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The Montague Reporter

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also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Board Member Miffed By Cost Of State Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

“As a state taxpayer, I think this is ridiculous,” stated Montague selectboard member Michael Nelson after voting against a “change order” to increase payments for consulting services on a project on Montague City Road. The project is to upgrade a section of the road where the canal side bike path crosses it and then heads south toward the Connecticut River along a former railroad line.

After reviewing the project, which is financed entirely by state and federal money, the Department of Transportation has ordered major upgrades totaling approximately \$200,000. Improvements involve creating a pullout for westbound buses, improving drainage and tree plantings. According to town planner Walter Ramsey, only the additional trees were requested by the town.

Nelson was upset not so much by the increased cost for design services, which totals \$22,000 and is financed by state Chapter 90 money, but by the overall price tag, which now exceeds \$700,000.

The other two selectboard members, Chris Boutwell and Mark Fairbrother, seemed sympathetic to Nelson’s complaint, but voted in the affirmative.

see MONTAGUE page A4

A New Name, and New Look, For Erving’s Boxcar Restaurant

By JOE KWIECINSKI

ERVING – There’s a lot of excitement in these parts as Robert Pollock, the new proprietor of this town’s famed Boxcar restaurant on Route 2 in Erving Center, makes final preparations for its reopening next week.

“We’re aiming to open the restaurant next week,” said Pollock, “if all goes well and no major issues arise. We’re very excited about bringing the Boxcar back, keeping its history and memories alive. A lot of people had terrific meals and a good time here in the past.”

Pollock is calling the new eatery the A&R Boxcar Restaurant, using the initials of his children Arielle (22 years old) and Reid (11).

The restaurant is getting a tremendous amount of local “buzz,” according to Pollock. He said people drive by and honk and there have been lots of comments on Facebook in just the past few days

with the posting of pictures, depicting progress of the final preparations.

“We’re hoping,” said Pollock, “our old and new friends from Turners Falls and Montague and other places will come and visit us. I was talking to people in Leominster the other day, and they were very enthusiastic about the reopening. The old Boxcar Restaurant has been a local landmark.”

The site of the Boxcar served as the train depot back in the 1800s. Brad Peters, an Erving town historian, has given Pollock several pictures, showing the old nearby

see BOXCAR page A6



Above:
Robert
Pollock.

At left: The
revamped
A&R
Boxcar.



LEVERETT SELECTBOARD Leverett Sets Conditions For Senior Firefighters

By DAVID DETMOLD

After a month’s hiatus, the Leverett selectboard reconvened on Tuesday and took up a familiar agenda: which touched on the maintenance of mechanical systems at the elementary school, hunting on conservation land, and the future of the town’s fire department.

The future of the fire department has been hanging in the balance since midsummer, when fire chief John Moruzzi and training officer Stuart Olsen, the former deputy chief, both tendered resignations to the selectboard – Moruzzi’s to take effect in January, Olsen’s immediately – in a dispute about how the town would deal with firefighters who continue to serve past the usual public sector retirement age of 65.

After members of the fire department reportedly drew attention to a policy formerly adopted by the town of Rockport, MA, allowing firefighters to continue to serve in a reduced capacity after the age of 65, the selectboard in Leverett drew up a version of this policy, including a “hold harmless” waiver that sought to relieve the town from liability if senior firefighters were injured in the line of duty in violation of the terms of limited duty being drawn



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

The town has been mired in a dispute over firefighters who wish to continue to serve past the standard public sector retirement age of 65.

up for firefighters over the age of 65.

Before the town’s personnel board advised that such a policy could be viewed as age discrimination, Olsen had resigned, and the fire department was in an uproar.

When the selectboard withdrew the “hold harmless” requirement, Olsen and Moruzzi offered to withdraw their resignations, with the support of younger members of the fire department, who wrote to the board, “We hope the town can see that the contributions of our senior leadership far outweigh any perceived risks.”

The firefighters present at the August 26 selectboard meeting, including Olsen, argued for more time for the senior officers to complete the training of the younger members of the department.

At that meeting, the selectboard see LEVERETT page A7

“We Came, We Marched, We Bonded”: Local Activists Travel to NY Climate March

By CHRIS QUEEN

WENDELL – September 21, 2014 will be remembered as the largest climate march in history, with more than 400,000 marchers in New York City and over 2,646 parallel events in 156 countries around the world.

By late morning, more than five hundred buses had descended on the Big Apple, carrying students, grannies, pipefitters, teachers, and farmers from California, Louisiana, Minnesota, Maine and Massachusetts. Marchers marched for many reasons, but if the banners, flyers, floats and puppets are to be believed, they all agreed that Mother Earth has had enough of pollution, profiteering and pontification.

The day began for upper Pioneer Valley activists as two Peter Pan buses pulled into the Big Y parking lot in Greenfield at 6 a.m. These were brand new coaches, especially equipped for a destination with one potty per thousand people – they had shiny bathrooms in the back!

Our bus captains, Pam Kelly, social justice co-chair of the Greenfield Unitarian Universalists, and Rev. Leslie Fraser, recently retired head of the Franklin County Interfaith Council and Chaplain of



Left to right: Hattie Nestle of Athol, Diane McAvoy of Turners Falls, and Marcia Gagliardi of Athol represented a local cause at Sunday’s march.

Mount Holyoke College welcomed us and conducted the first head-count of the day.

Each passenger received a 3x5 card with our bus number, the reloading area to find at the end of the march, and the captains’ cell-phone numbers.

Each bus filled to capacity, with 54 passengers ranging in age from middle-schoolers who used the return trip to finish Monday’s homework, to scores of gray-hairs with decades of marches, rallies, and campaigns for peace, justice, and planet to their credit.

We were invited to exchange phone numbers with a march partner for the day, and warned that the cell tow-

ers of New York City might crash with all the extra phone traffic. Amazingly this didn’t happen, but we began to realize that nearly everything that happened that day had been anticipated by organizers during a long summer of meticulous planning.

The bus rides to and from the People’s March were anything but boring. As we headed down I-91, Steve and Janice Kurkoski of Warwick announced that they had paid “carbon offsets” for the car and bus fuel we would burn by supporting water filtering projects in Ghana through Native Energy of Burlington, VT.

By using the carbon see MARCH page A4

Two In Running for Erving Selectboard Seat

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

On October 7 Erving voters will decide who their third selectboard member will be. In this hotly contested race, Arthur Johnson and Scott Fritz, both long-time Erving residents, are vying for the opportunity to represent their fellow citizens on the board.

The Reporter spoke with both candidates this week. Here is a summary of what each had to say.

Arthur Johnson

Johnson, who has lived in Erving much of his life, says that he is ready to join the Erving selectboard. “While it is true that each of us should stand for things we believe in, there is much more to being on the selectboard than digging in on one issue. All three members of the board should be willing to work for some positive things for Erving as a whole.”

Among those things is restoring harmony to a town deeply divided over recent selectboard decisions, especially the dismissal last year of fire chief Almon “Bud” Meattay.

Johnson said he fully supports the more recent selectboard decision to conduct interviews with the five firefighters who quit in protest over Meattay’s termination.

“This is exactly what I



Arthur Johnson (left) and Scott Fritz (right) compete for a seat prematurely vacated this summer by Eugene Klepadlo.

would have done. I want them to go through the hiring process with perhaps a six-month probationary period rather than the usual 90 day-period. There’s no reason they shouldn’t be hired back.”

He says he knows how important it is to have a “fire department that can work together to save lives.” “I believe that is what all of our firefighters want also if we can just give them the opportunity to do so. Keeping the things we need and the lifestyle we all enjoy here is important.”

As for Meattay, he said he’d like to hire him back as a highly-paid consultant for large structural fires. “He’d work with the chief to advise on the best procedures.” He also said he was not opposed to having Meattay back on the fire department, perhaps as deputy chief.

Johnson is not a newcomer to town government. He’s served on the finance committee, the zoning board of appeals, and since July 2013 has been the town’s certified animal control officer.

Johnson said he has also run twice before for a seat on the selectboard, but is putting more energy into his campaign this year. “I felt the town needed to be led in a positive direction and I didn’t feel that was going to happen. So I threw my hat into the ring.”

“The town needs to move forward,” he said. “I’m a level-headed, common-sense guy who looks fully at the issues in order to come up with a reasonable approach.”

He said he is not a one-issue candidate. “I feel Erving has a number of issues that see ERVING page A7

The Montague Reporter

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Is the Montague Selectboard Overusing Executive Sessions?

Massachusetts has had some form of open meeting law since 1958. Over the years the law has been expanded, amended and revised but its general provisions remain the same: to eliminate much of the secrecy that in the past often surrounded governmental decisions and policy making.

The statute, G.L. c.30A, §19(a), makes clear the intent of the law: *The purpose of the Open Meeting Law is to ensure transparency in the deliberations on which public policy is based. Because the democratic process depends on the public having knowledge about the considerations underlying governmental action, the Open Meeting Law requires, with some exceptions, that meetings of public bodies be open to the public. It also seeks to balance the public's interest in witnessing the deliberations of public officials with the government's need to manage its operations efficiently.*

We have come to expect that the workings of our local governments will be as transparent as possible. And we should have that expectation. The public has a right to know how and why decisions are made by their local officials.

We are also aware that at times town officials need to keep – for a limited time – their deliberations private. While all meetings of public bodies must be open to the public, certain topics may be discussed in executive, or closed session.

The Open Meeting Law grants ten exceptions for town officials to deliberate in closed session. A number of these exemptions to public disclosure are not arcane: personnel matters, labor negotiations, security issues and discussion of the character or mental stability of an individual make sense and are fully understandable.

A grayer area is that of discussions involving litigation and real estate. The provision, for instance, allowing for litigation to be discussed in executive session also contains this caution: "A public body's discussions with its counsel do not automatically fall under this or any other Purpose for holding an executive session."

For closed-door discussions of real estate transactions, a similar warning says "an executive session may only be held where an open meeting may have a detrimental impact on the body's negotiating

position with a third party."

We have no quibble with the right of a selectboard to enter executive session. We do feel, however, that the Montague selectboard has been over-utilizing and perhaps even abusing this exemption to the open meeting law.

We were frankly rather surprised when Montague selectboard chair Chris Boutwell announced at the meeting on September 15 that he could not disclose "the evidence" presented to the board in executive session regarding Hatchery Road.

Why this matter was ever discussed in executive session is a bit puzzling. Did the discussion of Hatchery Road, a topic at a good number of open selectboard meetings, warrant suddenly excluding the public from deliberation?

We have yet to understand why this executive session was necessary, and would like to remind the selectboard that discussions with counsel do not automatically require an executive session. We also question whether these deliberations would have had "a detrimental impact on the body's negotiating position with a third party."

We are similarly concerned about the selectboard's continual use of executive sessions to discuss the former Montague Center School project. Again, for years this matter was discussed in open session. But then in June the developer Mark Zaccheo announced that the numbers didn't work and that the town would have to agree to further contingencies and more time.

We thought then that the town should stop waltzing with Mark Zaccheo, pull his dance card and exit the ballroom. Instead, they have held executive session after executive session to discuss whatever it is Zaccheo is asking the town to give.

Given that the Montague Center School re-use has been on the table for almost three years and engendered considerable open debate, the secrecy with which the town is currently cloaking the deliberations makes many of its citizens wonder if a conspiracy is afoot.

The Montague selectboard and town administrator need to take a very close and hard look at how and why they are using executive sessions. The rules are clear, and we're not all that certain that they are being followed.

A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR:

As we near the end of our twelfth volume, I sit here with a ruler and a calculator convinced of one thing.

The Montague Reporter should stop awkwardly oscillating between 12, 14, and 16-page issues and commit to growing to a regular 16 pages.

At 12, we always have to bump content. At the printer and at the post office, 16 makes more sense than 14, and worrying in mid-production about how many pages to print is a waste of our time.

On the other hand, on our current rev-

enue, we can't quite afford to print and deliver 16 pages every week, nor do we have enough to reimburse writers.

The necessary solution is to scale up our steady advertisement base to match the larger paper.

I'd like to set a goal of adding 24 black-and-white business cards this fall. These cost \$9 per week, and are renewed seasonally. They may not get you calls immediately, but they are a very good way to build name recognition and to show your business supports the project of community journalism in our towns.

The additional \$216 per issue in revenue these ads would generate would be split roughly this way: \$68 on printing, \$42 on postage, \$24 toward layout and

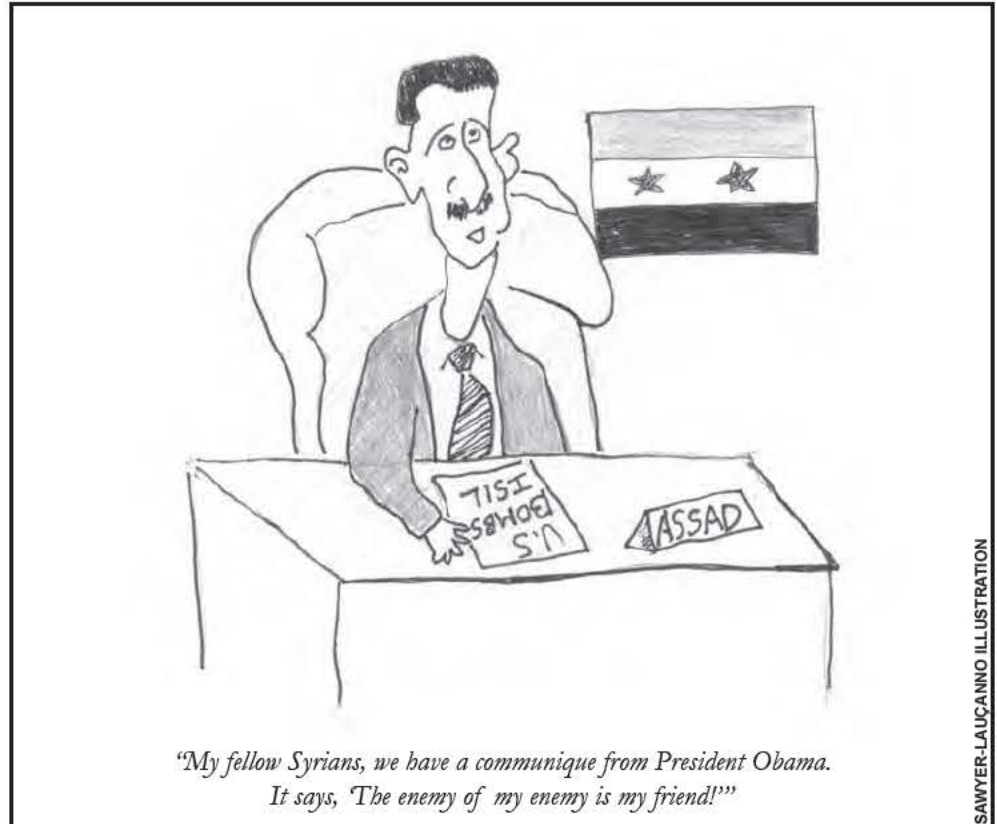
the remaining \$90 toward our budget for content.

If you (or a friend or family member) have a local business that does not yet regularly advertise in our paper, please consider placing a 2" by 3.25" card.

If you have any questions, or advice about businesses we might ask, contact me at ads@montaguereporter.org or (413) 863-8666.

We have also set a goal of increasing our subscriber base this fall. More of you are buying the Reporter at newsstands than ever, but subscription is a traditional and rather excellent way to support print publications, so if you have not yet, please consider signing up.

Thanks for reading – enjoy the paper!



Letters to the Editors

Firefighters Should Hold Selectboard Harmless For Policy

Talented, intelligent, dedicated people staff the Leverett Fire department. They have helped me and my family in times of need. Unfortunately, the aging department leadership has not provided a plan for succession.

This has frustrated the Selectboard for a few years. Our efforts have been portrayed by the leadership as an unwelcome intrusion into their 'chain of command.' The Chief and Deputy Chief both submitted letters of resignation.

The ostensible reason for resignation was the Selectboard's adoption of a 'hold harmless' policy to allow aging leadership (i.e., over the retirement age of 65) to continue to

serve in a reduced capacity. When the Board withdrew the policy, both men submitted letters requesting to withdraw their resignations.

But the 'hold harmless' policy was not invented by the Selectboard. It was suggested and argued for by the department leadership, through a Fire Department Study Committee.

A series of email messages in June 2014 shows the policy was 'strongly recommended' by the Study Committee and the Deputy Chief. The emails show I resisted the policy as being 'inappropriate' to Leverett.

At Tuesday's Selectboard meeting, I characterized the letters asking

to withdraw resignations as 'lying': the letters state the basis for the resignations was the 'hold harmless' policy they recommended!

Until the persons who resigned are willing to acknowledge the facts and to explain the actual basis for their resignations, I see no way to accept their requests to withdraw the resignations.

I could have used a tamer term than 'lying' – perhaps 'disingenuous'. Nevertheless, the Fire Department needs and deserves leadership that will carry it into the future, not hamstringing it in petty politics.

Peter d'Errico
Leverett Selectboard

Need for Pedestrian Safety in Downtown Turners

All of us in the community need to demonstrate our concern and address safety and support for our most vulnerable citizens: our friends, aging parents, the disabled, and children.

Remember to keep the handicapped parking spaces open for those with handicapped parking placards. Drivers need to be aware of pedestrians, including school children, crossing at crosswalks. We need several large crosswalk signs

by the grade schools and on Avenue A.

Let's advocate for some larger flashing crosswalks signs and lower speed limits on Avenue A and J Street, for the safety of all of us. Serious accidents are just waiting to happen. People do not obey the speed limit on Avenue A, where there are thirteen crosswalks from the town hall to the library!

I believe action is needed now for immediate intervention. Surely

larger pedestrian crossing signs could be posted now. By making this a priority now, we can reduce a huge liability to the town.

We have no time for studies or grants. Action is needed now. School is in session, and many are enjoying the fall weather by shopping and walking in town.

Warning: Cross Avenue A with extreme caution.

Betty Tegel
Turners Falls

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Saturday, September 27, is the Connecticut River Watershed Council's **Source to Sea Cleanup**. Staff and volunteers at the Great Falls Discovery Center want to let the community know about two fun opportunities that you can participate in that will get you outside and let you help your community.

First, the Source to Sea Cleanup team is looking for volunteers to help out along our very own **Canal Side bike path** here in Turners Falls.

Sadly, illegal dumping has made some areas of this trail quite an eyesore, especially during the fall, winter, and spring when leaves do not block the edges of the path from view. Come help us clean up these areas for all to enjoy.

Secondly, for the first time, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will be working with volunteers on **Third**

Island in the Connecticut River in Deerfield. This island was the first piece of land that created the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge and is now home to a nesting pair of Bald Eagles.

Unfortunately, flood waters from Hurricane Irene in 2011 dumped a large volume of trash on the tip of the island. The shallow nature of the river around the island, and the distance of the island from a boat ramp have made it difficult to access this location for large scale cleanup.

USF&W hope to change that this year and make a significant dent in the trash pile. Boat transportation for this site is provided; however, transportation to the meet site from the Discovery Center is required.

Walk-ins on the day of the event are allowed; however, pre-registration is preferred. If you have any questions, please call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221.

Plan to meet at the GFDC no later than 9 a.m.

Come enjoy a day of **Football, Fun, and Festivities** at the Frontier Regional HS Fall Festival on Saturday, September 27, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The morning begins with Suburban Frontier Youth Football meeting Easthampton for Pee Wee, Junior, and Senior Football games starting at 9 a.m.

Concessions run by the Frontier Band group FAME will be available all day as well as the famous Potato Booth. There will be games, music and fun leading up to the Frontier Regional Varsity Team versus **Turners Falls High School** game with kickoff occurring at 3 p.m. This is a good opportunity to come out and support local teams and have some fun too.

Barry Deitz will present **Specter Brides and Headless Horsemen: The Ghosts of New England** at the Greenfield Public Library on Wednesday, October 1, at 6 p.m. as part of the First Wednesday Speaker Series.

Get ready for Halloween with a literary journey through some of the great ghostly tales of Hawthorne, Washington Irving, and oth-

ers, as well as a look at some of the haunted places around Greenfield.

All attendees will be entered into a raffle for a \$15 Greenfield Dollars certificate.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library in conjunction with the World Eye Book Shop.

Join forester Mike Mauri on a **walk through the Wendell Town Forest** off Montague Road on Saturday, October 4.

Mauri will discuss timber management strategies designed to enhance both the productivity of a section of the Town Forest for hardwood as well as provide habitat enhancement for native species.

Hikers will meet at the Dirth Road entrance of the Wendell State Forest promptly at 3 p.m. and walk to the Town Forest.

Dress accordingly for weather and hiking through a forest setting. Contact Ray DiDonato (rdidonat@hotmail.com, 978-544-8270) with any questions and to reserve a spot. The event is sponsored by the Wendell Open Space Committee.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



local gossip, news & business listings

Town of Erving's Tax Classification Hearing will be held at Town Hall, 12 E. Main Street on Monday 9/29/14 at 6:35 p.m.

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New Unity Park Crosswalk



TURNERS FALLS – On Saturday, September 27 artist Anja Schütz will paint a new pedestrian walkway at Unity Park.

Unity Street will be closed to through traffic from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to allow for the painting and drying process.

Park visitors will still have ac-

cess to parking lots.

The new crosswalk will be unveiled on Sunday, September 28 at 1 p.m. Kids are invited to enjoy a craft and hear an important message about crosswalk safety by Montague police officer Dan Miner.

Free Refreshments!

Town of Montague Tax Bills Due

A reminder to Town of Montague taxpayers that the first half of the Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Real Estate and Fire District taxes are due by Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Payments received after this date are subject to 14 per cent interest.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of your bill with your payment.

For the convenience of the Town of Montague residents, you are able

to pay all real estate, district, and personal property bills online.

To pay a bill online, go to www.montague.net, click on Departments, Treasurer/Collector, Online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's fast, convenient, and secure.

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday until 6:30 p.m.

The Town Hall is closed on Friday.

Great Falls Middle Schoolers Attend Chris Herren Talk

By EMILY KREMS

GREENFIELD – "I don't know what to say" was the reaction of 8th grade student Samantha Bocon after listening to former NBA star Chris Herren describe his painful story of losing everything to drug addiction Monday evening at Greenfield Community College.

Mr. Herren, who played for the Boston Celtics and almost made it onto the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, spoke about the pain he inflicted on his family – particularly his young children – once he started abusing drugs and alcohol. He said he never would have thought that a single prescription pain-killer pill could turn him into a drug addict, but that's how it began.

Students who attended the presentation took away more than they could have imagined from the presentation. Several 8th graders plan to share some of what they learned with the entire middle school and also will be writing a letter to Mr. Herren to describe the impact he had on them and request that he visit Gill-Montague to talk to 8th graders and high school students.

Free Program On Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association is presenting a workshop on the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease on Tuesday, October 7, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Franklin County Home Care, 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls. The workshop is free and open to public.

Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters addresses the difference between typical aging and memory loss or behavior changes severe enough to disrupt daily life. Knowing the 10 Warning Signs can help determine if it's important to speak to your doctor and get a diagnosis for yourself or someone you care about.

The Alzheimer's Association, with headquarters in Watertown, has regional offices in Springfield, Raynham, and Worcester, MA and Bedford and Lebanon, NH.

The Alzheimer's Association provides services and programs for those with Alzheimer's, family and professional caregivers in the form of support groups, a 24/7 Helpline, care consultation, advocacy efforts, research funding and education programs.

For more information about Alzheimer's programs, visit www.alz.org/MANH or call (800) 272-3900.

Coffee, Tea, and Mortality

Coffee, Tea, and Mortality – an open conversation about life and death – will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14 at the Ocean Grill and Steak House in Greenfield.

The event is sponsored by Hospice of Franklin County, and is inspired by the Death Café, an international movement started in Europe. The purpose of the conversation is to take death out of the closet and talk openly.

At Coffee, Tea and Mortality, people will gather together in a relaxed, café-style atmosphere, sipping drinks, munching snacks and sharing thought-provoking conversation.

This is not a workshop or therapy group, just a safe, relaxed place for anyone who has a curiosity about matters of life and death and wishes to discuss them.

Participants are encouraged to keep an open mind. All spiritual, religious and end-of-life beliefs will be honored. A facilitator will guide the discussion in the beginning, providing an icebreaker topic. Conversations will be free-flowing and directed by those present.

The first gathering will be limited to 30 participants.

For more information or to RSVP, call Hospice of Franklin County at (413) 774-2400, or send an email to info@hospicefc.org.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

Ramp Moves Forward

The meeting had begun on a somewhat more positive, and less expensive, note with two requests by John McNamara, who has recently purchased and is renovating a building on Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls.

McNamara asked the board to approve a wheelchair ramp to the front of his building and grant a license to allow him to build an enclosure for trash and recycling in the town right of way.

After some discussion, the board decided that both "objects" were "temporary" and therefore approved licenses. Had the items been permanent, the issue would have gone to town meeting for an easement, according to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

This produced an inquiry from Hatchery Road resident Lisa Adams as to why the board, which had refused to allow her to rebuild two barns within a right of way, was giving a license to McNamara. Abbondanzio stated that the wheelchair request was for a "public purpose."

Cane Medallion

Next on the agenda was John Reynolds, who has been putting the finishing touches on the Boston Post Golden Cane Award system. The award, which has fallen into disuse in recent years, is given to the oldest person in town. Recently the selectboard decided that the oldest person also had to have actually lived in Montague for at least ten years.

Reynolds showed the board a medallion purchased with town funds. This will be given to the oldest person, while the cane itself will remain at town hall. Reynolds suggested that the cane be displayed with a plaque showing the recipient's name. He told the board that he would reveal the name in a week.

Park Granted

Strong Oak Lefebvre, prevention coordinator for the New England Center for Women in Transition (better known as NELCWIT) approached the board to request use of Peskeompskut Park for an event on October 25.

MARCH from page A1

calculator at www.nativeenergy.com, the Kurkoskis had purchased enough water filters to replace the wood traditionally burned to purify drinking water in Africa, capturing the amount of carbon we would release on our trip to the city.

Steve Kurkoski also described the zero-carbon footprint of their wood-frame house, after rebuilding for energy efficiency and adding solar panels to the roof. This message would be reinforced on the trip home with the showing of *Solar 101*, a short video demonstrating how families and businesses can benefit from tax credits and rebates when they install photovoltaic systems.

Seat Mate Activists

Like many riders, I met a seat partner who was a veteran of many campaigns. Diane McAvoy of Turners Falls is fighting for the state ballot initiative to establish "Corporations are Not People - Money is Not Speech" as amendments to the Massachusetts constitution.

She is also fighting the Kinder-Morgan pipeline. Diane came armed with petitions to sign and a strong message on the bus PA. With partners like this, there wasn't much

The event, called "Visioning Justice Rising," will honor victims of domestic violence and publicize solutions to the problem. The event will involve not only survivors but also advocates and law enforcement officials.

The selectboard approved the request after a brief discussion.

More Drinking

There was a somewhat longer discussion of a request by Tom Walsh, who is in the process of purchasing the Montague Inn on Federal Street near Montague Center, to create a new liquor license. This would involve approval by town meeting and a request to the state to expand the town's current quota of licenses.

Frank Abbondanzio noted that there were probably going to be several other requests in the coming months, including one associated with the redevelopment of the Millers Falls Powers Block. Millers Falls resident Jean Golrick asked if there was a limit to the number of licenses the town would request and approve.

The board, although initially inclined to send along requests for three licenses to town meeting, limited its endorsement to one.

FRTA Seeks Shelter

Michael Perrault of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority came before the board with a request to establish a clearer bus stop on the west side of Third Street near where it crosses Avenue A. Perrault came armed with a picture of a bus shelter - there is already one on the east side of the street - but requested that the town approve a sign for the time being.

The board approved the request.

Historian Inserted

David Brule, the coordinator of the project to study the site of the Turners Falls Battle or Massacre of 1676, came before the board with a list of potential members of an advisory board.

Jeff Singleton argued that the advisory board should include a professional historian. Brule suggested that this was not necessarily consistent with the guidelines of the grant-giving agency, the Battlefield

time for window gazing on the four-hour journey.

As Pam Kelly later described it, the bus became a rolling think tank for Franklin County activists, sharing best practices and introducing new ideas. Emma Stamas of Colrain described the benefits of no-till gardening and farming; Hattie Nestle of Athol shared the Conservation Law Foundation's recent research into methane leakage from Kinder-Morgan's existing fracked-gas pipelines; and Ava Gips of Deerfield invited arguments from riders that might convince State Senator Stan Rosenberg to oppose the pipeline.

The March

Upon arrival at 86th Street and Central Park West we were raring to go. I joined Diane, Hattie and her friend Marcia Gagliardi as a marching affinity group, identifiable by our "NO PIPELINE" signs.

By avoiding the large blocks of activists representing states and cities, age groups, charter schools, colleges, and universities, and the hundreds of organizations committed to climate justice we were able to see, hear and photograph more of the festivities than those who stayed with their slow-moving groups in the

Federal Funding For Community-School Partnership Restored

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇ ANNO

GILL AND MONTAGUE - The Gill-Montague Community School Partnership has received a federal grant of \$125,000 per year, for at least another five years, to fund its Drug Free Communities (DFC) support program. The grant will be in place by October which will allow the partnership to once again provide support for drug free education.

The Partnership, which helps bridge the school district with parents, community stakeholders and social service providers, had initially been funded under DFC for five years from 2008 until 2013. But when they reapplied for the grant for 2014, they were turned down.

Cate Woolner, GMCSPP's manager, said that the coalition continued some of its activities even without the grant, but acknowledged that "the Partnership has been running on the volunteer efforts of the board" for the last several months, and that it would not have had "the same vibrancy" if it had continued without funding.

"It's great news," she said. "Over the last six years, the Partnership has really solidified as a coalition... To be able to have dedi-

cated staff again is a big deal."

DFC is a federal grant program that provides funding to community-based coalitions that organize around root-cause issues to prevent youth substance use. The philosophy behind the program is that local drug problems require local solutions. Recent governmental evaluation data indicate that where DFC dollars are invested, youth substance use is lower.

"We don't do programming. We seek community-level change, not individual change," said Woolner.

Gill-Montague Superintendent Michael Sullivan, who announced the award at the September 23 meeting of the school committee, said the schools work closely with GMCSPP and the grant is good for five years and is renewable for another five years. The School Committee joined him in congratulating the Partnership staff.

Kara McLaughlin, the Partnership's director, has called an executive committee meeting Monday to plan a schedule for coalition meetings, newsletters, events and activities.

"We're not starting from scratch - we already have a robust community coalition," commented Woolner.

"We'll be getting that car back on the road as of October 1."

Protection Program of the National Park Service, and that professional historians were free to attend public meetings associated with the project.

After a lively discussion, the board approved Brule's list, with the proviso that a professional historian be added.

Gas Plans

Frank Abbondanzio handed the board copies of the introductory letter of the filing of Kinder Morgan, or the Tennessee Natural Gas Pipe-

line Company, to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This document is part of the "pre-filing" to win federal approval of a natural gas pipeline through Montague and other towns in Franklin County.

The Montague Board has denied the company a request to implement preliminary surveys on town property.

Additional reporting was contributed by Mike Jackson.

streets and avenues of Gotham.

This strategy worked until the sidewalks got choked with tens of thousands of costumed rebels, leafletting parties, towering puppets, and fist-pumping contrarians - all calling for an end to Climate Madness.

With the hand that wasn't hoisting the placard or snapping photos, we collected all the flyers that were thrust in our path at each step.

Here's a sampling: "Too Big to Fail - Be a climate change voter November 4 - Defeat the deniers," "War is Not Green - codepink.org," "Change the System, not the Climate - Vote Howie Hawkins, Green Party."

And then there was "The People's Climate March Scam" flyer from www.internationalist.org, the Trotskyist group arguing that the main sponsors of the march - 350.org, Avaaz, Purpose, Inc. and the Tides Foundation - are funded by billionaires like the Rockefellers, George Soros, and Warren Buffett, who expect to make big money on climate-related donations and products.

How gratifying it was to read in the New York Times, when we got home, that "Rockefellers, Heirs to an Oil Fortune, Will Divest Charity

from Fossil Fuels"!

As the energizers Hattie and Marcia charged ahead, seeming to part the crowds like Israelites at the Red Sea, Diane and I slowed down to take in the immensity of it all.

Catching our breath at Columbus Circle, the official point of departure, we witnessed the silence that suddenly descended over the multitudes, as 400,000 souls stilled their voices and lifted their hands in hope of a sustainable future and in contrition for the damage already done to our planet-home.

Then, at 1 p.m., after a 120-second silent vigil that seemed to last forever, an eerie sound rose from nothing to a deafening roar of voices, vuvuzelas, brass bands, shofars, drums and tambourines. The mighty procession resumed.

Walking east on 59th Street we saw the "Earth Vigil," a gathering of Buddhist meditators perched on the rocky southern end of the park, facing the multi-million-dollar condos that line one of New York's many gold coasts.

A bit farther, on a higher promontory, a bare-chested, long-haired *sadhu* sat cross-legged, holding the generic "We march

see MARCH page A8

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NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Gill Principal Faces Recess Question

By PATRICIA PRUITT

At the beginning of its meeting on September 9 the school committee heard from a group of concerned parents who utilized the “public participation” slot to express their concern about what they called the “structured recess” at the Gill Elementary.

The parents’ spokesperson Christina Postera said that the ‘structured recess’ did not permit students to engage freely in chosen play activities, or to make other choices during the course of the 30-minute recess period. Instead, students were required to choose their area of activity and to stick with that initial choice for the entire recess.

Postera said that historically, recess functioned as a break from “structured learning time”. Students have no opportunity to change their minds in the course of their play. As a result, Postera was asking for unstructured recess, and more time for recess as well.

Postera was followed by a second parent who spoke to the advantages of structured recess. While she also would like more time for recess, she liked that “kids weren’t little crazy kids, running around,” and added, “I see the value of it.”

In addition to these parents who spoke at the meeting, comments were emailed by Gill parents Susannah Lerman and Wendy LaPointe.

Lerman’s remarks spoke to the value of exploring the natural world. She saw the large and varied landscape of the Gill playground as an asset to her child’s interest in playing.

LaPointe saw recess as not only a time for kids to burn off energy, but also to change their minds, to meet others, and resolve issues. Recess, she said, is the perfect opportunity to be in control of some of their decisions.

Principal Kathleen Adams Bailer addressed the recess issue during the ongoing business section of the meeting. She acknowledged the value of free play, but said children still engaged in free play with the different individuals who had chosen a particular area of the playground and with whom each child engaged socially.

She didn’t feel that play was any less dynamic for its location having been chosen in advance. Before the one choice option was in practice,

staff found that parts of the playground were underutilized.

Another, more bothersome issue was that disagreements that arose on the playground traveled with kids into the classroom, where the disagreement continued.

Gill teachers have started to educate students about recess behavior prior to recess with three short rules of thumb to follow on the playground: play fair, play safe, and play on. They taught rules of the swing, the slide, the sandbox and the sticks. The positive result is about 50% fewer conflicts drifting into the classroom from recess.

Another innovation was giving 6th graders responsibility for individual areas of the playground where the 6th grader could hang out and play with the kids who had chosen that area.

Sandy Brown noted that the school committee was about to vote a physical education policy that emphasized “unstructured play”.

Mike Langknecht said he felt that the school committee was not the one to vote up or down the Gill playground practice. He saw this as an appropriate area for the school council to assess.

Langknecht felt that he would like to hear back from Gill after three months, and after the school council had a chance to visit the Gill playground.

The Gill principal agreed, and planned to solicit responses to the one-choice recess from the students themselves to present to the school committee at its next review of the recess policy.

Strategic Plan

Other highlights of the meeting included a report from Marty Espinola, director of teaching and Learning, who detailed the implementation of the five major goals of the Strategic Plan.

Goal one is Readiness to Learn and Espinola brought the committee up to date from summer efforts at training any untrained staff in the responsive classroom as well as ongoing efforts into October when training in Restorative Practices will be given for the middle and high school.

He also noted the hiring of an early Literacy Specialist (Kirsten Levitt) and a Behavior

Specialist (Sherry Wood) for Sheffield to assist staff.

As part of the goal to increase “critical thinking,” the literacy block in the elementary schools has been increased 30 minutes and will explore ways to integrate science and social studies into the reading and writing format.

The Lucy Calkins writing program will continue in the elementary program, while a new expanded secondary writing program will include different expository writing purposes such as narrative or research or persuasive writing.

Espinola went on to outline efforts ongoing to achieve the remaining strategic goals.

Other Business

In new business, Chris Mason of the Montague Energy Committee outlined the benefits to the district of including both the Sheffield and Hillcrest buildings in the Green Communities program which ultimately could bring energy costs down for the district as well as make the two buildings eligible for state technical assistance grants .

The school committee approved the revised discipline rules which were revised to reflect the current changes in law in the areas of student conduct, student absences and excuses, student complaints and grievances, and student discipline.

Superintendent Sullivan outlined his efforts and goals for the district to achieve the Strategic Plan goals. He said he hopes to see the growth of critical literacy at the elementary level and to raise the assessments of critical thinking at the high school level. He will make sure that curriculum mapping is done in the high school and will be available to the public.

He hopes to show the development in both elementary literacy and math through the use of district determined measures. Another major focus will be community. He will also form a community task force and seek the engagement of parents. He will utilize both print and media outlets to keep the community aware of the accomplishments in the district.

He is interested in exploring alternative schedules in the middle and high school to accommodate the needs of both lower and higher level learners. He will continue to visit classes with principals.

The school committee unanimously endorsed Sullivan’s goals for the year.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Ten Grand for Front-End Loader Repair

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard approved spending \$10,176 to pay C.N. Wood Co. in Whately for recent repairs to the town’s four-year-old Komatsu front end loader, after highway superintendent Mick LaClaire negotiated a reduction of the bill to that amount.

The relatively new piece of heavy machinery had been overheating this spring, and it required several visits to the repair shop to successfully diagnose the problem, which was located in a power distribution valve.

The town’s warranty on the new loader had expired prior to the problem developing. The selectboard noted the repair amounted to approximately a tenth of the original cost of the machine.

But LaClaire said the town was finally billed for only half of the hours the repair shop actually worked on the loader.

“It’s frustrating to have an invoice of this size,” said board chair Randy Crochier. “But they really did try to take care of us.”

The board authorized LaClaire to take half the repair cost from the highway department’s road machinery account (leaving about \$8,000 in that budget line, with three quarters of the budget year still to come) and to pay the rest using Chapter 90

state aid funds.

Approximately \$84,000 in unallocated funds will remain in the Chapter 90 account following that payment, after spending an additional \$6,000 to replace the department’s brush hog, which recently died after 30 years of heavy use, LaClaire told the board.

In other highway news, the board approved bids for the purchase of sand and salt, arranged by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The cost of sand is down slightly this year, to \$6.50 a ton; the highway crew will pick up the sand from Lane Construction in Northfield.

The cost of salt is up steeply this year: at \$74.42 a ton, up from last year’s price of \$58.65 a ton, delivered.

Early estimates of the cost of insulating the town hall and the Riverside building attics has also climbed steeply, town administrative assistant Ray Purington told the board.

In an energy audit conducted for the town by Bart Bales Associates, a target figure of \$23,000 was estimated for these two insulating projects. Purington said the new estimate, from a local contractor, came in at \$42,000. But once these projects go out to bid, later this week, Purington said the final cost may come in

lower than that estimate.

Still, the selectboard appeared concerned that insulating the two town buildings may wind up eating up more of the town’s remaining \$129,793 in Green Communities Grant funds than they had originally planned for.

If so, decisions may have to be made on whether to go ahead with the air source heat pump installation to replace the aging oil furnace at the Riverside building, or to spend Green Communities money purchasing the 44 streetlights in town from WMECo and converting them to energy saving LED bulbs.

Selectboard member John Ward noted that electricity rates are also expected to rise sharply in the coming months, perhaps by as much as 30% to 50%, giving an urgency to any added electricity conservation measures the town can afford.

The town energy commission is offering a free workshop on home weatherization on October 25th. Consult the Gill town website to pre-register.

For the fourth year running, Northfield Mount Hermon School has given the town \$25,000 as a contribution towards emergency services.

In previous years, NMH, which as an educational institution pays little in property taxes, gave an an-

ual contribution of \$10,000 in recognition of the coverage the town provides the school for fire and police services.

But after the two NMH campuses were consolidated in Gill, and the Northfield campus closed, the selectboard asked the school to consider increasing their contribution to the town and since then, NMH has more than doubled their annual donation.

Ernie Hastings has resigned from the Capital Improvements Committee, leaving an opening.

Several sites in Gill will be among the locations targeted for watershed cleanup in this Saturday’s annual Source to Sea Cleanup along the Connecticut River.

Volunteers are urged to bring work gloves and show up at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A in Turners on Saturday, September 27, at 8:45 a.m.

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BOXCAR from page A1

factory and train tracks, among other atmospheric shots.

A native of Marlborough, Robert grew up in Orange and graduated from Mahar Regional in 1986. He was a cook in the U.S. Army for seven years, and received his first bachelor's degree in culinary arts and a master's in hotel and restaurant management from Central Texas College.

Pollock managed the Homestead Restaurant on Daniel Shays Highway for seven years before serving as chef at the King Phillip Restaurant for close to two.

At the age of 32, Pollock went back to college and earned a second bachelor's degree, this time in English, plus a second master's degree in middle school education. With his new qualifications, Robert became an English teacher.

Pollock worked part-time for about a year at the old Boxcar which closed its doors last spring.

The 47-year-old Pollock will direct a staff of eight in the new endeavor. He and Nancy Gordon will serve as cooks. The wait staff will be comprised of Erika Lemieux, Rebecca Wolf, Stephine Dresser, and Lisa Pollock. The latter will do all the baking.

Jessica Valley and Heidi Gott will fill the dual roles of dishwasher and "prep," while Ralph Streeter will perform dishwashing and maintenance duties.

"We want to employ local people," said Robert, "as much as possible. For example, John and Charlie Zelinsky of Erving are supplying all our maple sugaring needs. John makes maple sugar, while Charlie creates confections and homemade granulated maple products.

"We'll sell both John and Charlie's wares at the A&R Boxcar, too, for people who'd like to take them home."

In addition, the restaurant will use only homemade breads from Second Street Baking Company in Turners Falls.

The new proprietor has completely remodeled the dining room and some of the kitchen. The new lighting is warmer and more inviting, he said. Soft music will provide a relaxing environment for patrons in the dining room. There is also a completely new section for the servers themselves.

Pollock accomplished a lot of re-landscaping and also spent a great deal of planning on design and color of the new A&R.

"I did a lot of research," said Robert, "on the best colors to use. In the end, I've chosen a color

scheme of claret red and classic silvery platinum - two of the six top colors that experts recommend for restaurants."

The new menus, to go along with the new look, have also been developed. Pollock retained few of the old favorite dishes along with introducing new items.

"We've added a lot," said Pollock, "of new and interesting breakfast and lunch offerings. I believe that quality and quantity are very important. And the prices are structured with an emphasis on affordability. We'll also take all major credit and ATM cards."

The restaurant will be open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch: Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Usher Plant Discussion Front and Center

By KATIE NOLAN

Usher Plant Re-Use committee chair Jeanie Schermesser asked the Erving selectboard for a "better, stronger, more respectful relationship" between the board and the committee at the selectboard's Monday night meeting.

She commented that although Erving's open space plan and master plan both support the goal of saving historic buildings, the committee's efforts to save the historic boiler building at the Usher site are "constantly being challenged without the support of the board."

Schermesser cited the discussion at the September 15 special town meeting (STM), where transferring \$60,000 from a demolition account to a chimney renovation account was rejected by a 17 to 16 vote, as an example of lack of selectboard support for the committee.

She said that a voter at the STM mentioned an April 2012 *Around Town* newsletter survey that asked, "Do you think the remaining Boiler Building at the Usher Plant should be saved?"

Although the majority of responses to the survey were opposed to saving the boiler building, Schermesser called the survey invalid because of the way the survey was conducted and the wording of the question.

She felt that the selectboard should have provided a fuller explanation of the problems with the survey at the STM. In addition, potential problems with developing a public water supply at the site were mentioned at the STM, but, "the response did not present the full picture" according to Schermesser.

She said that the committee was still investigating the issue of water supply, and that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection might be allowing public water supply systems at locations similar to the Usher property.

Committee member Gary Burnett commented that the problem was "communication, not dereliction of duty" on the part of the committee and selectboard.

Burnett asked how the board interpreted the STM vote, asking whether the committee should seek better estimates for demolition versus renovation of the chimney or "forget about it."

Selectboard chair William Bembury said, "What I heard Monday [at the STM] was that the town wants an up-to-date bid."

Estimates, he said, should be sought for both: 1) removing the top 16 feet of chimney and renovating the rest; and 2) removing the exterior portion of the chimney entirely.

He added that townspeople are questioning the amount of money spent to date at the Usher build-

ing, with some calling it a "black hole." He said, "Nobody sees the end game."

Schermesser and Burnett both commented that the former International Paper plant would cost as much or more than the former Usher Plant to develop into a useful property.

Bembury replied, "It's larger, and it's going to cost more money. But I've heard it called an ideal plant in an ideal location. I've never heard anyone say that about the Usher Plant."

Committee member Jeff Dubay called the boiler building with chimney an "investment in our town." He added, "We can get a lot more grant money if we fix the chimney."

Bembury said, "I have no problem with the proposal [to renovate the chimney] coming back up, but it's all of our jobs to be better at communication."

He suggested that the committee keep townspeople better informed about their work and vision for the site and get people involved.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan told the committee members that some people in town ask why the committee keeps coming back to ask for renovation money when the town already voted to tear it down. "You need to understand how people feel," she said.

The town vote Sullivan referred to came at the 2010 annual town meeting. According to the May 6, 2010 *Montague Reporter*, "After much debate, \$500,000 to demolish the derelict Usher Mill was also approved."

Finance committee member Daniel Hammock, attending the meeting "to listen and understand", said that, after arsonists burned most of the Usher Plant buildings, the town had no choice but to tear the buildings down and clean up the site.

But, he said, "It's reasonable to ask, if you found a box of diamonds while cleaning up," to spend the money for repair, "and have this box of diamonds."

Sullivan told Schermesser, "I commend you for being a great visionary. You see things other people can't see" for the future of the property. "Keep your spirits up."

She suggested that the committee publish information in the *Around Town* regularly to keep townspeople informed.

Bembury said that, after the October 7 town election, when a third selectboard member will be elected, the board will assign one member as liaison to the re-use committee. He asked the committee to keep the board informed about its meetings.

Committee members will work on finding definitive estimates for chimney demolition and renovation.

The Hard Figures: Has the Erving Fire Department Been Unresponsive to Calls?

By KATIE NOLAN

Statistics provided by Erving fire and police departments show a lower percentage of responses to medical calls by the Erving fire department in the first eight months of 2014, as compared to the twelve months of 2013. Responses to other types of calls were similar over the two time periods.

The Erving selectboard is currently reviewing fire department response to calls and response times.

At the August 25 selectboard meeting, former firefighter William Pease stated that, since the September 2013 termination of fire chief Almon "Bud" Meattey and subsequent resignation of five experienced firefighters, 911 response time from fire station #1 had increased.

"There are calls that have not been answered on this side of town," Pease said. "Response times are outrageous," Bud Meattey said.

The response data do not show response times, locations of the incidents, or which Erving station responded or did not respond.

Pease, Meattey and four other former firefighters have applied to re-join the department. The board asked fire chief Philip Wonka to begin interviews with the applicants in early October.

Number of Calls with No Fire Department Response/ Total Number of Calls

Percentage of Calls with No Fire Department Response

TYPE OF CALL	2013 (JAN 1 THRU DEC 31)	2014 (JAN 1 THRU SEPT 1)	2013 (JAN 1 THRU DEC 31)	2014 (JAN 1 THRU SEPT 1)
MEDICAL CALL	1/86	21/78	1%	27%
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	0/16	0/14	0%	0%
MUTUAL AID TO OTHER TOWNS	9/23	5/14	39%	36%
COMMUNITY SERVICE CALL	1/6	1/8	17%	13%
ALARMS	1/11	1/6	9%	17%

SOURCE OF DATA: ERVING POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Suspicious Person, Vehicles, Female, Male; Four Alarms

Wednesday, 9/3

1:15 p.m. Took report of suspicious person on French King Bridge.

1:40 p.m. Report of possible illegal dumping at Papermill Road. Under investigation.

6:55 p.m. Report of two suspicious vehicles at Mountain Road Cemetery. Gone upon arrival.

Thursday, 9/4

1:30 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for possessing fake or altered RMV documents.

6:30 a.m. Found dog on Murdock Hill. Returned same to owner.

4:20 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and on revoked registration.

5:30 p.m. Debris removed from French King Highway.

7 p.m. False alarm at French King Restaurant.

8:30 p.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Warner Street.

10:30 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with unruly female on New Street, Millers Falls.

Friday, 9/5

10:50 a.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle at park on Moore Street. Moved along.

11:20 a.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash at East Main and East Prospect streets.

Saturday, 9/6

4:10 p.m. Alarm at Erving Senior Center. Same secure.

Sunday, 9/7

1:40 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on River Street.

2:05 a.m. Suspicious female walking down Les-

ter Street. Was heading to see a friend in Millers Falls.

8 a.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle on Gunn Street.

9:50 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD with warrant arrest on Millers Falls Road.

11:40 a.m. Took report of motor vehicle crash on French King Highway. Under investigation.

Monday, 9/8

5:15 p.m. Report of missing juvenile. Same located in Orange.

Tuesday, 9/9

8:30 a.m. Report of power outage on Old State Road. WMECO advised of tree on lines.

10:40 a.m. Assisted on scene of medical emergency on Mountain Road.

1:30 p.m. Report of suspicious male in parking lot of Semb Drive. Gone on

arrival.

Wednesday, 9/10

9:55 a.m. Assisted Home Depot truck picking up load lost on Route 2.

11:45 a.m. Assisted parent with out-of-control juvenile at station. Mediated and calmed situation.

Thursday, 9/11

10:30 a.m. Took report of larceny from Pratt Street residence.

7 p.m. Report of disturbance on Warner Street. Was verbal in nature.

Friday, 9/12

7:10 a.m. Alarm at Erving Elementary School. Same secure.

12:10 p.m. Alarm at Swamp Road residence. Same secure.

11:40 p.m. Report of disturbance at Gunn Street residence. Found to be verbal argument. Separated subjects.

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ERVING from page A1

need to be dealt with in a reasonable but decisive way. To be focused on only one or two issues isn't what a board member can or should do."

He also said that he has respect for the selectboard and would ensure transparency in government. "I have an understanding of how meetings are conducted. How open meeting laws must be followed and that people... have a right to be heard and be part of the process."

As a member of finance committee since 2011, he says he understands the town budget process. "As a small business owner in the past I know the value of a dollar and I do not believe we should spend taxpayers' money like it grows on trees. This town has a great opportunity and should continue to build solid infrastructure as needed in our town."

Part of this infrastructure includes jobs. Although he says he is not in favor of increasing the payroll in town government, he does feel that there are some private sector opportunities.

First and foremost, he said, is attracting investors to rehab the former International Paper mill in Erving-side. "We need to get this building back on the tax rolls. We need to get businesses in there and transform it from a liability to an asset."

He added that he is not in favor of "spending millions of taxpayers' dollars on this building." "I am in favor of helping to arrange for a private company to develop the place and to help streamline the process to get it back on the tax rolls. That will not be easy, but other towns have done this. We can too."

He also said that as a member of the board he would work "to remove restrictions and unnecessary roadblocks that hold up development." He cited as an example the difficulties Ralph Semb has experienced in developing Dunkin' Donuts and now his plans for a gas station.

Johnson said his experience as a member of the Erving Zoning Board of Appeals will aid him in being able to make positive decisions for "furthering development in Erving."

Among these ideas is to create housing for seniors. "Seniors pushed for the new senior center. Let's push for senior housing units. Other towns have done this, we can too. Our seniors should not have to move to another town because of lack of suitable housing."

Johnson lives with his wife Maureen in a home they built on Mountain Road in 2003. "We enjoy living in Erving, as do many other family members who have come to live in Erving over the years."

Scott Fritz

"People in Erving can't make an honest living in their own town. I want to change that." These are the words of Scott Fritz who is hoping to have an opportunity "to make things happen in a positive way for the town" if elected to the Erving selectboard.

And Fritz says he has plenty of ideas to help make Erving "a better place to live." Job creation is one of his top priorities. "Let's face it: Erving is a bedroom community," he said. "we have to get a lot more jobs coming to Erving for everyone."

He noted that young people are particularly hard hit. "We have nothing for them to do, not even small jobs."

Among Fritz's ideas for creating more job opportunities is to make the "river a source for great recreation." At present, he commented, "Erving is not a destination but it could be.

Why can't we cash in on the river, and make whitewater rafting a reason for people to come here?"

Fritz also said he had other ideas for attracting businesses of all sorts to the town. "We have space, we have the highway, we have potential, and we can make it happen."

Fritz was also quite candid about what he sees as the current state of affairs in Erving. "A lot of people in town are unhappy about what's been going on the last couple of years. We've been losing great people who were employed by the town for a good long while." He cited the dismissal of former fire chief Bud Mettrey and highway/facilities manager Paul Prest as examples of people who "served the town long and well."

"Why did the board feel the need to replace Bud? If they were unhappy with him as an administrator they should have worked with him. There were other ways of handling the situation. They didn't need to push him out of a job."

While critical of the board, he also said that he was fully prepared to work with present selectmen Margaret Sullivan and Bill Bembury. "I may not always agree with them but I can work with them. I've known them both for a long time. I have a direction. They have their directions but I think we can find common ground. I want to do what is best for the town."

Fritz was born and raised in Millers Falls. He moved to Erving in 1997 on land formerly owned by maternal grandparents. He is married to Kathryn A. (French) Fritz and has two children living at home: Timothy, age 13, and Madison, age 7. Tim attended Erving Elementary and is in the 8th grade at Great Falls Middle School. Madison is in second grade at Erving Elementary.

He also has two older sons from a previous marriage: Adam, 30, of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and Levi, 29 of Fort Benning, Georgia, as well as three grandchildren.

Fritz is a 1982 Graduate of TFHS and served six years in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman.

He works at Hudson Seating and Mobility where he designs manual and powered wheelchairs, seating systems and alternative drive systems. In his capacity as a designer he works closely with a number of organizations including Shriner's Children's hospital, MDA, the ALS society and numerous manufacturers.

In town government Fritz served more than two terms on the Erving planning board and was co-chair of the police station building committee.

As the town-appointed representative for the police station project he was active in the bidding process, and served as the intermediary between the architect, contractors, clerk of the works and the selectboard.

He was the town-appointed representative for the brownfields study on the Usher Plant where he worked with the Mullin's Institute in attaining all phases of the study. He was also the town's liaison to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as well as other neighboring planning boards.

While Fritz says he hates "partisan politics," he said he is running "to help bring much-needed change to Erving." He said he is prepared to dedicate himself to the job and is willing to give "whatever time it takes" to do his job as selectman.

The election is October 7. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at town hall.

LEVERETT from page A1

did not act on Olsen and Moruzzi's offers to rescind their resignations. Instead the selectboard reiterated a longstanding request for the fire chief, or the department as a whole, to produce a clear plan of succession showing expected retirement dates of senior staff and accession dates of younger firefighters to leadership roles.

The issue has remained unresolved since then, as the selectboard canceled their scheduled meeting on September 9, citing a light agenda.

This week, the selectboard came close to diverging, for the first time in years, from their habitual mode of unanimous decision making, as Peter d'Errico staked out a vehement position that bordered on outright rejection of the fire chief and former deputy fire chief's offer to rescind their resignations.

"In my opinion, we should be moving ahead to fill the [fire chief] position in January," said d'Errico. "We're just kicking this can down the road."

D'Errico objected in the strongest terms to communications from the senior officers that indicated, he said, the selectboard had forced Olsen and Moruzzi into resigning by requiring them to sign a hold harmless agreement.

"They backed themselves into a corner," said d'Errico. "Now I want to see them get out of it."

D'Errico produced copies of emails between the board and fire department staff dating from June which showed, in his view, that it was fire department personnel, and the ad hoc fire department study committee, who had initiated the chain of events that led the selectboard to examine Rockport's policy for firefighters over the age of 65 (a policy the Rockport selectboard rescinded as unworkable this February).

It was that policy examination that led, according to d'Errico, to the Leverett selectboard's draft of a hold harmless agreement for senior firefighters.

"They backed themselves into a corner," said d'Errico. "Now I want to see them get out of it."

Neither selectboard chair Rich Brazeau nor board member Julie Shively seemed initially persuaded by the import of his argument.

Shively said she was most con-

cerned about "the younger firefighters, who clearly want the seniors back."

Brazeau insisted on a clear departmental succession plan as his prime concern. "They have to have what we want in a few weeks..."

"Or no go," concluded Shively. "I'm fed up with it," said d'Errico, who at several points all but urged his colleagues to outvote him and allow the senior officers to rescind their resignations. "We've been getting promises for so long."

Finally, with Brazeau in his role as chair seeking consensus on the board, the three managed to come to a unanimous decision. They would allow the senior officers to rescind their resignations and continue training the younger members of the fire department on the following conditions:

- That they send the selectboard a letter acknowledging the course of events, outlined in the June emails, that led to the board's review of the Rockport policy for over 65 firefighters, and the consequent hold harmless letter, now withdrawn by the Leverett board.

- That the firefighters would produce a draft for the board's review of a clear succession plan for the department, by October 9. They would also produce a draft protocol for limited duty for firefighters over the age of 65.

- That they would appoint a younger member or members of the department to serve as liaison to fire departments in neighboring towns, specifically Amherst and Sunderland, to explore the possibility of merging aspects or administration of their departments, as a possible fallback in case the succession plan did not work out.

The selectboard will also insist on periodic reviews of the succession plan and protocol to make sure the department is on track; and will include a clause in the agreement for terminating the senior officers if any of the agreed upon terms are not carried out.

Leverett Elementary

In other news, the board met and welcomed Margot Lacey, new principal at the Leverett Elementary School.

After a winter heating season that was highlighted by maintenance staff at the school overriding a computerized control system to regulate the heat, leading to large excesses in fuel deliveries and costs, coupled with a near failure of the school's leach field when an alarm was dismantled that should have alerted staff to a failure to clean out a grease trap in the school's kitchen, d'Errico said, "These two major

SNAFUs have clarified for people that it is not ideology over who runs the school, but how to best keep the building running" that is the paramount concern.

Lacey said she was working with staff to make sure such problems did not recur, adding, "I've worked in several different school buildings, but [LES] is in really impressive shape." She invited the selectboard to call her with any concerns. "I'm a huge believer in transparency," she said.

Brazeau said the towns of Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett have appointed representatives to go over the four town agreement governing their regional school assessment, with the hope of coming to consensus on the most equitable method by which school spending will be governed, before the start of the next budget cycle.

A new assessment agreement could spell difficulty for Leverett budget makers this year, he warned.

Other Business

A special town meeting date was set for October 28, mostly to deal with bookkeeping measures, although updates on the elementary school regionalization plan, and a progress report on the town's last mile broadband initiative are likely.

The board approved a conservation restriction on 101 acres of permanently conserved land, now owned by the town, off Cave Hill Road, opposite the Peace Pagoda.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was raised through private fundraising and from Community Preservation Act funds to purchase and conserve the land.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was raised to purchase and preserve 101 acres of land off Cave Hill Road.

Eva Gibavic said the new purchase would allow for the completion of a trail loop that would allow for hiking from East Leverett, around the Leverett Pond, over Cave Hill to Brushy Mountain and back. She called the land "gorgeous," with stunning cliffs and geologically significant formations.

The gathering of archeological artifacts on the acreage will be prohibited; hunting will be allowed; the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust will manage the property.

David Powicki said Larry LaClaire had worked with the highway department to construct a dedicated parking area for the land; and new trails had been blazed in record time.

Finally, dog officer Roberta Bryant reported to the selectboard that two "very nice" chain link kennels had been constructed on the Tymkowiche property at 85 Long Plain Road, in response to the selectboard's ruling at the August 26 dog hearing that the family's dogs be kept confined or on a leash and muzzled at all times when out of doors.

Diane Tymkowiche sent a letter to the board promising compliance with the board's ruling, and concluding, "Most importantly, I do not want my neighbors to live in fear."



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FACES



& PLACES

While thousands from this part of New England made their way to New York City for the People's Climate March, closer to home the Leverett Energy Committee decided to make their own statement about climate change. Thanks to Shirley Thomas, Cynthia Thomas, and Portia Weiskel for calling our attention to this latest Energy Committee showstopper on Leverett's town green. For further information about this installation or about energy matters, please contact Portia Weiskel at (413) 548-9737.

MARCH from page A4

for . . ." poster. He sat in front of a magnificent evergreen, surrounded by three disciples, also in samadhi-like state.

The scene along the Avenue of the Americas captured the heart of the march, with tens of thousands of tightly-packed marchers pulsating a rich blend of rage, joy, hope, challenge, delirium and exhaustion.

A stop at the Sabrett stand for a quick chili dog afforded a glimpse of thousands of aerial demonstrators hanging out of windows and adding their signs and voices from the skyscrapers above.

At Times Square, the giant billboards for high-priced products and entertainments seemed only to point to the self-indulgence that has led us all to this day of recognition and rededication.

Clearly bedraggled now, and longing for whatever refreshment and respite awaited on 11th Avenue, this marcher was suddenly awakened and restored by the familiar sound of the hand drums and deep chanting of our yellow-robed friends from the New England Peace Pagoda in Leverett. We bowed deeply to Sister Clare Carter and Rev. Kato Shonin to thank them for their devotion to the earth and the future.

At the march terminus on 11th Avenue the milling multitudes thinned out and relaxed. Reporters from local media and bloggers from obscure internet sites approached for an explanation of our sign – "Which pipeline is that?" and "Why do you oppose natural gas – isn't it the best bridge to renewables?"

One strives for clarity and perspective in describing our fight against the carbon juggernaut.

Then a final blast of excitement cut through the New York air. A drumming corps of one of the myriad charter academies was reprising the poly-rhythms and gymnastic march patterns they had displayed during the march, in case we'd missed it.

This must be a K-12 school, as the jubilant African-American musicians ranged from pint-sized to strutting teens. There were snare-drum arrays (four drums per player), bass drums that were hoisted up high, cheerleaders and a guy who hung by his knees from another's shoulders to demonstrate upside-down playing, never missing a beat.

Home Again

The Upper Valley pilgrims were glad to reunite on the coaches on 9th Avenue, soaking in the AC and reviewing photos on smart phones and point cameras.

We were back at Big Y by 10 p.m. Cheers rang out for our genial bus driver and our omniscient bus captains, Pam and Leslie.

Whether the "largest climate march" will stand as a record depends on the history we will witness and make in the coming years. But it is hard to imagine a march that will capture the hopes and dreams of so many at such a critical moment in our journey.

And for those who traveled from Franklin County, it will stand as an unforgettable experience.



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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Early Fall Garden



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – It seems like the season has changed almost overnight. All of a sudden we had cold nights, the light faded earlier and the leaves started to turn. It's time to put the garden to bed.

First the important hygiene. While we are great believers in composting, there are exceptions. Do not compost diseased plants. In tomatoes, we're talking about fusarium and verticillium wilt.

These are the most troublesome tomato problems because they are soil borne. Plants you've lost to these diseases should not be composted and then re-spread in the spring.

Affected plants should be burned or buried away from your garden plots. Furthermore, you will have to work to treat the soil in which these plants have grown before putting in vine crops in the same space again.

Late blight, suffered by many farmers this season, is air born and highly contagious. It appears particularly in seasons like these past

see **FALL** page B4

BLACKSTONE STUDIO PRINTERS ON VIEW AT WENDELL LIBRARY

By RICHARD BALDWIN

Eight artists from the Blackstone Studio Printers in Worcester: Lisa Barthelson, Sally Bowditch, Nina Fletcher, Susan Mampre, Jacqueline Ross, Karen Nunley, Jean Murphy and Kathy Murray, present a show of their work in the Wendell Library's Herrick Room gallery for the months of September and October.

The sixteen prints exhibited encompass a wide range of styles and subjects, and all display the looseness and sense of improvisation characteristic of monoprints. The work is filled with energy and imaginative use of this printmaking process.

The exhibition statement reads as follows. "The Blackstone Print Studio was founded in Worcester, MA in 1996 by Nina Fletcher, a Mass



"Places on the Map", by Kathy Murray

Art graduate who in the course of studying painting fell in love with printmaking – monoprinting in particular.

The Blackstone Print Studio, currently located in the Sprinkler Factory on Harlow Street, was established with the desire to create an independent and cooperative printmaking space for artists in the Greater Worcester area.

The studio provides both space and the use of two presses, critical printmaking needs that are often unavailable or prohibitively expensive for the individual artist.

In addition, Fletcher wanted to spread the word about the delights of printmaking as an art-form, and to invite printmakers to come together to share their methods, insights, and passion for printmaking.

The unofficial credo was, and still is, "there are no rules". Experimentation of new and evolving techniques is always welcomed.

Over the years, a core group of artists has formed a collaborative, joining together to explore printmaking as members of the Blackstone Print Studio.

Each artist has studio time to work individually, while also having the opportunity to share and critique their results with their fellow printers.

The monoprints and mixed media pieces exhibited in the Wendell Free Library Exhibition are a small sampling of the diverse prints that have been created at the Blackstone Print Studio by its current printers.

Monoprinting results in one-of-a-kind prints in contrast to other printmaking techniques which allow the artist to make editions of works which are virtually identical.

As such the process is close to painting. A liquid medium is painted

see **PRINTERS** page B4

TURNERS WINS BY A TOE

By MATT ROBINSON

LUDLOW – The Turners Falls Football Indians defeated the Ludlow Lions 21 – 20 on Friday September 19 under the lights in Ludlow.

It was one of the most exciting, most entertaining, games I've seen in a long time. Even if Turners had lost, it still would have been a wonderful game. It was close all the way till the final whistle.

Late in the game, with Turners trailing 20 to 14, Jalen Sanders had another wonderful kickoff return and the Powertown offense took over at midfield.

I was pretty confident that they would at least tie the game. After all, Coach Chris Lapointe's offense scored in the last two minutes many times last season. The bigger question in my mind was, would Turners be able to kick the PAT? In the last few years, Turners has had a non-existent kicking game.

But this season, the Turners team has been kicking the one-pointer, which is a much less risky attempt than running the ball for the two points.

"Emitt (Turn) is a good kicker," Coach Lapointe explained. "That's why we can go for one."

"Emitt is on the team because Turners didn't field a men's soccer team this year," Emitt's father said after the game.

So after Trent Bourbeau tied the game, with 1:14 to go, the game hinged on the toe of the former soccer kicker. And Emitt was in the position to redeem himself for an earlier miss.

How Turners Got There

Turners found themselves down by the six when Ludlow scored very quickly on their opening drive. But cut backs, good blocking and speed put the Tribe's defense back on their



Trent Bourbeau ties the game with 1:14 to go.

heels and they found themselves chasing the lion's running backs deep in their own territory, all the way into the end zone.

But Coach Lapointe would not say that his secondary gave up. "They're big and athletic," he said of Ludlow. "I told them not to lose their focus."

When Turners took the field on their opening drive, Tionne Brown lined up behind the center. With both Ricky Craver and Trevor Mankowsky out with injuries, Tionne was named the newest starting quarterback.

And Tionne made up for his lack of experience with speed. He ran the ball each time before he threw the ball, pulling the defense out of position and giving his receivers time to get open.

Jalen Sanders and the kickoff return team gave Tionne and his offense a present when he returned the ball into Ludlow's territory.

A pass from Tionne to Emitt Turn and a touchdown run by Trent Bourbeau knotted the game at six.

Tyler Charboneau, Will Roberge and Quinn Doyle each made tackles

see **FOOTBALL** page B6

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: OF CATBIRDS, PORCHPAINT, PIPELINES AND POLITICS....

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – These September days the sun slants golden, trees are yellowing, and the light breeze pulls down the first leaves. After a delightful pause in the season, lasting a bit more than a week, a sense of urgency has taken over bird, beast, and human down here along the river, and all over the county it seems.



Solitary Sandpipers – *Tringa solitaria*.

14 September. I've pulled up my late summer Adirondack chair, to set it in front of the green wall of rhododendron, just where I can catch the first rays of sun.

With the temperature at 48 degrees, I wouldn't mind a bit of warmth. The sassy catbird, presiding over the yard since May still lingers, and probably will, until she gobbles down the last red berry of the pokeberry, a weed we let grow in the yard just for her.

Keep her here as a hedge against the coming cold, keep her here as long as we can.

Just a week ago, the very thought of pulling on a wool sweater over tanned skin was enough to push us into a sweat.

Now, that Kerry handknit, the faithful old one with its

diamond, honeycomb and tree of life stitch does feel welcome in the dewy chill.

Three robins, high up and away, wing through the brightening air.

They call in faint voices that barely reach us, earthbound, down here at the bottom of the garden. They circle, get their bearings on the south, and flicker away. So soon, so soon.

16 September. Pipeline issues: several of us, conservation commissioners all, from valley and hill towns, journey to Shelburne Falls to hear the bad news.

We are sworn to protect the waters and wetlands of our towns under MGL 131 section 40, but we all know the story.

An engineer in the Kinder-

Morgan office sat down with a ruler and decided the route to bring fracked gas from Wright, NY, to Dracut, MA.

The shortest distance being a straight line, he cut through farmland, wetlands, drinking water aquifers, historical cultural resources both colonial and Native American, endangered species habitat, under the Connecticut and Millers Rivers, through state forest, conservation restrictions, soft swamp and hellish hard rock landscapes.

The fact is that the federal government holds absolute control, we are told. The famous FERC, who has never met a pipeline it didn't like, has the final, ultimate say.

Those of us who can legally protect those environmental resources have only a few

see **WEST** page B4

A Festival of the Dogs: October 4 at Shuetzen Verein

By LEE WICKS

GILL – This time of year we celebrate apples and pumpkins, fall color and brisk mornings. Why not also dogs?

The First Annual Festival of the Dogs on October 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Shuetzen Verein in Gill will be a fun-filled event taking care of serious business.

The festival is a fundraiser for the Regional Dog Shelter in Turners Falls. Money raised will be set aside for veterinary care.

These bills are not inconsequential. They come close to \$20,000 a year because many of the 200 lost or rescued dogs brought to shelter each year arrive in rough shape, said Leslie Colucci, shelter director.

Last year the *Mutts and Mojitos* event at the Deerfield Inn attracted more than three hundred people and raised close to \$7,500. That was the good news. The bad news is that the organizers ran out of food.

This year, Colucci said she is hoping people will reserve tickets in advance so the caterer can plan. They are \$25 and include lunch, dog friendly activities, a silent auction, canine demonstrations and more. They are available at the shelter on Sandy Lane in Turners Falls, at the Sheriff's office and they can be reserved by phone, (413) 679-9182.

A small sample of the silent auction items include: 45 minutes flying time over the Pioneer Valley with a local pilot; Barton Cove River Cruise tickets; a bus trip and tickets to Foxwoods Casino; homemade quilts; gift certificates for local restaurants; work by local artists; and dog-related gift baskets. There will be a raffle for two Bruins tickets and a \$300 gift card.

Leashed dogs are welcome to this event and might enjoy participating in contests for Best Dressed, Best Trick and Name-

Your-Breed. The people on the other end of the leash can meet a variety of dog specialists.

These include Susan Miller, a canine counselor and certified dog behavior consultant, Dr. Piwonka who practices canine acupuncture and traditional Chinese veterinary medicine, representatives from Eddie's Wheels, who help disabled dogs to get around, and canine physical therapists from Change Your Range.

Months of effort have gone into finding all these sponsors and participants. All dog lovers need to do is show up.

Colucci said that nearly half the rescued dogs each year get adopted into their "forever homes," others are returned to the owners, transported to kennels or put into foster care.

All dogs are temperament-tested and examined, spayed or neutered, vaccinated and implanted with a microchip prior to adoption. This is a lot of work, and it requires a lot of help. Colucci said she welcomes volunteers and there are many ways to help out.

The Regional Dog Shelter, which opened in 2012, was the vision of Sheriff Christopher Donelan, who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility.

In 2012, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office was awarded a \$20,000 grant to refurbish an old town building into a working shelter. Residents in the pre-release program

see **DOGS** page B6



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

The regional dog shelter in Turners Falls.

Pet of the Week



LEADA

(or a bunch of someones!) to give me a new home full of love and attention. I was housetrained in my foster home. I walk nicely on a leash, and I'm great with children. One of my favorite things is to play with a squeaky toy - if

I'm a soft, sweet, polite, and social gal (also spayed) who enjoys meeting all sorts of folks.

I can be a bit shy at first, but just talk to me quietly and give me a little time to warm up, and we'll be great friends!

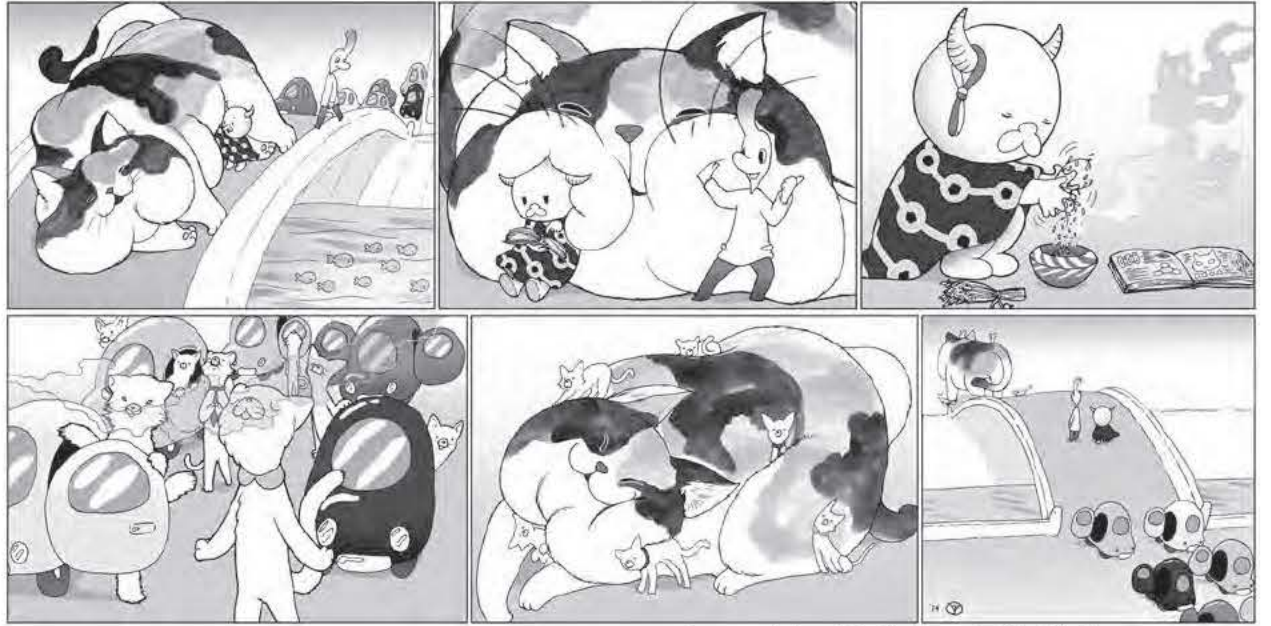
I'm a Dixie dog all the way from Texas!

I'm really hoping to find someone

you throw one for me, I'll run after it and be quite silly playing with it and making it squeak. If I sound like the girl for you, come on over and meet me.

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 29 through October 3

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 9/29

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

Tuesday 9/30

- 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
- Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Five Crowns

Wednesday 10/1

- 10:10 a.m. Aerobics
- 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
- Noon Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/2

- 9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
- 10:30-Noon Brown Bag
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Pitch

Friday 10/3

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

WENDELL

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

Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 9/29

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Osteo Exercise
- Noon Movie

Tuesday 9/30

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

Wednesday 10/1

- 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
- 9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
- Noon Bingo

Thursday 10/2

- 8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
- 8:45 a.m. Aerobics
- 10 a.m. Healthy Bones
- Noon Cards

Friday 10/3

- 9 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$5 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednes-

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Upcoming Events and Programs

Thursday Sept 25 7-8 pm local author Gerald McFarland will join us to talk about his new novel, *What the Owl Saw*. The adventures of the 18th century sorcerer Don Carlos Buenaventura of New Mexico continue in this second book of the series.

The Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell and Erving libraries will offer **36 S.T.E.A.M. programs** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to children ages 3-6 during this school year.

The programs are free and open to all.

Schedule through December:

October 2: MEASURING DINOSAURS
Thursday 3:15 – 4:15, Leverett Library

October 4: MAGNIFYING MAGIC
Saturday, 11 – noon, Wendell Free Library

October 8: SEEDS ARE EVERYWHERE!
Wed. 1:30 – 2:30, Shutesbury Town Hall

October 25: LEGO DUPLO™ Creative Construction
Saturday 11 – noon, Erving Library

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

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However, Americans only consume about half that amount.

There are other foods that work against cholesterol.

Soy protein, found in such products as tofu, soy nuts, soy milk and soy burgers, can help lower blood levels of LDL cholesterol, particularly when it's substituted for animal protein.

Ingesting 25 to 50 grams of soy protein a day lowers LDL cholesterol by 4 percent to 8 percent. That's a lot of soy. People with the highest cholesterol levels seem to benefit the most from soy protein.

Women with breast cancer or who are at high risk of breast cancer should consult with their doctors before eating soy, because it is not clear how these plant estrogens might affect them.

Studies have shown that walnuts can significantly reduce cholesterol levels in the blood. Rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids, walnuts may also help keep blood vessels more healthy and elastic.

When walnuts represent 20 percent of the calories in a cholesterol-lowering diet, they reduce LDL cholesterol by 12 percent. Almonds appear to have a similar effect. All nuts are high in calories, so use them as replacements for high-calorie foods with high levels of saturated fats.

Omega-3 fatty acids in fish are noted for lowering triglycerides, another form of fat in your blood. They also benefit the heart in other

ways.

The highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids are in mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, albacore tuna and salmon. Other good sources of omega-3 fatty acids include flaxseed, walnuts, canola oil and soybean oil.

Some foods are fortified with plant substances called sterols or stanols, which are similar in structure to cholesterol; this helps them block the absorption of cholesterol in the intestines. Margarines and orange juice that have been fortified with plant sterols can help reduce LDL cholesterol by more than 10 percent.

The American Heart Association recommends that foods containing plant sterols should be reserved for adults requiring lower total and LDL cholesterol levels because they are at high risk of – or have had – a heart attack.

You may want to try eating more soluble fiber, soy protein, walnuts and fatty fish. The next step would be the addition of foods fortified with plant sterols. Eating a combination of these cholesterol-lowering foods increases the benefit.

Of course, if you're a geezer and you plan to make a change in your habits that could affect your health, it is recommended that you consult your doctor first.

Questions? Send them to fred@healthygeezers.org.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By **FRED CICETTI**

Q. Does fiber in your diet reduce cholesterol?

There are two types of fiber, soluble and insoluble. Soluble fiber is acted upon by the normal bacteria in your intestines. Insoluble fiber is not digested by the body and promotes regularity and softens stools. Wheat bran, whole grain products and vegetables are good sources of insoluble fiber.

Soluble fiber appears to reduce your body's absorption of cholesterol from the intestines. Oatmeal contains soluble fiber that reduces your low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol that can increase your risk of heart attacks and strokes. This type of fiber is also found in such foods as kidney beans, brussels sprouts, apples, pears, barley and prunes.

The American Dietetic Association recommends a healthy diet include 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day, including both soluble and insoluble fiber. (Soluble fiber should make up 5 to 10 grams of your fiber intake.)

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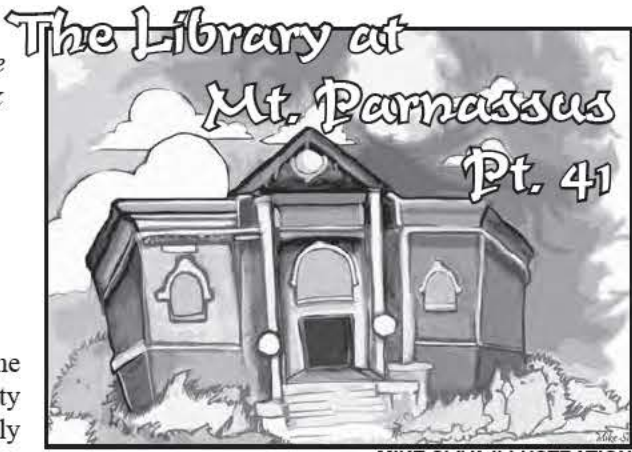
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At the Sphinx, the unemployed walk softly, and lean on their canes.



MIKE SLIVA ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID DETMOLD

Beside the armed security guard, the only one working at the 'Transitional Assistance Office' who appeared to be at all human was a woman who sat high above the main floor.

She sat in behind a bank of computer terminals, retinal imaging equipment, biodetection devices and polygraph monitors. A bright spotlight beside her head shone down on the recipients of her scrutiny.

The wings of her desk were piled high in disorderly array with urinalysis beakers, syringes of blood, digital recorders, video monitors and control boards lined with levers, knobs, and beeping lights.

The woman was visible from the neck up only. Her visage was grim. Her imposing glance silenced even the boldest petitioners.

The more abject applicants had been known to turn tail and retreat into the snow rather than face her implacable stare.

Of these, more than a few were known to have collapsed and died before completing the journey home, frozen in the waste beside the road with their thumbs extended, or their hands still cupped in hollow tubes to catch the last ragged breaths of warmth from expiring lungs.

The woman's name was never known. No governing protocol required her to wear a name tag or display credentials on a framed wall plaque. She ran the privatized office efficiently, and with a vengeance.

In her eyes the accumulated disdain of generations was focused on the poor, the halt, the displaced, the widowed and the jobless. Her voice was cold, her disposition final.

The first question she asked never varied. The petitioners knew it by heart, but still they trembled when she spoke. Grown men, some hardened by decades of labor at the mills, trembled.

"How many in the home," she asked, "walk on two legs; how many walk on four legs; how many walk on three legs?"

The way she phrased the puzzling question, and the rapid, venomous tone with which she delivered it, caused them to crush their bill caps in their hands.

"I have two pigs at home..." one would start, while the men and women waiting in line considered the wisdom of his reply. "But they both have all four legs."

"Request for assistance denied. Next."

"I have only myself and the baby, but she's just crawling yet."

"And what about your mother?"

"She comes to help on week-

ends. Please. We need diapers."

"Request denied."

"Three children, two adults, and one old hen."

"Denied."

In this way, by the fierce process of attrition, the welfare rolls in our town had been whittled down from more than half the adult population to a tiny fraction of the citizenry in less than three months time.

I said to Cadmus, "I hope she don't eat Eddie alive up there."

"She's a tough one all right. But Eddie's sharp. He might come up with the right answer yet," said Cadmus, scanning his dusty genealogy. "If there is one."

He turned the page.

"Did you read Tony's obituary?" Cadmus asked.

I pulled out a chair and sat down.

"Tony died?"

"Yep."

I put my hand on Cadmus's arm.

"You didn't know?" asked Klee.

"No."

A thick dark rope of sadness was rising in my throat. Cadmus rubbed the bridge of his nose. Ulysses, on his shoulder, hunched forward, his head cocked to one side, his black eye watching me.

"Was there a funeral?" I asked.

"This morning," said Cadmus.

"In the park."

"Where were you?" demanded Klee.

"Looking for work," I said. "I... I didn't know."

The room fell silent. The smoke from the fire made my head light, the flue was working poorly.

"Did you go?" I asked Cadmus.

He nodded.

"How was it?"

"Deadly. A few old men for mourners. That's all. An unctuous bastard from the University with the obsequy. He recited a poem in Tony's memory. *Ode to Callipygia*. Said he climbed the Pyrenees with Tony in his youth.

"How did it go?"

"Oh..."

*We stole along the soft moraine
Strange the ways that men have
chosen
The pink-cheeked dawn in Aquitaine
You, behind, in leiderhosen...*

"Why, Cadmus..."

"There was more, but it was odious."

"Then what?"

"We scattered his ashes, in the park."

Continued next week.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Manhunt on Lyman and Highland Streets

Monday, 9/15

5:31 p.m. Caller reported what appeared to be a dead animal in the front yard of a house on Sunset Drive; not sure, but it looked like a dog. It was still there when he went by several hours later. Responding officer found that it was a toy.

6:16 p.m. Party into station to report that he just witnessed the postman get attacked by a dog on Coolidge Avenue. Animal control officer confirmed that the mail carrier was bitten on both hands. ACO will notify Board of Health and request another hearing regarding this dog.

8:13 p.m. [redacted]

arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 9/16

10:57 a.m. Two brothers arguing over a log splitter on Wendell Road. Mother assisted in mediating the dispute.

2:14 p.m. Anonymous complaint regarding possible unregistered dogs and suspected code violations in a Bridge Street apartment. Animal control officer and Board of Health advised.

3:08 p.m. Shoplifting at Aubuchon Hardware. Suspect identified on tape, contacted, and advised to return items.

5:44 p.m. Report of a red pickup truck "burning out" several times on Turners Falls Road. Unable to locate.

11:39 p.m. State police took report of a male and female involved in a heated conversation on the Millers Falls-Erving line. MPD and Erving PD advised. Parties found relatively calm on Erving side of bridge.

Wednesday, 9/17

9 a.m. Request from Great Falls Middle School for assistance locating a student who was being in-subordinate and left school grounds. Student located on Turners Falls Road. Mother contacted. Son transported home.

2:44 p.m. Report of illegal dumping of tires and other materials at the Second Pentecostal Church on Eleventh Street. Extra patrols requested.

4:48 p.m. iPhone reported stolen from a backpack at TFHS. Report taken.

6:33 p.m. Landlord reporting out-of-control tenant on Avenue A; tenant may have been drinking and is destroying items in the building, including a railing in the common hall and items inside his apartment. Landlord speculates that another party squatting in

the apartment may have caused the damage. Investigated.

5:17 p.m. Randall Road resident reports that her shed was broken into sometime since Sunday. Investigated.

7:52 p.m. Landlord reports that tenant from earlier call on Avenue A was assaulted by the other party who had been in the apartment. Tenant spoken to; admitted to fabricating stories and causing the damage reported by the landlord. He and landlords will work out damage costs.

9:59 p.m. Caller reports a suspicious vehicle parked outside her apartment on Montague City Road. Caller's boyfriend spoke to parties in vehicle, who said that they were waiting for a friend to deliver them a package. Caller advises that the parties all appear to be under the influence of something. Unable to locate.

11:15 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a probation warrant.

Thursday, 9/18

10:32 a.m. Shoplifting reported at Aubuchon Hardware. Two paintbrushes valued at \$40.98 taken. Suspect identified. Officer called suspect's home and spoke with his wife, who advised she would speak with her husband and if he did this, she would make restitution. Suspect later returned to store and paid for the one brush he admitted to taking; was advised not to return until he speaks with the manager.

11:57 a.m. Request for help with an out-of-control student in the Responsible Behavior Room at Great Falls Middle School. Peace restored; student turned over to staff.

5:14 p.m. Report of a male on the roof of A.H. Rist Insurance; party seen on video getting down. Reporting party called back to advise that the male was back on the roof and was on the edge of the building facing Avenue A; caller unsure whether party was going to jump. TFFD on scene; confirmed that this was an installer putting in satellite TV service.

8:16 p.m. Report of male party causing a disturbance inside the Third Street laundry. Party located in the alley and taken into protective custody.

11:41 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road. One party out of the car at gunpoint. Operator charged with marked lanes violation and unlicensed

operation. Courtesy transport provided.

Friday, 9/19

9:30 a.m. Officer requested to assist with a student in possession of marijuana at Franklin County Technical School. Parents contacted; citation issued.

10:08 a.m. Central Street resident complaining of auto repair work noise coming from Park Street. Responding officer found resident blowing leaves and cleaning up yard; no indication of work being done on vehicles; nothing illegal taking place.

11:26 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reports a young woman came to her door after being chased by a dog. Responding officer advises that dog is back inside with its owners. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

12:13 p.m. Motor vehicle into side of Jarvis Pools building. Damage to siding of building and broken window. No injuries. Parties will work out restitution among themselves.

2:39 p.m. Caller from G Street requesting that officers check on a female who wandered into her mother's backyard asking for help calling a reliable cab driver to bring her to Fourth Street. Party spoke of "not having slept in a year" and is carrying luggage. Party described as having a white bandana over her hair, heavy makeup, and dressed in all black. Responding officer provided courtesy transport and spoke to party regarding her actions.

2:55 p.m. Party into station to report that while driving on Turners Falls Road, he struck a pig. The pig ran off, but caller's vehicle was damaged to the point that it could not be driven. Two good Samaritans helped driver push vehicle into MPD's parking lot.

Saturday, 9/20

3:13 a.m. Report of a person lying in the roadway near the post office. Male party taken into protective custody, then released to sober party.

11:31 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street reports someone kicked in the basement door of his apartment building and stole items out of the basement and his apartment. Investigated.

11:58 a.m. Second report of noise related to auto repair work coming from Park Street. Officer did not see or hear anything consistent with the caller's complaint.

3:26 p.m. [redacted]

arrested and charged with violating a harass-

ment prevention order.

10:51 p.m. Officer advised that there were a few flashlights near the woodline near Lyman and Highland streets, and that when he approached, the lights went out. Found to be a group of kids playing a game called Manhunt. No problems.

Sunday, 9/21

1:59 p.m. Several reports of a fight in progress in the parking lot behind the Pizza House with as many as fifteen participants, most of whom dispersed upon officer's arrival. Peace restored. Officer advised that a male wearing a straw hat may have been injured when struck with a brick. Party later came to lobby reporting that he was the male in the straw hat; party given form to fill out.

3:10 p.m. Caller reported being assaulted in a downtown alley by a female known to her. Investigated.

4:25 p.m. Caller from Bay-state ER reports he was in the alley behind the Rendezvous when he witnessed a female assault another female with a baby carriage. He stated that he got between them and was scratched in the face by one. At that point, another party became involved and punched him in the face, knocking him out briefly. Officer advised of call.

4:52 p.m. Report of a male party, possibly intoxicated, yelling and screaming on Fourth Street. Party located and taken into protective custody.

5:12 p.m. Party into lobby inquiring what he needs to do to grow his own marijuana as he just acquired a medical marijuana card. Advised of options.

5:50 p.m. John [redacted] arrested on a straight warrant.

7:34 p.m. Caller reports a male in Peskeomskut Park yelling, screaming, and talking to himself. Officers did not locate subject, but found a bike and a duffel bag containing a laptop on a table by the church. Items brought to station; report taken.

8:19 p.m. Report of suspicious pickup truck and several parties with flashlights in a field at a farm on East Taylor Hill Road. Officers spoke to the parties: one was a grandson of the property owner, and they were picking pumpkins. Call placed to land owner to confirm they had permission to be there. She confirmed that it was fine. She will be getting in contact with her grandson.

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FALL from page B1

ones with much cool, damp weather. You can however, compost tomato plants which are victims of late blight.

We tend to act on the side of caution and choose not to compost any plants which succumbed to disease. There's plenty of fruit and vegetable compost to provide for next year's garden.

With the tomato wilts we've had good success rotating crops and treating wilt areas with heat and hydrogen peroxide. This involves spreading liberal amounts of hydrogen peroxide then covering the plot with dark plastic for a couple of seasons of cooking.

It likely seems unnecessary to pull weeds after the crops are done, but if you don't they'll drop their seeds to harass you next spring. Don't compost these either as you will be spreading these seeds over

the garden plot again. I've made two exceptions to this rule.

The asparagus bed is so tall and healthy with ferns that we have not worried about the few weeds lingering there. Most of them have been choked out by our hardy crop of ferns. After these have died back later this fall, I'll pull the few weeds I can find.

The strawberry bed is full of weeds now, but also crawls with runners and new plants. I've tried weeding and resorted earlier this summer to snipping weeds so as not to uproot the new baby plants.

My new plan is to let the weeds get taken out by frost, then remove them carefully and mulch the bed with dead leaves.

Once these fall garden chores have been taken care of, we look forward to the pleasure of planting for later crops next season. We've ordered two, one for eating and one

for the feast for the eyes.

Siberian iris is a variety from Eastern Europe, Turkey and Russia. It is a rhizomatous plant which is perennial. Rhizomes are plant stems which can produce new roots and shoots.

This iris is hardy and not prey to the borers which plague Bearded types. It will grow vigorously in full sun or partial shade and will spread readily. I've chosen a lovely blue shade of this delicately flowered variety aptly named by the grower "Wings over Water".

We'll need to dig a bed pronto as the package of rhizomes just arrived.

The edible vegetable we're planting is garlic. We'll put these in in mid-October before a hard freeze. Garlic is easy to grow and doesn't require a huge space. It can be grown from purchased seed garlic or a head or two from the supermar-

ket. Just be sure to choose locally grown garlic for best success.

A raised bed is perfect for garlic. Choose one not used for the same crop last year. Work in manure and compost to the soil to a depth of six inches.

Plant the separated cloves individually (leave the paper on) to a depth of two inches with rows twelve inches apart. Water and mulch with a good heap of mown grass and leaves. You may see green shoots this fall. That's ok. The main thing is for roots to settle in before the big freeze of winter.

This is the season for planting any and all of the spring flowering bulbs. While tulips, hyacinth and crocus prefer a prepared bed, you can set out daffodils for a gorgeous shot of yellow and white anywhere in your yard or in the woody perimeter.

Over the years we've naturalized

hundreds of daffodils in the woods at the edge of our yard. They are one of the first harbingers of spring. They fill the senses with a shot of sun just when you think winter will never be done.

Since we are no longer practitioners of winter sports, this can be a long season of wood fires and reading although we are not averse to bundling up for a brisk walk or two. Planting now for spring sets the stage for the new season and allows the gardener the pleasure of planting right up to fall.

While we may regret the shortening days and colder temperatures this new season is also a gloriously colorful one with days for hiking, apple picking and baking. Take a little time in the fall for putting in something new to watch for as you hope for spring along next March.

Happy gardening!



PRINTERS from page B1

or drawn on a flat surface, then paper is placed over this and pressure is applied.

Artists often will then continue to work on this image. This process can be seen clearly in works here.

In "Family Gathering" and "The Reception" by Karen Nunley, groups of loosely drawn figures are the focus of each print. The soft edges and bright colors create a joyful, upbeat feeling.

In "Unlikely Objects" by Jacqueline Ross, recognizable images, faces and eyes, are distributed over the page creating a quite abstract whole. The playful arrangement of elements presented in overall monochromatic warm brown color make the piece fairly moody.

The two monoprints with encaustic and found objects in Lisa Barthelson's "Debris Series", combine bits and pieces of recognizable objects and images. Here the overall composition is quite abstract, and along with the looseness of the medium, results in a kind of contemplative experience.

"Fetus," by Nina Fletcher, is the darkest of the prints, literally and figuratively. The image is wrapped in a kind of linear cocoon exuding a contained, partially hidden energy.

Lisa Barthelson writes about her two prints: "The 'family debris series' tells the story of our family and how we live through what we consume; in essence an abstract visual history of the choices we've made."

"I look at everything around me, including the debris generated by my family of five, as potential art making material. I am excited by the challenge of re-imagining and re-composing everyday objects and personal cast offs in combination with traditional materials and processes," Barthelson commented.

This is a challenging and lively exhibition. It presents an opportunity to see what image making is possible with monoprints.

Library hours are Tuesday noon to 6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday 3 to 8 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

The exhibition runs from September 2 through November 1. An artists' reception will be held on October 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

In our September 11 edition we incorrectly credited a photograph of an object in the Al Souza exhibit. It was taken by Stephen Petegorsky.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on September 23, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Sunday, September 19, representatives from a dozen Franklin County churches came together to bless the site and break ground at Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity's (PVHH) newest home building project.

The two homes will be built on the corner of 2nd and L Street, which had long been a blighted corner of town. The derelict structure that formerly occupied the site was demolished earlier this year.

On the empty lot, against a backdrop of standing two-by-fours, Sheila Litchfield, chair of the PVHH welcomed the crowd of about forty people.

Litchfield explained that the two-by-fours had been brought to the site from the various churches, where members of the con-

gregations had signed them and jotted down best wishes for the new homes and the families who would eventually occupy them.

"One of the traditions of Habitat for Humanity is for volunteers to sign their name somewhere in the homes they help to build.

"With these two-by-fours, members of the congregations who may not actually come to the site to work, but who may help out in other ways, by cooking food for the crews, for example, or helping raise money for the project, or by simply sending along their prayers can be included in the actual framing of the houses."

The homes will be built in the spring.

Wendell Pub Approved

The selectboard gave conditional approval to a proposal by Vic and Pat Scutari, owners and proprietors of the Wendell Country Store, to open a restaurant and pub adjacent to the store.

A few issues are still unre-

solved, and final approval is expected at the next selectboard meeting on October 6.

The selectboard agreed to support the proposal and told the Scutaris to go ahead with their plans.

New Business in Erving

A new business is relocating across the street from Erving Town Hall. John McAuley and Debra Pagano, who own and operate First Solution, a company that uses a special machine to perforate materials of various kinds and sizes, such as inner soles and reflective materials, are in the process of buying the property at 19 East Main St.

After two years in business in Salem, MA the couple said they were glad to be moving to this region.

They have a signed purchase agreement for the property, and a signed permit from the selectboard granting town approval for the new business. The board members wished them well.

WEST from page B1

means at our disposal. The representatives of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions advise us to continue documenting all resources that could be affected, to be sure to have all our information ready.

We are given strategies to force Kinder-Morgan to consider the impacts on resources, but the coming year September 2014-2015 will be crucial: the company submitted its pre-filing documents with FERC; the maps now available show that they paid no regard to the various objections to the route raised by town officials, state agencies and citizens.

Soon the required public hearings will begin. FERC officials should be present, but the locations and dates of hearings could be few and far between and not necessarily convenient. We will have at our disposal

all sorts of acronyms: RDA, EIS, NEPA, MEPA, NPS, USDA, MHC, EPA, DEP, Army Corps, etc.!

It is questionable if any such policies, and agencies could provide adequate safeguards to protect us from the federal government and Kinder-Morgan. In a year, if FERC issues a Certificate of "Public Convenience and Necessity", then the bulldozers will roll and the dynamite will blow our landscape all to hell. We have a year, and the clock is ticking.

22 September. The day's agenda: do a little painting on the front porch. This porch is actually great-grandfather Judah's piazza. A workingman's version of a Victorian veranda, built back in the 1890s, nowadays it's held together with nails more than a century old, and lots of paint. Once a year, I get out and paint one section only, which means I'm never done. At the end of five years, when

every surface has been recoated, it's time to start back at the first section where the paint is already showing its age.

I don't mind though, this first day of autumn, dipping the brush into the bucket and repeating the gestures of my ancestors here on the porch.

Judah had to do this, painting the banisters and lath-turned balusters. Grandfather Abe did it too, when once a year he got a week off in August from the Millers Falls Company. He spent his week fishing and painting. So I do that too. Keeping one more link to the past, getting back to something familiar in this increasingly maddening world.

In the evening, politics creep into my day, however. The Battlefield Grant is again on the agenda of the Montague selectboard. We need to officially establish the Advisory Board to help guide the selection of a principal investigator, and to keep

the public informed and involved.

The meeting was cordial, but nevertheless there was a lot of sharp public input about the make-up of the board: one citizen pushed hard for an additional member to be named to the list. As it is, we have an archaeologist, five Historic Commissioners from the region's towns, three tribal representatives, but no "professional historian". Once such an addition was accepted, all of the participants in the event on May 19, 1676, would be represented.

Not only the colonial militia, but also the Nipmuc/k tribe native to our valley, the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags, who made up the peoples seeking refuge here will be represented. The only ones missing from the table will be the Pocumtuck, the native people of Montague, Deerfield, and Greenfield who were driven out of their homeland so long ago.

When the three Selectmen voted on accepting and nominating the Advisory Board, it was unanimous. We are grateful to Michael Nelson, Mark Fairbrother, and Chris Boutwell for the vote of confidence in the project. The next Advisory Board meeting will be October 7, at the Montague Town Hall from 10 a.m. to noon. The public is welcome.

Oh yes, about the sandpiper. As an omen that this first day of autumn would be special, the early morning along the river was graced by the flight of a sandpiper ephemeral to these parts: the solitary sandpiper. True to its name, it was alone, and only lingered long enough to circle over the low water, flashing the delicate lace pattern on its tail before lirting downstream, leaving behind a piping whistle, before disappearing into the autumn mist.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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ONGOING:

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

ART SHOWS:

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum, Hadley: *Field Notes 4: Transect*. Exhibition of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptures created by architects Sigrid Miller Pollin & Stephen Schreiber, landscape architect Jane Thurber. Through 10/15.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Welcome to Railroad Salvage* on display in the Great Hall through Sept 30. Constructions, reliefs and large scale drawings by Nina Rossi and Barbara Milot, historical timeline and commentary by Anne Harding.

EVENTS:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Harvest Restaurant, Turners Falls: First Anniversary event, with a reception for the exhibit of works by local painter Allen Fowler. 7 to 9 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Parsonfield* presented by Signature Sounds. EP Release Party, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ray Mason*, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Edge Sisters & friends*, ukes & ladyvoices, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dimma Dim*, Dan Putnam's new band playing rock, reggae & funk, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Recovery Jam* Performances include Blacktop Kenny Band, Dale Project, Joe Merrick, Pig roast & BBQ, kids area too. \$, 11 to 6 p.m.

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Greenfield: *Rubik's Cube Conference and Competition*, sponsored by the GCC Math Club. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Time After Time* movie showing. It's 1893 London. Futurist H.G. Wells believes that the future holds a Utopian society. He also believes in time travel. 7:30 p.m. A short, 30 min, film before the movie: Episode 9 of *The Phantom Empire: Prisoners of the Ray*.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Diane Cluck* and *Ken's Last Ever*. *Diane Cluck* has been performing her intuitive folk music throughout the US and abroad since the early 2000s. NPR describes her vocal style as "an unlikely mix of Aaron Neville, the Baka people, and Joni Mitchell... unaffected yet unusual". *Ken's Last Ever* has been creating ever-changing live improvised sound collage experiments



Diane Cluck performs at the Bookmill, Montague Center on Saturday, September 27, 8 p.m.

for the past 20 years, weaving mesmerizing new soundscapes from found and collected materials right in the present moment, performed from stages, radio stations, tree houses, cement bunkers, construction sites, experimental dance spaces, living rooms, and elsewhere. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, blues, 9 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Taking Back Eden*, Carolyn Walker & friends and *Suzi Brown*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mike Dimin* and special guest *Driftwood Soldier*, 2:30 p.m.

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Greenfield Community College, Main Campus, Greenfield: *Overture: Jason and Aya Brown*, animators and creators of the *Montague Reporter's* comic strip *Weird Healing*, discuss storytelling through animation, illustration and live performance. Hu-

manities Studio, 12:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Michael Dimin*, internationally acclaimed solo bassist, educator and author, 2:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Burries's Open Mic*, 8 p.m. sign-ups at 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*. Open mic reading at 7:30 p.m., featured readers to follow. Pub menu available until 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Deja Brew, Wendell: Free Slice with every Drink Night!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Paul Root, Artist-in-Residence* in the gallery October 1-28. A local painter, Paul explores "questions of personal transformation, spirituality, and childhood, my own subconscious...black egg shells cracking open and revealing baby crows transforming into people, stone walls with figures hiding behind them, bipedal animals in clothing....all are visual symbols with meaning." Paul will be painting on site with an exhibit of completed works for sale.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Measuring Dinosaurs* with Helen Anne Sephton from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. First in our year long S.T.E.A.M. program. For children aged 3-6. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls *Genealogy Gathering* Help in tracing your roots with the informal local genealogy club which meets the first Thursday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m.

Smith College, John M. Greene Hall, Northampton: *Piper Kerman, Up Close and Personal*, the author of *Orange is the New Black*, Piper Kerman will talk with book critic Bethanne Patrick '85 about her advocacy work highlighting the conditions of incarcerated women, and how the Netflix series is making this topic a national conversation, 4:30 p.m. Tickets available in the Office of Student Engagement, Campus Center.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series featuring Steven Riel & David Goff*, 7 p.m.

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

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jack Wright + Ben Bennett*, playing as a duo on their beat through the valley; *Jealousy Mountain Duo*; *Don Vito*, complementary rockig;

Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth, all roads lead to dome; and *Banjo Assault*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

John Doe Jr., Greenfield: *Bunwinkies, Pigeons, and Paradise Camp* 23. 6 to 9 p.m.

Smith College, Northampton: *The Archetype of Betrayal - The Dark and Bright Side of the Individuation Process* a talk by Paul Sanderson, Jungian Analyst. Seelye Hall 106, Presented by the Jung Association of Western Mass., 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Show of Cards*, 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *That Funny Improv Show*, funnies for the whole family, presented by *The Shea Comedy Players*, \$, 8 p.m.

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

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FOOTBALL from page B1
 during Ludlow's next series but the Lions were able to march the ball to the Turners 44 and on third and one, Quinn made a key stop and forced the fourth down.

After a Ludlow time out, they decided to go for it and tried a pass on fourth and 1. Trent Bourbeau got through and made the sack and Turners took over on their own 45.

Turners crashed and dashed all the way to Ludlow's 23 but had to give up the ball when they couldn't keep the drive alive.

Powertown's defense then shut down Ludlow. A stop for no gain, a sack and a blocked pass gave the ball right back to the Blue.

Turners was looking good, in control, with first and 10 on Ludlow's 39. But a fumble gave the Lions the ball. Turners' defense forced a third and 7 but on the next play, Brian Pacheco ran 55 yards to give Ludlow the lead 14 - 6 with 3:01 left in the half.

Trent Bourbeau, Jalen Sanders, and Alex Carlisle each handled the ball in the next series and Turners marched all the way down to Ludlow's 16 yard line in the closing seconds of the half.

Ludlow forced a fourth down and Tionne Brown facing a fourth and 6, with only a few ticks left.

After a brief moment of silence, the crowd went crazy as Jalen Sanders caught a TD pass with only 16 seconds left. Coach Lapointe de-

cidied to go for 2 and Turners knotted the score at 14.

After a short kick, Turners put Ludlow's hopes on hold as Emmitt Turn made an interception and the teams left the field at 14 all.

Second Half Nail Biter

In the second half Turners put together a good drive and moved the chains all the way to Ludlow's 20 yard line. But Turners was short and missed the first down by inches.

Ludlow took over on their own 20 and after a good stop by Tanner Castine, Ludlow got two first downs. They moved the ball to the 45 yard line but fumbled the ball away to Will Roberge.

Turners chewed up the clock and moved the ball but a holding penalty gave them third and 16 on the 40 yard line as the third quarter ended.

Turners punted the ball on fourth and 9, and Ludlow took possession



Tionne Brown heads to the end zone.

at their own 19. Ludlow was forced to punt after a good defensive stand and an almost interception and Turners began their next drive on Ludlow's 39 with 7:36 left in the game. Jalen got the first down to the 29 but the drive stalled.

Ludlow took over on their own 26 with 5:34 left. Two plays later, Ludlow scored on a long touchdown run and took the lead 20 to 14.

It was then that Jalen Sanders ran the kickoff return all the way to the 50 and Coach Lapointe's two-minute offense took over.

Turners never lost their focus. They kept their heads, even when a holding penalty pushed the ball back and gave them second and 20 from the 35. Even when facing third and 4 with 1:37 left, they didn't get discouraged. They simply scored.

Trent Bourbeau pounded his way 14 yards, into the end zone and once again Lapointe's cardiac kids scored at the end of a game. Emmitt Turn then kicked the ball through the uprights giving the Tribe a one point lead.

But the game wasn't over. Ludlow was not done yet. It was a home game, the game was close and they had 1:07 to work with. They pulled everything out of their hats in their last series, including a reverse.

But a key tackle by Nick Croteau, a penalty, an injury, and an incomplete pass gave Turners Falls an exhausting but satisfying road victory.



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DOGS from page B1

at the Franklin County Correctional Institute worked for several months turning an empty storage building into a usable facility with a covered kennel, utility room, dog bathing area, reception-training room, director's office and atorage area.

The shelter's director is the only paid position, with much of the work done by dedicated volunteers, who enable the Sheriff's Office to contract with 17 towns to house and care for stray, abandoned and lost dogs.

Animal Control and Police officers have 24-hour access to the facility so they can bring in dogs that need care, and the shelter has contracted with towns to provide assistance in cases of emergencies and animal cruelty.

Interested in visiting? The shelter is open to the public Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays

from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and by appointment. Dogs available for adoption are featured on the website.

Volunteer opportunities are also listed there, ranging from walking and playing with the dogs to assisting with events and fundraising.

The Sheriff's Office offers CPR First Aid Training to all volunteers, who can also participate in the newly formed animal emergency preparedness training/planning effort. Volunteers who want to work directly with the dogs also receive dog-handling skills and attend beginner obedience training.

The Shelter in Turners Falls is the largest regional community project in the state for animals. On October 4, we'll all have a chance to learn more about this essential service while lending vital support to the work.

Just don't forget to let Leslie Lucucci or one of the volunteers know that you are coming!



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