the 'sweetest morsel he ever tasted.'" Excerpted from *Rogers' Rangers, The First Green Berets* by Burt Garfield Loescher.

ers Rangers, The First Green Berets by Burt Garfield Loescher.

Johnson's Memoir

The Rangers made it to Fort Number 4 at Charlestown, New Hampshire in poor shape. In Charlestown, Richard Montague may have witnessed a significant reunion. One of the native captives, an Abenaki boy, is recognized by Susannah Johnson, who writes in her memoir:

"He brought with him a young Indian prisoner, who stopped at my house, the moment he saw me he cried, 'my God, my God, here is my sister;' it was my little brother Sabbatis, who formerly used to bring the cows for me, when I lived at my Indian masters... I shall ever remember this young Indian with affection."

Excerpted from Susannah Johnson's *A Narrative of the Captivity of Mrs. Johnson*, (original 1796, reprint of the 3rd edition for Windsor, Vermont 1814.)

It is noteworthy that in captivity narratives, natives are favorably portrayed. All of Susannah's worst anxieties and fears of brutality never manifest. Even when she was made to walk, face painted in vermilion ocher, between rows of native warriors, running the gauntlet, she was simply poked on the shoulder.

Susannah and her family were captives for three years, taken from Fort Number 4 in the early morning of August 30, 1754. She delivered a child on the trail. At St. Francis she was adopted into the Gill family, and the "father" of the home is son-in-law of an Abenaki leader and represents a wealthier family of stature. She was made to work along with her brothers and sisters and remarks that they treat her well.

The rest of Susannah's family was sold into slavery to French families, a sometimes worse condition than life with the Abenaki, and Susannah was allowed to rescue one of her children. They stayed with the Abenaki for four months until they were

handed over to the French, jailed and eventually released by the governor, and sent to England to be exchanged for French prisoners.

Susannah and family eventually made it back to New Hampshire. Her eldest son Sylvanus, formally adopted by the Abenaki, was the last to be reunited with his mother. It is said he kept his Abenaki ways all of his life.

If Richard Montague witnessed Susannah's loving reunion with Sabbatis – and potentially Sylvanus was there as well – he may have understood his actions with the Rangers caused the deaths of Sabbatis' family. All of his aunts, sisters, and elders might have been slaughtered in the raid.

Settling the Score

Richard survived the campaign, with his powder horn as a memento, and returned to pastoral life in Leverett. When word reached the town of the fight at Lexington and Concord, Richard enlisted, telling his wife Lucy, "If the lord would forgive him for fighting seven years for the king, he would fight against him the rest of his life."

Richard became a Major under General Washington during his time stationed in Cambridge. He is said to have fought at Bunker Hill wearing the powder horn. Richard's duties as Major involved recruiting men from the Pioneer Valley to the cause.

While at home, he bought the local mill – Slarow Mill in North Leverett – and a large parcel of land that included apple and pear trees. Major Montague's new home at the corner of Hemenway and Cave Hill Road was built with a secret room behind the central hearth.

After serving in two wars and being imprisoned for failure to pay taxes, this room may have been built to hide from Indians, British soldiers – or the town constable.



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

The Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold a household hazardous waste collection Saturday, October 3 at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 24. Registration may be completed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Paper forms will be available at participating town offices and transfer stations. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of the following towns: Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Gill, Orange & Sunderland resi-

dents must pay to participate. Greenfield & Leyden residents are not eligible; call 772-1528 for info on year round disposal in Greenfield.

Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, anti-freeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay: 1 (800) 439-2370.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. Hands-on environmental experience for young children, 3-6 years. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Great Falls Farmers Market, Turners Falls: Fresh produce, plants, crafts, etc. 2-6 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*, live acoustic

guitar, 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: September is Turners Falls History Month. It will be a collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Turners Falls RiverCulture. At the Great Hall Art Display: *Great Gods and Little Fishes*, new paintings by Charles Shaw. *September 1 - 26*. Great Falls Discovery Center is open to the public 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Painting Buddies*. LCA resident Susan Valentine and core group of painters from Greenfield Community College: Mari Rovang, Frankie Dack, Penne Krol, Sandy Walsh and Karen Chapman exhibit September 2-27. Artist reception September 13, 4-6 p.m.

Little Big House Gallery: Shelburne: *Lines Lines Lines Lines Lines & More Lines*. New pencil and ink drawings as well as Da'Muse wire figures and layered sculptures of Glenn Ridler. Through 10/18.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Sculpture by Elizabeth Denny*. Found objects transformed with humor and an acetylene torch. Show through 9/12. Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:

Salmon Arts Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists Group Exhibit*. September 4-November 1. Artist reception is September 12 at 5 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: cooperative featuring members' fine arts and fine crafts. Open afternoons except Tuesdays.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *"Crisp!"*, A group show by artists at the Shelburne Arts Cooperative; August 26 through September 28 Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11-5; Friday and Saturday 11-8.

Springfield Museum, Springfield MA; *Victorian Opulence: Springfield's Industrial Elite*. "A window into the lives of America's privileged classes both at play and at home during the Victorian Era,

1840-1900, when Springfield was a powerhouse of innovations and industry." Through April 1, 2016.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

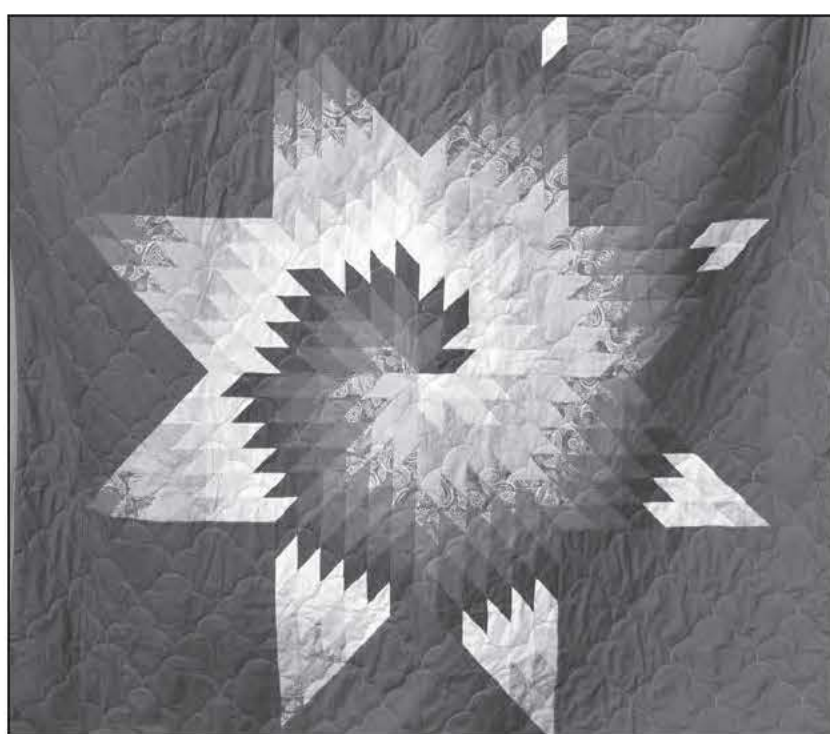
Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for cooperative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. See www.wendellmass.us

EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.



This quilting square is part of a queen-sized quilt that the In-sight Photography Project is raffling off this fall. It is the 2015 Lakota Quilt; the beautiful morning star quilt was made by Oglala Lakota Sioux seamstress Andrea Marshall, and is an important symbol in Sioux ceremonies. For In-Sight, the quilt symbolizes a link between Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and Vermont, and a celebration of the connection through the Exposures program. It can be seen at the In-Sight Photography Project's September 4 open house. See Events for details.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

In-sight Photography Project, Brattleboro: *Open House for Families*. Insight Photography teaches various photography classes to youth in the tri-state area, and is offering this opportunity for folks to see all they do and explore the classes that they offer. One can also buy a raffle ticket for the 2015 Lakota Quilt Raffle. Open house begins at 4:30 p.m. See www.insight-photography.org/insight/

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940 Hit Parade*. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Nelson*, Punk Rock. 8 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: Four bands tonight: *Loone, Breadwinner, Deadletter, and Music Was My First Gay Lover*. Venue is all ages/substance free. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The*

Equalites. Reggae. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Jennifer Matthews with special guest Cygne*. Alternate folk rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Labor Day Backyard Bash and Outdoor Dance Party. *Escape Route with Smilin' Steve*. Classic rock. 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

People's Pint, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week it's rabbits! See Ongoing events for details. 10:30 a.m.

temporary artist Jane Hammond gained inspiration from Ancient Egyptian writing and art. Create your own artwork using symbols and patterns from the ancient objects in SCMA's collection. At 6 p.m. Open Eyes: Join a guided conversation exploring a different work of art each month. 4-8 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. 7p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Jim Armenti*. Pop rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Barrett Anderson. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9p.m.

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The Equalites

Saturday, 9/5 8:30 p.m.
Escape Route w/Smili' Steve

Thursday, 9/10 8 p.m.
The Doug Plavin All-Stars

Friday, 9/11 9 p.m.
Barrett Anderson

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The Rendezvous
re-est. 9/1/2007

THURS 9/3 8pm FREE
Falltown String Band

FRI 9/4 9:30 FREE
Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade

SAT 9/5
no show

SUN 9/6
NO TNT KARAOKE
(back next week)

Happy Labor Day!

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LIGHTS from page A1

and onlookers from passively protecting one another with their presence.

The light and color of streetlights affect people's perception of the blocks they illuminate. In the writer's opinion, the old fixtures, while beautiful architecturally, cast our town in a bad light. As the cusp of cheapness in the 1980s, the bulbs are high-pressure sodium, and emit a light that turns Avenue A into the sequel to Blade Runner as soon as the sun sets.

Sodium lights burn at 2,200 Kelvin, even lower than incandescent bulbs, and are thus in the orange-red range of the spectrum. Turners Falls resident John Anctil, owner of Fast Lights, a lighting company that works in television and film, describes sodium lights as "dirty," because they emit off-colors such as green that make their light weird and off-putting to people.

Anctil makes an important point about humans' relationship to lighting: "Sodium vapor: people aren't very attractive under that light."

The new streetlights will use energy-efficient LED bulbs with a color temperature of 4,000 Kelvin, which is pure white. For comparison's sake, color temperature produced by light fixtures usually start in the orange-red part of the spectrum at 2,200 K (sodium lights) and goes up to 5,500 K, for lamps that produce daylight conditions, which are blue.

According to Anctil, people feel best in the warm, yellow part of the spectrum, around 3,000 K. The new lights, clocking in at 4,000 K, could illuminate our faces and facades in a light that could be unforgivingly bright.

Despite this, many feel that street lighting has a more important function than increasing our sex appeal, including keeping pedestrians safe, and town planner Walter Ramsey has assured me that 4,000 K was recommended by the landscape architect the town consulted for the project.

The underlying goal beneath the Streetscape Improvement Project is

MONTAGUE REPORTER

Sally Pick, of SJP Environmental Consulting and the Montague Energy Committee (and Montague Energy Corner!), writes:

"The Reporter traveled with me to Oregon and went up Tumalo Mountain a few days ago. This is the view from the top after a steep one hour climb. It's in the high desert, Central Oregon, near Bend, OR."



ON THE ROAD

Must be that time of year – we received quite a few submissions for this feature this week! Send your own travel photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Take Home a Piece of Turners Falls History!

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron wants our readers to know the old Avenue A lamps are available for sale!

There are 30 to 35 of the cast-iron lamp posts. They're hollow, and Tom suggests rewiring them and fitting them with newer bulbs, as the old ballasts and sodium bulbs are costly. Some may be cut off at the base, as the bolts were buried.

They are being offered as is, for \$75 each, on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact him at 863-2054 x 112, and leave a message that includes your name, how many you'd like, and your number. You must arrange pick-up with the department.

to adjust how people feel when they are downtown. Night lighting is a big factor in people's perception of Avenue A and in their ability to connect to its sense of place.

While the purpose of streetlights is to make light during the dark times, something that almost cannot be said about our current set of luminaires, the kind of light produced, and the atmosphere that they create, is important as well.

Anctil speaks for many of us who love our architecturally un-molested

village when he asserts that, "Lighting downtown is of the utmost importance as a historic district."

Our town has made good planning decisions throughout its century-and-a-half history. The grid of avenues and streets created a backbone for the town that is livable by humans, enduring, and contains within it the possibilities and potential that allow for a dynamic, resilient community.

Ramsey sees the purpose of his office as "maintaining the integrity of the villages and protecting the

areas in between." A new gathering place on Third Street and the new streetlights on Avenue A will further this intention by making downtown friendlier and more habitable to humans.

As the street-lamps of Antioch drew the apostle Peter in the post-Christ years, let's hope the ones being installed here this month will usher in a new period of well-being in our post-industrial time.



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