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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 40

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 8, 2013

## Leverett's Zoning Board Agrees To Settle Gravel Pit Lawsuit

By DAVID DETMOLD

Dreams die hard: The dream of living in a familiar, unchanged neighborhood, and gazing out across an unspoiled landscape, as well as the dream of having the untrammeled opportunity to work hard for a living, in the way your father and his father worked before you, and to be able to pass that way of living on to your children.

Dreams like these collided in the hard fought conditions of a settlement hammered out by the Leverett zoning board of appeals last week, after two and a half years of legal maneuvering, in the Richie Roberts' gravel pit expansion suit.

"They say a good compromise is one that makes everybody unhappy," said ZBA member Cynthia Baldwin, who signed onto the unanimous agreement with the most reluctance of any of the five board members who remained seated for the hearings. Three other members of the board recused themselves for conflict of interest, although two of these spoke against the gravel pit expansion as private citizens.

After she had originally opposed Roberts' plan to expand his gravel mining operation on Route 63 – onto five acres of adjoining land owned

by Roberta Bryant when the matter first came before the board, Baldwin spoke on Monday, July 29 about the depth of turmoil the vote had stirred in her, saying, "I spent last night having dream after dream about this special permit."

Baldwin, who cited her background as a scientist before casting her positive vote, noted, "I'm concerned about the open-endedness of this permit. Once it's done, it's forever."

Under her influence, the board agreed to place a 10-year time limit on the special permit, at which time Richie Roberts, of Hemenway Road, or his children, will have to reapply to continue removing gravel from the acreage that are now home to the Craig Memorial Equestrian Center, Bryant's rustic horse farm and riding center, nestled beside Route 63 with the scenic prominence of Mount Toby as a backdrop.

Other conditions of the settlement require all mining to take place beyond a 300 foot boundary line west from the edge of the highway, and call for Roberts to install a shielding berm, landscaping, and fencelines to protect the neighbors' viewscape of that landmark.

see ZONING page 6

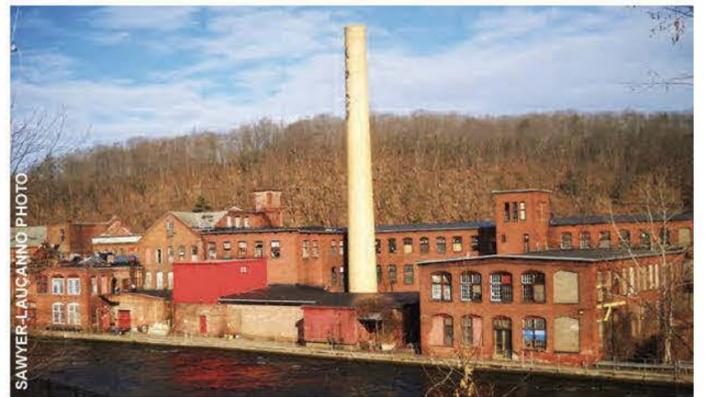
## Flight Patterns Flees: Strathmore Back to the Selectboard

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

TURNERS FALLS – Flight Patterns LLC, the group out of New Jersey and Brighton, Massachusetts that had won approval from the town for a one-year feasibility study of the Strathmore, has decided to bail. In a letter sent on July 24 to Montague town planner, Walter Ramsey, Flight Patterns said: "We have unfortunately come to the conclusion that we are not able to enter into the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement), nor are we able to continue pursuing feasibility research, due to our findings thus far."

They cited the site's accessibility challenges, the cost of mothballing the northern structures, and legal issues as their reasons for pulling out of their original proposal to perform a full analysis, over a one-year period, of the sprawling, 227,000-square-foot mill complex situated between the Power Canal and the Connecticut River. The letter was signed by the group's three core members, BJ Warshaw and Marie Rossettie of New Jersey, and Joel Roston, of Brighton.

Ramsey said he was "extremely disappointed" by their decision. "We



What now?

hoped they would be good development partners. We were committed to working with them through each of these issues. We just needed to get a commitment from them."

At a meeting with the selectboard on March 25, the group thought that the price tag for a hazardous materials survey, a structural survey, civil engineering and market reviews would come to \$40,000 to \$80,000, depending on whether any "surprises" emerged along the way.

Surprises clearly emerged. In explaining their decision not to pursue further studies Flight Patterns wrote: "With the assistance of Tocci Builders and Domack Restoration, via a

site walkthrough on May 22, 2013, we have determined that a bare-bones mothballing of the property will cost a minimum of \$58,000.... Clearly, this is a much larger expense than has been indicated via the Memorandum of Agreement. Given that the buildings are not owned by Flight Patterns, we feel that the financial burden of mothballing the Strathmore Mill should not fall on our shoulders."

As for the access issues, discussed at length at the time of the proposal process, they were enthusiastic about working with the town

see FLIGHT page 7

## Skate Park Supporters Pack Montague Selectboard Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

"We may be a little over capacity," said a voice coming from the direction of the Montague selectboard on August 5, 2013, as well over 50 people packed the upstairs room at the Town Hall in Turners Falls. The reason? Strong support in

the community, particularly in Precinct 5 which is downtown Turners, for a "state of the art" skate (board) park coupled with growing uncertainty as to whether such a park would ever be built.

Town meeting member David Detmold introduced the issue by thanking the selectboard, the town planner and the director of the Parks and Recreation Department for the successful renovation of Unity Park. However, he stressed, the status of the skate park, one of the key elements in the original proposal, seemed in doubt: "Phase 1 and Phase 2 [of the renovation] have led to great improvements for young children and adults. Meanwhile the teenagers have been waiting in line and waiting very patiently for a about 15 years now since they first approached the selectboard with the idea that their preferred form of recreation was then and is now

skateboarding."

Detmold noted that the Skate Park had been part of the original plan for the Unity Park Project. In 2009 Town meeting voted to close a street, Williams Way, for space to create the Park. The selectboard had allocated \$18,000 in program income for a design which had

the project. He suggested that the Recreation Commission and the Skate Park Committee needed to "look at different concepts than the one that was designed... to bring the cost down...see if we can bring the scale or at least the cost down."

Bryan Dolan of the skate park committee, sat down at the front table to review the history of planning for the park and various estimates for its cost. Dolan noted that the current plan for the skate park, drawn up with town funds by the "Berkshire Group" of Northampton, envisioned a "state of the art" concrete park. He argued that an initial estimate of over \$450,000 for construction was much too high. Parks in Pittsfield and Hingham built by a Maine Company called "Who Skates" had been much lower. Dolan said he obtained an estimate of \$250,000 which could be funded by a combination of a state grant and local fundraising.

Dolan also objected to a cheaper alternative being discussed -- a "cookie cutter" skate park made of much less durable material. This was not, he argued, consistent with his committee's core mission of creating a "state of the art" park. Ellen Spring, another member of the committee, agreed that the committee had

see SKATE page 3



The site, added by town meeting to Unity Park and designated for a skate park, sports a new coat of grass but lies otherwise fallow.

been completed. The "Livability Study," completed last year, listed the skate park as "a top priority." Detmold argued that the officials and the skate park committee should apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program for completing the skate park. The PARC grant requires that 30% of the total would have to be raised locally.

"Where are we on the project?" Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother asked Parks and Recreation Director John Dobosz. Dobosz stated that he had seen estimates ranging from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for



## Baystate On The Move

Nurses and their supporters rallied outside the Greenfield hospital on July 25.

By MARK HUDYMA

GREENFIELD – The managers of Baystate Health Systems are making decisions that are putting a strain on many local residents. Members of the Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) recently co-sponsored a rally with the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) to bring attention to the alleged movement of outpatient services from Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield to Baystate's base in Springfield.

The rally, held on July 25, drew around 100 people, including nurses, representatives from the MNA, Representative Paul Mark, and many concerned members of the community. They carried signs, reading "Support our Nurses" and "Keep Our Services in Greenfield." "Services are being moved to Springfield, and it's a contradiction," says Patty Williams, a member of the Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI). "They laid off 20% of the medical-surgical

nursing unit, and said there wasn't enough work for them." The rally was a joint effort between the MNA and the CHI, with the intent to raise awareness about the recent actions Baystate has taken involving downsizing at Baystate Franklin Hospital.

At least anecdotally, services appear to be shifting towards Springfield. Speaking on behalf of the Initiative, David Cohen claimed, "there were major concerns about the lack of doctors in many areas, and the growing trend of patients being sent to Springfield instead of being treated in Franklin County." A community forum held in Greenfield drew dozens of concerned citizens sharing stories of problems with the hospital, including many people finding themselves being sent to Springfield for ordinary services previously offered here in Franklin County.

In a speech, Cohen brought up a number of statistics relating to the downsizing and centralization of

hospitals elsewhere, in a way that sounds very real for residents of Franklin County including "58 hospital closings since 1980... 29 mergers of hospitals into larger systems... 46 acquisitions of hospitals by larger corporations." Cohen believes Franklin Medical Center has a chance of being reduced to an "emergency center" with everything else located in Springfield.

The closure of Massachusetts mental hospitals between 1991 and 1993 is yet another example that affects every person in the state in some way. These statistics appear to indicate a strong tendency for centralization to urban centers for even the most basic procedures.

Baystate has not officially released information relating to such a movement of services, but Chuck Gijanto, President of Regional Markets for Baystate, said that the local system has "lost a number of surgeons" and is having trouble filling the positions. He believes "new,

see BAYSTATE page 6

## Pet of the Week

### A Feisty Feline



### "Oreo"

Hello! My name is Oreo, and I am seeking to be interviewed as your next barn cat! I have quite the personality and am very social.

However, with that being said, sometimes I'm not too fond of petting for too long, and I don't care to be picked up. The staff call me a "feisty feline!" Whatever that is!

I like my space and am not too terribly fond of other cats, although I can tolerate some to a certain degree. I would LOVE to be your next barn cat! I'm quite a talker so we could have lots of conversations.

For more information on adopting me, please call the Leverett: Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 and ask about me. Currently I am in a foster home till I find a place to go.

**RECYCLE PAPER**  
 Week of August 12th  
 in Montague

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## Library News

### Montague Libraries Summer Reading Program Parties

**MONTAGUE** – On Monday, August 12, there will be a Costume Party at the Montague Center Library starting at 6:30 p.m. Costumes are optional, but encouraged.

On Tuesday, August 13, there will be a special party with door prizes and lots of snacks at the Millers Falls Library starting at 3:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, August 14,

there will be a Live Animal Show with Rainforest Reptile Shows at the Carnegie Library at 10:30 a.m. This program will be on the library lawn, or inside, depending upon the weather. These parties are for Summer Reading Program participants and their families.

The Summer Reading Program ends when school resumes in Montague in late August. For more information, call 863-3214.

### Wendell Library Movie

"Atom Age Vampire" at the Wendell Free Library, Saturday August 10 at 7:30 p.m. This movie is a nice little twist to the classic vampire flicks. A very beautiful young woman lands herself a nasty facial scar from a car accident. Devastated, she contemplates suicide and then is mysteriously halted when a girl comes into the room to tell her that she knows of a way to fix her scar and make her beautiful again. Unknown to her, the cure she receives may have possible side effects.

This is the kind of Thriller/Sci-Fi movie that is just really interesting to watch. The plot has a smooth foundation, and the actors are not bad either. If you are a fan of vampire flicks, this movie may be a bit of an adjustment for you, but this is a more than decent flick that many

will enjoy.

There will be a short (1/2 hour) film before the movie: episode 365 of "Dark Shadows", in which a seance is held at Collinwood to contact the spirit of Sarah Collins. During a blackout, Victoria Winters disappears. This episode originally aired on November 17, 1967. Introduced by Kathryn Leigh Scott (Maggie Evans).

Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Wendell Free Library, located in the center of Wendell, MA. Free Admission.

*Upcoming in this Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movie series:*

September 7: Damnation Alley

October 5: Little Shop Of Horrors

November 2: Paycheck

December 7: White Zombie



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. My six-year-old grandson insists that I smell like an old person. Do you have any idea what he's talking about?*

There was a study that suggests people can tell if you are old by how you smell. The study was done at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

Researchers asked volunteers between the ages of 20 and 95 to sleep in T-shirts with nursing pads sewn into the armpits. After the five nights, the researchers put the pads in jars. Each jar contained cut-up quarters of pads from several people in the same age group. A separate group of

volunteers was asked to sniff the jars and rate the odors.

The odor of people 75-95 was judged to be less intense and far more pleasant than the scent of either young or middle-aged adults. In general, men smelled worse than women, but that distinction disappeared in old age, the researchers found.

Johan Lundstrom, co-author of the study and an assistant professor at Monell, said the study "shows that there's yet another signal hidden in the body odor that we are somehow able to extract and make use of."

Previous research had suggested that body odor provides clues to sickness, gender and kinship. In recent years, scientists have shown that humans use their noses when selecting romantic partners.

There is a negative connotation to "old-people smell." Where does it originate?

Here are some possible causes offered by experts on aging:

\* Stale air. Old people tend to

## FACES & PLACES



SAWYER-LUCIANO PHOTO

*We're getting a jump on the Treasure Hunt at August's Third Thursday Event in Turners. We spotted (well, sort of) this sign in an alley in Turners Falls. While you're not supposed to enter the alley this way, we do want you to enter our contest. The first to identify where this hard-to-identify sign is located will be awarded a Montague Reporter T-shirt. Email your answer to editor@montaguereporter.org.*

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## The Musk of Maturity

keep the thermostat on high, their windows closed and shades down. Their homes are stuffy breeding grounds for mold and bacteria.

\* Dirty digs. It's more burdensome for older people to do housecleaning.

\* Unlaundered clothes. Doing laundry is difficult for many older people, so they tend to have soiled clothes around.

\* Incontinence. Sometimes the aged don't get to the bathroom in time and don't clean up properly.

\* Faulty senses. An older adult's senses of sight and smell have dulled. Older people often don't see dirt or smell bad odors.

\* Bad breath. As we age, the tissues of the mouth produce less saliva, which is the best defense against bad breath. Older people don't brush their teeth as well as they used to. And dentures retain odors if they aren't replaced when they should be. Digestive problems, such as acid reflux, are increasingly common as we age; these send stomach odors up into the mouth.

\* Dehydration. It's common for older people to drink very little without realizing it. When a person is dehydrated, odors from foods such as garlic or onion become more concentrated. Urine is more concentrated, too, so just a drop of leakage can produce a strong smell.

\* The unwashed. Older people take fewer baths because they are viewed as a lot of work when you are just staying at home. And, there is a fear of falling in the tub.

\* Medicinal smell. Older people take a lot of medications, which can cause a subtle chemical odor to come through the pores of the skin. They also use a lot of mentholated products such as Ben-Gay and Vicks Vapo-Rub.

\* Cleaning solutions. We associate ammonia and Lysol with aging because it is used in nursing homes.

*If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of "How to be a Healthy Geezer" at www.healthygeezers.com.*

### Senior Center Activities – August 8 to August 16

#### GILL-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. 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 not open.

#### Friday: 8/9

10 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

#### Monday 8/12

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment  
 10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:55 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
 1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday: 8/13

12 noon Lunch  
 1 p.m. Ice Cream Social with the

#### ROMEOS

#### Wednesday: 8/14

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10 a.m. Aerobics

12 noon Lunch

12:45 PM Bingo

**Thursday: 8/15**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

**Friday: 8/16**

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

#### 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 congregating 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 8/12

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

#### Tuesday 8/13

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

#### Wednesday: 8/14

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 8/15

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

12 noon Cards

#### Friday 8/16

9 a.m. Bowling

Lunch TBA

#### 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 \$4 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

#### WENDELL

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

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Join Ed and Libby Klekowski on board the **Quinnetukut Riverboat for stories of days gone by** on Saturday, August 10, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. During this cruise they will bring the forgotten history of the log drives back to life. From the North Woods in Canada, men drove over a quarter of a million logs 300 miles downriver to saw mills in Massachusetts. These were the longest log drives in America and tall tales will add color to this slice of American life. Hear about log jams that took over two years to free up as we travel the same stretch of river. Professor Klekowski, a diver and retired Biology Professor from UMass-Amherst, is an expert on the historical, geological and biological resources of the 410 mile long Connecticut River.

Although the Connecticut was studied by Europeans for 300 years, Klekowski realized that underwater it was totally unknown, and learned something new on almost every dive. His explorations combined with Libby's historical research as she unearthed extraordinary old photos, resulted in the pair producing five documentaries. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Also on Saturday, August 10, **The Turners Falls Annual Block Party** on Avenue A will include four bands, plenty of family entertainment including childrens activities. There will be a tour of the historic Lady of Czestochowa Church ("Jewel of Franklin County") from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at 84 K Street, and at 4 p.m. a Southworth Paper Mill tour - meetup location TBA. Plus lots of food, craft vendors and specials at the local shops. Opening reception for the surrealist Bruce

Kahn art exhibit at Nina's Nook from 2 to 6 p.m. Don't forget to join the wacky kick-off parade at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday, August 14, there will be a live animal show with **Rainforest Reptile Shows** at the Carnegie Library at 10:30 a.m. This program will be on the library lawn, or inside, depending upon the weather. If possible, bring a camera. The show usually concludes with all of the participants having the option to hold a medium-sized docile alligator. For more information, call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

The Third Thursday in Turners Falls on August 15 will feature the movie "**Muppets Treasure Island**" at Peskeomskut Park starting at 8 p.m. The Shea Theater will host the movie if the weather is inclement. Who doesn't like the muppets?

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls proudly welcomes back a delightfully talented group of local youngsters participating in the "**Strings for Kids**" program on Saturday, Aug 17, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. This program is a partnership with Artspace Community Arts Center. Strings for Kids is in its fifth year of offering free weekly violin or cello group lessons with very committed and determined players! The program was recently honored with a grant from the D'Addario Foundation. Cecilia Berger will be bringing over a sampling of students.

Let's show our support for these young musicians and be entertained at the same time. There is sure to be some toe-tapping going on! While this program is free, a donation basket will be available for audience pleasure. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of GSB. For additional questions, and additional

events in the GSB community room please contact Linda at 413-863-4316.

**Safe Kids of Western Massachusetts** offers a monthly child car seat inspection station at the Greenfield Fire Department, located at 412 Main Street in Greenfield. The next safety check will take place on Tuesday, August 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians perform the inspections by appointment.

Parents and caregivers are trained on the spot in the proper installation and setup of their own specific car seats in their own vehicles. The car seat safety checks are free and open to the public by appointment. Inspections usually take 20 to 30 minutes to complete. For an appointment, please call Baystate Health Link at (413) 794-2255. The car seat checks are sponsored by the Kohls Cares Safety Crew, Safe Kids of Western Massachusetts, and the Birthplace at Franklin Medical Center.

Celebrating that milestone Birthday soon? **Turning 65?** Feeling uneasy about your insurance options? No Problem! Come and learn about Medicare by attending "I am New to Medicare. What are My Options?" at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Thursday, August 22, at 2 p.m. GSB is partnering with Lorraine York-Edberg, SHINE Program Director from Franklin County Home Care and Sarah Mancinelli, SHINE Counselor who will bring their expertise to the program. Feel free to bring your questions and concerns. Seating will be limited so please call 863-4316 to reserve your spot.

**Get ready to race** in the Montague Soapbox Derby on Sunday, September 22. Visit their website [www.MontagueSoapboxDerby.com](http://www.MontagueSoapboxDerby.com) to sign up for one of the 100 available racing slots. We've kept the advance racer fees at the same rate to make it affordable. Sign up right now! As an incentive, the first 25 racers will get some free derby swag.

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

### MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENTS TO REGULATE THE LOCATION OF REGISTERED MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES (RMDs) IN MONTAGUE

By vote at the State election on 11/6/12, the voters of the Commonwealth (and 72% of Montague voters) approved a law regulating the cultivation, distribution, possession, and use of marijuana for medical purposes. The law, which became effective in 2013 requires at least one RMD to be located in each county, and such facilities may not be prohibited in any municipality. The regulation of medical marijuana raises novel and complex legal, planning, and public safety issues that are just being considered for their impacts in Montague.

The Planning Board will consider a range of actions including:

- 1) Allowing RMDs by-right in commercial districts
- 2) Allowing RMDs by Special Permit only in commercial and industrial districts
- 3) Adopting a temporary one-year moratorium to undertake a study and thorough planning process.

7:15 p.m. - Tuesday August 27, 2013  
Montague Town Hall, 2nd Floor  
One Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

Your attendance is encouraged and you will be able to speak. Written comments can be accepted prior to the meeting at Town Hall or emailed to [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov). Visit [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) to review the Town Planner's proposal and for more information about the new law.

Ron Sicard, Chair

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

#### Political Signs Vandalized

**Wednesday, 7/10**  
6:45 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with an altercation on Shore Drive at Lake Wyola.  
**Thursday, 7/11**  
7:01 p.m. Medical emergency on Amherst Road.  
**Friday, 7/12**  
8:30 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on North Leverett Road. Operator hit utility pole and street sign. No injuries.  
1:39 p.m. Hemenway Road resident reported losing two dogs in the area. Unable to locate.  
**Monday, 7/15**  
10:20 a.m. Medical emergency on Long Hill Road.  
**Wednesday, 7/17**  
11:45 a.m. Jackson Hill Road resident reported several signs about the gravel pit controversy taken from area residences, cut up, and thrown on his lawn. Under investigation.  
3:30 p.m. Long Plain Road resident reported possible telephone

scam. Report taken; subject advised.  
**Friday, 7/19**  
4:37 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury PD with welfare check on children on Old Egypt Road. No problem found: children located with a supervising adult.  
6:15 p.m. Welfare check on elderly resident of Cave Hill Road. No problems.  
**Tuesday, 7/23**  
5:40 p.m. Checked the Drummer Hill Road area for a loose goat reported from Amherst. Unable to locate.  
**Friday, 7/26**  
7:16 a.m. Put down a small deer struck on Hemenway Road. Highway Department removed carcass.  
11:10 a.m. Homeowner accidentally tripped alarm at a Juggler Meadow Road residence. Services not required.  
2 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at intersection of Montague and Long Plains roads. Brake malfunction caused vehicle to go off the road and strike a stop sign. Vehicle towed. No injuries.  
**Saturday, 7/27**  
11:18 a.m. Jackson Hill Road resident, home from vacation, called to report a sign about the gravel pit controversy missing from his lawn. Already under investigation.  
**Tuesday, 7/30**  
3:37 p.m. Medical emergency on Hemenway Road.

### SKATE from page 1

decided that the "concrete design was the way to go". The Parks and Recreation commission, she argued, had agreed. "The last time we met with the committee they approved that, so our job was to get the cost down. So we got the cost down to one-half the overpriced quote... But now it seems like the project isn't going anywhere."

Dobosz, however, argued that a state grant is still "very much an op-

tion." Town manager Frank Abbonanzio said there was ample time to confirm the cost estimate and apply for a PARC grant, as the deadline was next July. "I don't know if we have to go to redesign," he said.

Others also requested action. Greg Ellis, wearing a shirt bearing the images of his boyhood friends, Winter Clark and Chris Gallagher, two teenagers who drowned 15 years ago in the Connecticut, recalled that as a teenager, he had pushed for a skatepark and was still

waiting to see it happen. Ben Miner, of Greenfield, stressed that "you don't want to see a substandard design." After these pleas, selectman Michael Nelson proposed a motion for the board to reaffirm its support for a skate park. The motion passed unanimously to great applause.

This was not quite the end of the discussion, however. Former selectboard member, Patricia Pruitt, who had advocated for the skate park during her time on the board, rose to ask one final question addressed

directly to Dobosz and the Parks and Recreation Committee. "Can we also have the same unequivocal show of support from you?" asked Pruitt.

Before Dobosz could have a chance to answer, Fairbrother spoke up: "Patricia, if the selectboard is in favor of it, the parks department is also in favor of it." Fairbrother's statement was met with a second round of applause. The enthusiastic crowd then quickly emptied the room.



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# The Montague Reporter

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## We Love Corporate Welfare

A few months ago we editorialized against draconian cuts proposed by House Republicans to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We don't generally revisit with such frequency the same issue but we feel compelled to comment again on the latest version of the farm bill proposed by House Republicans. Amazingly, this time they are hoping for even greater cuts. Their original proposal (twice shot down before the House leadership decided to pull SNAP benefits out of the Farm Bill) was to cut \$20.5 billion over 10 years, or roughly 2 percent of the program's \$800 billion cost in that time frame. Not to be deterred by the earlier votes, the Republicans have now come up with a new proposal: this one would double the cuts to somewhere around \$40 billion over the next decade.

The main reason the Republicans cite for trimming nutritional assistance is that there is waste and even fraud in the present program. Our representative in Congress, Jim McGovern disputes this. In a recent speech on the House floor, McGovern noted that the total error rate that includes both under- and over-payments was only three percent of the total. No one refuted McGovern's statistics, nor could they. The Republican rhetoric continued, however, to amp up cases of fraud or abuse.

Whether SNAP will be funded in a separate bill, or whether it will be rolled back into the farm bill when the House and Senate attempt to reconcile the two versions is yet unclear. What is clear is that both House and Senate versions contain an awful lot of green stuff for "Big Ag." What we don't understand is why the same voices that so loudly decry abuses in the SNAP program do not rail against excessive agricultural subsidies.

Indeed, in the House farm bill that passed in July, many of the same legislators who were so concerned about government spending and welfare abuse revealed an absolute abhorrence over cutting federal subsidies to corporate farmers. Indeed, they overwhelmingly voted for an increase in federal subsidies to wealthy farm interests. Among the biggest recipients are the largest U.S. corporations, such as Wal-Mart, Monsanto, Kraft Foods Group, and Tyson Foods.

Crop insurance is the main subsidy that both the House and Senate bills just feel big corporations can't do without. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently updated projected costs of crop insurance in the last year to \$14 billion. Of that

14 billion, 90 percent of indemnity payments went to corporate growers of just four crops – corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton. Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky received more than \$2 back for every \$1 paid into the system. The current House version wants to expand these subsidies through the creation of multiple "shallow loss programs". Highly subsidized crop insurance already allows farm businesses to lock in up to 85 percent of their expected revenue with the average corn farmer choosing policies guaranteeing 75 percent.

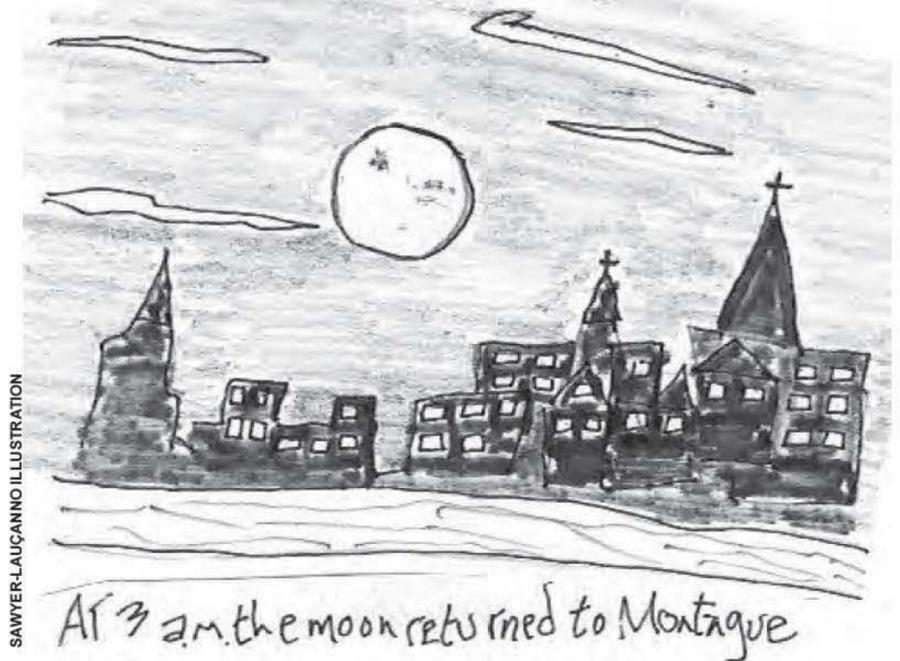
But even this sweetheart deal doesn't satisfy the agri-business lobby. On top of crop insurance, they're trying to add another layer that would have taxpayers sending checks to farm businesses when they incur as little as a 10 percent dip from expected revenue. In addition, the main shallow loss program, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage, would be available for absolutely free.

All this is taking place at a time when farm commodity prices, farm incomes and farmland values are at record levels. Earlier this year, the Agriculture Department projected that farm income in 2013 would be \$128.2 billion, the highest since 1973, fueled by "record crop production levels" and "high prices for many crops."

Is there any hope that when the House and the Senate meet to reconcile their differing farm bills, some degree of fairness can be achieved? Not likely. The only major initiative (and this doesn't really amount to a whole lot) from Senators Tom Coburn, Republican of Oklahoma, and Dick Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, is to reduce crop insurance subsidies by 15 percent for farmers earning more than \$750,000 a year.

According to the senators, capping the subsidies would save taxpayers an estimated \$1 billion a year. Most Republicans, though, feel this goes much too far in reducing corporate welfare. And as for SNAP, not even the efforts of such valiant legislators as Jim McGovern, Ed Markey, Elizabeth Warren, Barbara Boxer and Bernie Sanders can prevent the program from being sliced and diced. It will be cut and probably cut fairly drastically.

The way it adds up is this: if you're poor and struggling to put food on the table for your family, you need to tighten your belt. If you're an agri-business struggling to swallow up small farms and small farmers, and struggling to return obscene profits to corporate headquarters, welcome to the feeding trough.



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editor

### Composting on "The Judge"

I am writing to inform the community about the waste diversion efforts of Warner Bros. (WB) and others, activities that can dramatically shrink the carbon footprint of an event, a school, or a business.

Before filming of "The Judge" began, Warner Bros. staff met with Mary Vilbon of the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association (GSFABA). Mary encouraged them to contact me at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to learn how the film could recycle and compost as much waste as possible.

Warner Bros. hired two small local companies: M & M Removal of Montague to handle office and production recycling and trash, and Valley Green Shredding of South Deerfield to shred and recycle confidential paper. From day one until the day the office closed, WB's Bridge St. offices recycled ALL paper, cardboard, and containers.

I encouraged the film's catering company to compost food and paper waste and to recycle cans, bottles, and containers. The Solid Waste District loaned event bins and signs, Warner Bros. purchased the required bags, and composting was underway.

The daily meals for up to 300 cast and crew members were initially held in Mohawk school's gym, and when filming shifted to Millers Falls, meals were served at the French King Bowling Center. Cast and crew from near and far appreciated the opportunity to compost their leftover food, paper plates and napkins in compost collection bins, and to recycle water bottles in recycle bins. Reusable plates and silverware went into crates to be washed by the caterers. Non-recyclable plastic bowls and cups had to be trashed, something to green up next time.

For the first few days, catering staff and Mohawk students handled the compost and recycling. Compostable waste went into Mohawk's compost dumpster, which has been in use since March 2012.

Before long Warner Bros. assigned "The Judge" an "Environmental Lead," Max Goldberg. Max immediately expanded composting and recycling to the crew breakfasts and locations. When meals shifted to the French King Bowling Center, Erving Elementary graciously allowed Max to use the school's 2-yard compost dumpster, which has been in use since 2009. Since school was winding down, there was adequate space in the school dumpsters.

The recycling totals for "The Judge" are as follows: fifty 32-gallon bags (about one ton) composted; forty-five cubic yards (about 3.5 tons) cardboard recycled; ninety 14-gallon bags (about 1.5 tons) of paper and bottles and cans recycled; 620 lbs. confidential paper (scripts!) shredded and recycled; and an unknown quantity of bottles and cans recycled by crew and onlookers in Shelburne Falls' permanent sidewalk recycle bins. (Thanks to the towns of Shelburne and Buckland, GSFABA, and generous donors.)

The film's recycling and composting efforts prevented over 17 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MTCO2e) from entering our atmosphere. About 36% of the waste generated was recycled or composted, which is a similar diversion rate to some of our towns.

Waste and climate change have a strong connection. Climate change is caused by heat-trapping greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere. When food and paper wastes decay anaerobically in a landfill, they release methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more powerful than carbon

dioxide. In contrast, the aerobic process of composting produces negligible amounts of methane. Commercial composting goes beyond the backyard compost bin by accepting a much wider range of food and paper waste.

The film's composting was possible because Franklin County is a leader in organics recycling; 15 schools within the Franklin County Solid Waste District send all food and paper waste from cafeterias and kitchens to local composting facilities. In addition, many classrooms compost food waste in on-site compost bins or worm composting bins, and the finished compost is used in school gardens.

Municipal compost programs in New Salem, Northfield, Orange and Whately accept compostable waste from residents, which is sent off-site for composting, saving money on trash disposal.

Some markets and restaurants are sending up to 50% of their waste to commercial compost facilities, and the state will require those that generate over 1 ton per week to do so by July 2014. Green Fields Market, McCusker's Market and Big Y have been composting off site for many years. The Shelburne Falls Compost Collaborative (www.gsfaba/compost), comprised of five eateries (The Baker's Oven Bistro, The Blue Rock Restaurant, Mocha Maya's, Mo's Fudge Factory, and The West End Pub), two offices, and the Bridge of Flowers, is currently sending four cubic yards of compostable waste each week to a local compost operation.

Special events large and small also recycle and compost, due in part to the solid waste district's event bin loan program. The Franklin County

see **COMPOST** next page

## Resurgence Of A Town

It's rewarding to see the positive steps being taken by the people of Turners Falls and the Town of Montague to enhance the beauty of the Town. If the efforts are sustained Good will always overtake evil.

To quote Colin Powell, "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier".

David Yez  
Monmouth, IL

## Teachers' Salaries Unfair

What is a fair teacher salary for teachers in Leverett?

Every year at the annual Town Meeting, Leverett Citizens vote overwhelmingly to approve the Amherst Regional budget, a budget that includes teacher salaries for the Amherst Regional Middle and High School. For fourteen years, the Leverett Education Association has been seeking pay parity with Amherst teachers.

This pay equity has been agreed to in principle by members of the School Committee and town officials. We all teach the children of Leverett.

However, the disparity in the salary scales between Leverett and Amherst Regional has more than tripled in that time, from about 3% in 1999 to about 10% for starting teachers and up to 25% for the most experienced teachers today in 2013. This pay inequality does not exist in Amherst/Pelham because elementary and secondary school teachers are on the same salary scale.

Over the past four years, Leverett contract negotiations have been

increasingly adversarial between town officials and the teachers. Once again it appears that Leverett teachers will be starting this school year without a contract. We have signed a series of one-year contracts, whereas in the past we were able to civilly negotiate three-year contracts.

There needs to be a change, a return to civility in negotiations, an end to town officials attempting to pit town and school employees against one another. There needs to be genuine efforts to bargain collaboratively and to achieve compromise.

As the Town looks to fund such projects as the \$3.6 million universal broadband network and services for the elderly, we must not sacrifice the quality of education in Leverett.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Stewart  
President, Leverett Education Association; Resident; Elementary School Parent; and Teacher of the Town of Leverett

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## Room To Maneuver Focuses on the Environmental Health of Hospitals

MBA Guest Column  
By HOLLY GIVENS

At his consulting business, Room to Maneuver, in Montague, Paul Lipke is on a mission to make health care more energy efficient. His principal client, Health Care Without Harm, an international coalition of more than 470 organizations in 52 countries, works with hospitals to improve the environmental footprint of the health sector.

Lipke's specialty is green building and energy work, a direct result of his studies in building science and project management at the University of Massachusetts. He has been consulting for over 20 years and has had his business in Montague since 1990. For entrepreneurs considering opening a business in Montague, Lipke encourages them to be clear if there's enough volume in the Pioneer Valley to support the business or to work virtually or be prepared to travel.

Most of the hospitals he works with are in the Boston area – that's where the bulk of Massachusetts' health care sector's greenhouse gases are, he says – and he does most of his work virtually and in meetings in the city.

Lipke is passionate about turning a lens on health facilities to ensure that they are truly places to restore health. He'd like us all to have access to hospitals that do not contain

asthma triggers, for example. "It's time that we start asking our health care providers about what they are doing to improve environmental health, reduce waste, mitigate climate change and deal with longer, more regional climate driven disasters in their emergency preparedness plans," he said. "The more they hear from their customers, the

on how much pollution was avoided or generated, and translates that into health impacts and medical treatment costs for incidents such as premature death, chronic bronchitis, and asthma. This tool helps hospitals make a direct connection between their energy use and their primary mission to do no harm, he says.

His work has also had an impact on federal policies. For example, he worked with Catholic Health Association to expand the way they can report environmental health efforts in their communities to the US Internal Revenue Service. This has increased the incentive for hospitals to reduce the root environmental and social causes of illness.

"Most of the major systems in our society are in a state of instability – that's not a good thing, but it's an opportunity to change and adapt," Lipke explained. "The more we engage with these systems and our political leaders to help them take action and prepare for change, the more likely we'll get a good outcome."

Back in the 1990's, Lipke helped start the non-profit organization Sustainable Step New England, which trained business, government and civic leaders to adopt sustainable strategies.

"It's good if everyone does their piece," he said. "If you recycle at home, for example, why shouldn't your doctor's office do that too?"



Paul Lipke

more likely they will take action."

One project he's especially proud of is his health care energy impact calculator, [www.eichealth.org](http://www.eichealth.org). The free tool allows users to enter basic information about their location and energy use. The calculator generates US Environmental Protection Agency-based estimates

## Community TV Serves Community Groups

By CINDY TARAIL

MONTAGUE – Since coming on board this spring, MCTV's Technical Coordinator Tim Lindop has made some fun and interesting public service videos for local community organizations. Take a few minutes and watch the Riverboat, Remote Control Club, Water Pollution Control, Northfield Mountain Recreation, Block Party and more. Check out Lindop's storytelling, lighting, audio and interviewing skills, honed over a lifetime of video production experience.

Schedule time now for your organization's educational videos or event coverage. MCTV requires several weeks of lead-time for time-sensitive announcements and carefully selects events to cover based on staff and volunteer availability.

Have you ever tried to make a video of your child's recital, your family vacation, your teen's sports game, or a friend's concert, only to find that the audio was inaudible, the shots were overexposed – or, like many beginners, you were paralyzed by the amount of footage you shot and could not figure out how to create a compelling story?

MCTV is offering free training in video production taught by Lindop in August. Four three-hour evening sessions provide an overview of shooting, lighting, audio and editing. This 5-student class will be held weeknights between August 12th to 22nd. Requests for particular days are being taken into consideration now.

The first class, held in July, was rated very good both by MCTV's top producers and new beginners. Classes are appropriate both for youth and adults. MCTV will enroll students in the August class until slots are full or until 3 p.m. on Monday, August 12. MCTV will offer additional classes in the fall including some daytime sessions.

It's time to prepare for the Montague Soapbox Derby, being held on Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m.

Thanks to sponsors including Silverscreen Design, Hale Custom Signs and Kostanski Funeral Home. Hand-built gravity-powered carts of all shapes, sizes and colors are raced by people of all ages from all over the Northeast down the First Street hill in Turners Falls. Carts zoom skillfully – or may careen

awkwardly – past as many as 1,000 spectators, safely viewing behind straw bales. Vendors sell fun food and drink and families can play at the newly renovated Unity Park.

Cart-building can be time-consuming but with a good set of plans, the race rules, and time to hunt for used and new parts, beginners can build a safe and affordable cart that might even win in the children's division. Organizers will share ideas for carts over the coming weeks on [montaguesoapboxderby.com](http://montaguesoapboxderby.com). MCTV is calling on previous racers to be featured in a mini-documentary to be filmed over the next two weeks about building their carts, racing, winning or wiping out, and volunteering. MCTV is also seeking volunteers to join in the fun on race day.

Contact MCTV at 863-9200 or email [outreach@montaguetv.org](mailto:outreach@montaguetv.org) for more information about classes and events. Watch local productions on Channel 17; find the program guide and videos on demand at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org).

*Cindy Tarail is the Outreach and Communication Coordinator for Montague Community Television.*

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### The GMRSD School Committee: Accounting Beyond the iPad

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Gill-Montague Regional School District has recently decided to provide iPads for school committee members. The decision does not appear to have been made with much public discussion, if any at all. I know of no other local board in Montague or Gill that receives similar electronic equipment at public expense.

The justification for this decision was apparently that distributing iPads would help the school committee to "go paperless." Yet it does not appear that the committee first made a decision to eliminate paper, and then decided to provide itself with electronic equipment. The decision-making process seems to have been the other way around.

Actually I do not recall any discussion of the pros and cons of going paperless. Eliminating paper is a worthy goal but were the negatives considered? Everyone has his or her own "learning style" but I would argue that for most of us, a hard copy of a key document, read in advance and marked up, is necessary to be well prepared for a meeting. While I have seen some committee members rely on laptops (their own), this is not the norm and for a good reason.

There is also the question of what kind of message we want to send to students. Do we really want our nine school committee members fiddling with electronic equipment during public meetings? I hate to sound like an old fogey but improper and excessive use of electronic media is a huge problem among young students today – a serious distraction that undermines discussion and critical thinking.

I am not suggesting this decision is a huge scandal. Apparently a number of school committees around the state get iPads to eliminate paper. The iPads remain the property of the district and are theoretically only to be used for "school committee business." But the decision could have benefitted from a bit of discussion of the pros and cons.

I am more concerned about where the money for this purchase came from. Were the iPads part of the large technology purchase that

was endorsed by the school committee, also in June just before the fiscal year ended? This decision has not been well explained and involves serious questions about how hundreds of thousands of dollars in school choice revenue is being accounted for.

In early June The Management Solution, the firm that handles GMRSD accounting and budgeting, came to the committee with a request that \$235,000 from school choice revenue be used to purchase technology for the district. This raised a few eyebrows because the school choice program lost about \$350,000 in that fiscal year. Eyebrows went up again when it was requested the school choice money be used to fund the teachers' salaries line item, which would then create a surplus that could be transferred to buy technology. This seemed a bit arcane.

Part of the problem is that accounting for school choice in the budget has changed recently without any discussion or oversight. In past years, the school choice line item in the budget was "net," that is expenditures out minus revenue in. In FY 13 that would have produced a budget line item of about \$350,000, the difference between how much we spent for students "choicing out" (nearly \$1,000,000) and how much we received for those choosing in (approximately \$650,000). However, now the line item reflects only the choice out number while the \$650,000 in revenue goes... where?

The justification for the budgeting change seems to be that school choice revenue must, by state law, fund "education" and thus presumably not be used to offset school choice losses. Even if this is true, the school committee should monitor where the revenue is going, how it impacts the budget. There is a lot of money involved, here. Plugging holes in a budget with large (and unknown) revolving fund balances can get you into real trouble in the long term.

And a program that is losing over \$350,000 annually should not have a huge surplus that for some reason needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year. At least this should be explained better.

### COMPOST from previous page

Fair and the Green River Festival each recycle and compost about 30 cubic yards of material; the Turners Falls Block Party, Pumpkinfest, and Mutton and Mead all recycle; and the Gill Arts and Crafts Festival has reduced its trash rate to a mere 11%!

The general public could help improve event recycling. Despite clear signage, event organizers (volunteers) are finding contamination in recycle and compost bins. Please read signs and bins at events and

place materials in the proper receptacle, and please consider volunteering for an event: contact me for more information.

It is my hope that the success stories of "The Judge" and others will inspire businesses, events, towns, and residents to reduce trash generation by recycling and composting as much waste as possible.

– Amy Donovan  
Program Director,  
Franklin County Solid  
Waste Management District

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**BAYSTATE** from page 1

modern facilities will attract potential doctors to the hospital." The reasons those doctors left are varied, and there does not appear to have been any consideration for this latency period in which our region lacks the critical health care staff that it needs. Perhaps in response to the Community Healthcare Initiative, Baystate is "planning new operating rooms at Baystate Franklin in order to attract and retain new surgeons."

The logical conclusion of this centralization, as David Schildmeier, Director of Public Communications for the MNA, says, is Baystate Franklin is being used as a "feeder to the mother ship in Springfield. The national trend has been to purchase small community hospitals and then bring the revenue to larger, urban environments. Here, these services have been siphoned off for years." This has been especially true in the eastern part of the state, with dozens of hospitals being purchased outside of Boston, forcing residents to go into the city for routine procedures. "If they wanted to keep services here, they can afford it. They recently spend .5 million on new operating rooms in Springfield," the very thing Baystate Franklin lacks.

While it is unclear exactly what the future holds for hospital services in Franklin County, residents will continue to advocate for local health care, in a process that will likely un-

fold as the hospital attempts to maximize efficiency in the present world of high health care costs. Continued pressure appears to have shifted the focus of Baystate back to Franklin, with the possibility of new facilities and services on the horizon. David Schildmeier, praising the Community Healthcare Initiative, said "the community is standing up; they have the power to change things."

Parallel with the transfer of services is the growing intransigence of hospital management toward the bargaining process with the nurses union. The bitter dispute between Baystate and its unionized nurses continues, with countless bargaining sessions ending in grim deadlock. The current sticking point: overtime. Chuck Gijanto asserts that management has a "very solid offer on the table," and encourages the union to vote on it.

From the other side of the table, it looks very different. "It's all connected," says nurse Donna Stern, a member of the bargaining unit. "The movement of services, and fighting the union. It's not about the money, it's about power and who has it. Today I'm here not just as a nurse, I'm here as a community member, as somebody who could be a patient here, and I'm here to take a stand and say enough is enough."

As David Schildmeier put it... "the community is standing up; they have the power to change things."

**ZONING** from page 1

But it was the ten-year time limit on the permit that has proven, so far, to be the sticking point for Roberts, who said on August 7 he had not yet decided whether to accept the settlement or pursue court action.

His use of Jackson Hill Road to bring heavy equipment back and forth from his home to the site has not been proscribed, but Roberts has agreed to use that direct but narrow, curving dirt road only as a last resort, if his trucks and trailers cannot navigate the tight right turn off Cave Hill Road to Montague Road, or, alternately, pass beneath the low railroad bridge on North Leverett Road to reach Route 63.

Roberts had sued the zoning board in 2011, after the board denied him a special permit to expand his gravel mining operations, in one of the town's few commercial zones, by a three to two vote (four votes were needed for approval).

The vote last Monday to settle the lawsuit and issue the special permit was unanimous.

Attorney Danielle Barshak, a new ZBA member, joined Baldwin in pushing for a definite time limit on the special permit. She said she had come around to supporting the expansion after a second site visit to the neighborhood had convinced her that the noise of trucks being filled with gravel, and entering traffic on Route 63, was no worse than the noise of regular traffic on that busy

north-south corridor.

Baldwin said her initial opposition had centered on the preservation of the viewscape of Mount Toby, one of the town's few open vistas. But site visits had since convinced Baldwin that the gravel pit itself, as it currently exists or as it will be allowed to expand, will not be visible from the neighboring homes.

Yet the uncomfortable reality remained that once those added acres of open fields are allowed to be excavated and mined of gravel to a depth of dozens of feet, they can be "reclaimed" only superficially, at their new, manmade depth.

"My gut feeling is, I don't want to see a gravel pit," Barshak told her colleagues on the board. She pushed for clarity and accountability on each point of the extensive conditions, which set a maximum number of trucks per hour (2), maximum hours of operation (7 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays) and maximum tons of gravel per year to be removed (?). She said she would prefer to leave the land unspoiled, but, "The voters of this town voted to approve a zoning structure to allow a gravel pit in this area."

Last Monday, many of the gravel pit's neighbors, along with their lawyer, Charles DeMare, sat grimly at the back of the room.

They might not be able to see the gravel pit from their homes, but the neighbors feel it anyway.

If Roberts does agree to the settlement, and if the abutters do

not appeal, the next step before any more gravel can be hauled away is for Roberts to come back before the zoning board to defend his right to expand mining operations in an aquifer protection zone, which the affected area along Route 63 happens to be. Board member Nancy Paulin signaled her concern about protecting the aquifer more than once in the run up to last Monday's vote. Barshak's legal acumen, and, if she stays on the board, Baldwin's science background, will certainly be called into play as the board turns to another series of public hearings and deliberations on this aspect of things, with hydrogeologists and engineers likely to be contracted for expert testimony on the issue at Roberts' expense.

In preparation for this, the zoning board approved a regulation allowing the bill for consulting services to be passed along to the applicant, prior to adjourning last week.

But Baldwin said the emotional stress of bringing the long hearings on this case to an initial out of court settlement had already taken its toll.

"I'm not sure I'll stay on the ZBA after this," said Baldwin. "The ZBA has been vilified by both sides. We agreed to mediation. We've come a long way."

But on the shores of ancient Lake Hitchcock, where the gravel of the old shoreline lies dreaming beneath centuries of accumulated loam, there is clearly a long haul still to go.



## Birds of Prey are coming to the Swift River Valley Historical Society

Ever-popular wildlife rehabilitator, Tom Ricardi, is bringing his Birds of Prey program to the Swift River Valley Historical Society on Wednesday, August 14 from 6 to 7:30 pm.

**NEW SALEM** – See live birds of prey up close and meet the man who helped restore the American bald eagle to the northeast! The Swift River Valley Historical Society, at 40 Elm Street in North New Salem, is bringing Tom Ricardi and his birds to the museum grounds on Wednesday, August 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. – rain or shine. The event, introducing audiences of all ages to these fascinating birds, is free for children, with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults or per family. Bring chairs or blankets. If it rains, the event will be held under the large porch of the Carriage Shed on the museum property.

Tom Ricardi has been rehabilitating injured birds of prey for over 30 years, as well as breeding them to bolster the wild population. In 1989 an eaglet was hatched at his Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility and placed in a wild eagle nest at Quabbin Reservoir. By five years later she was breeding and raising families of her own! There are over 400 species of birds of prey, ranging in size from tiny falconets and elf owls—standing only a few inches—to the condor with wing spans of nine feet or more. They are armed with sharp talons, hooked beaks and keen eyesight.

The Swift River Valley Historical Society keeps alive the stories of the four "lost towns" of the Quabbin, and is open Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. until Sunday, September 29. The museum will also be open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 28 for Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day, a day to celebrate the nation's museums. Admission to the museum is free this year in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dissolution of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott before the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir and the flooding of the Swift River Valley to provide safe drinking water for the Boston area. The museum recognizes the way of life and sacrifice made by the more than 2,500 residents of those towns whose homes were moved or destroyed. For more information about the museum and a schedule of upcoming events, visit [www.swiftrivermuseum.org](http://www.swiftrivermuseum.org), email [srvhsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:srvhsmuseum@gmail.com), or call (978) 544-6882.



MARK FRASER PHOTO

*The Snaz, in performance at the Voo.*

By MARK FRASER

**TURNERS FALLS** -- I'm sitting at the bar of The Rendezvous while on a break during the annual one-day Upper Valley Music Festival in Turners Falls. Some middle-aged men start carting in drums and gear, followed by some young teen girls helping out. Gangly teens, three girls and a boy, self-conscious. Cool, a teen band, could be fun. Perhaps their first gig. I stay, knowing I'll be late for the aging blues guitarist at the main venue, but what the heck, I'll listen to a few songs then scoot.

The three girls in front, lead guitar with a mic, bass, keyboard with a mic, boy on drums, start their set. They call themselves 'The Snaz'. Some teen boys emerge from the crowd, and start dancing. They seem older than the girls. That's a switch. The teen boys also seem to be lip-syncing the words as

they dance. I guess this isn't their first gig.

Tight. The bass and drums are right on, which is the first thing I notice, essential for any decent band. The lead guitar and vocal, hair flailing, very striking features, sings strong, raw, low, powerful. A great voice, with a faint vibrato that trails at the end of long notes, like Billie Holliday. A little Chrissy Hynde sass mixed in. The three girls are fifteen, I find out from a nearby mom, the drummer is thirteen.

The teen boy dancers throw themselves around the floor in front of the band, screaming after every song. I can't help stomping my feet to the beat, getting up now and then to snap photos of the irresistibly engaged lead singer.

The keyboard girl is dressed in grunge, jeans properly ripped just above the knee on one leg, all in black. She taps at the keyboard with her right index finger, head bent

over, closely examining her hand, expressionless. I wonder what the mic in front of her is for, maybe a poetry reading at break... Now and then her left hand appears from her lap and she plays in octaves with the right hand. Suddenly, in the third song, she jerks her head up, and screams into the mic, a primal rage that doubles the volume of the band. I'm off my bar stool, helplessly smitten. For the rest of the chorus she sings unison with the lead, equally powerful, equally engaged.

I, a fifty-odd year old classical cellist, in the pocket of a high-school girl band called 'The Snaz'. Wow. I ride my bike home, the six miles whizzing by in no time. Music, the essential, essential, food of the soul.

*Go to 'Soundcloud', type in the Snaz, and listen to 'Top'. Vocals way beyond her 15 years, and at around 40 seconds, the scream.*

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**FLIGHT** from pg 1

to leverage funding for rehabilitating the condemned (and disputed) pedestrian bridge. By July, however, Flight Patterns had apparently discovered that access to the site would be a major factor in redeveloping the complex.

"Mothballing aside, we have become increasingly concerned with issues of the general public and tenants accessing a rehabilitated Strathmore site," the group wrote. "During our meetings with Southworth Paper and First Light on June 18, 2013, Flight Patterns proposed some preliminary and alternate routes of access to the site. One such plan included portioning off a pedestrian walkway along Canal Road, potentially raised above street level to ensure the safety of pedestrians while trucks are

loading and unloading into the Southworth facility. This suggestion, however, was met with resistance from both Southworth (due to safety concerns) and First Light (on whose property the pedestrian walkway would fall)."

Legal issues with Southworth Paper and First Light also gave concern to Flight Patterns, who noted that they had grown increasingly concerned with the fear of litigation from these neighboring businesses.

In their letter, they noted that "while our informal meetings with Southworth and First Light have gone well, complicated easements and site obstacles are causes for considerable concern.... While we do not believe that either adjacent business is interested in thwarting redevelopment efforts, we feel it would be wise to seek legal

reassurances from both parties prior to investing additional funds in site assessments and rehabilitation efforts."

Ramsey noted that the town had expressed their willingness from the beginning to work with Flight Patterns on resolving these known issues. "We had hoped," said Ramsey, "to use Flight Patterns' involvement to apply for a MassWorks Grant to fix the bridge. And we were clear about helping them with legal issues as well."

"It's back to square one," said Ramsey. He said that he, along with building inspector David Jensen and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, would be discussing the next moves with the selectboard.



**PUBLIC SERVICE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Eat at Jake's Tavern and Support  
The Edge Basketball Club**

On August 16, from 5 to 9 p.m., ten percent of your entire bill for food and drinks at Jakes Tavern on Avenue A in Turners Falls will be donated to The Edge Basketball Club. There will also be raffles for prizes and a 50 / 50 raffle.

**RED SOX RAFFLE FOR FIELD SEATS!!**

Montague Catholic Social Ministries in Turners Falls is having a raffle to benefit its support and outreach programs. The prize is four tickets for the September 17, 2013 Boston Red Sox home game vs. the Baltimore Orioles at 7:10 p.m. The seats are in Field Box 39, Row M, on the first base line – a \$520 value. Chances are \$5 for one or \$20 for a book of five raffle tickets. Proceeds will go directly to services and programs offered by Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries, founded in September 1994, has offices at the corner of Third Street and Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. Services, open to everyone without distinction, are provided for residents of Franklin County and beyond. Programs include the Turners Falls Women's Resource Center, the Gill-Montague Family Center, Parent Education and Support Programs, Family Support and Home Visiting, and Basic Needs Programs.

For further information or tickets call 413 863-4804 X 1003. The drawing will be on September 7, 2013.

**Free Women's College Prep  
Program at Turners Falls  
Women's Resource Center**

Would you like to go back to school but aren't sure where to start? The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center (TFWRC) of Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) is offering MIND-Expanded, a free, nurturing program for women who would like to go to college but need a little help facing the challenges of college life while facing the challenges of life.

The MIND-Expanded program helps build the self-esteem and confidence needed to take the next steps. Through exercises to improve communication and conflict resolution skills, instruction in basic computer skills, guidance in preparing for college placement tests, and practice in stress management and reduction techniques, women will experience a warm and supportive environment to help them realize their dreams. Field trips to Greenfield Community College will allow women to become familiar with the campus where they will meet key staff who want to help them achieve their goal of continuing their education as well as peers who have successfully faced the challenges of returning to school and are eager to share their experiences and offer moral support.

The MIND-Expanded program is free to all women and free childcare is provided. A high school diploma or GED is not required to participate in this 12-week program that starts September 3, 2013 and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4:30 p.m. Please register by August 23rd or call for more information: Christine, 413-863-4804, ext. 1003 or Vickie at 413-863-4804, ext.1004. Email christine@mcsmcommunity.org or vickie@mcsmcommunity.org.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Neighbors Stealing Cats, Batting Rocks**

**Monday, 7/22**

3 p.m. Report taken of vandalism to motor vehicle at Wells Street residence.

**Wednesday, 7/24**

10:15 a.m. Arrested a 38-year-old Erving man for a restraining order violation.

**5:35 p.m. Arrested**

for operating with a suspended license.

10:20 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 2 near Old State Road. Located same. Not a hazard.

**Thursday, 7/25**

**4 p.m. Arrested**

on a warrant.

6:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with a neighbor dispute at a Millers Falls Road residence.

**Friday, 7/26**

4:40 p.m. Resident reported being harassed by an ex-employee. Took report and advised of options.

8:10 p.m. High Street resident reported neighbor stole her cat. Cat returned to owner.

9:10 p.m. Suspicious vehicle parked at the Box Car. Found to be OK.

**Saturday, 7/27**

3:50 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with alarm at the Route 63 Roadhouse. Found to be secure.

8 a.m. Criminal application is-

sued to

for operating with a suspended license.

**Sunday, 7/28**

4:47 a.m. Assisted state police with traffic on Route 2 in Gill after serious motor vehicle crash.

10 a.m. Dog in roadway on High Street. Advised owner of leash law.

3:05 p.m. Suspicious vehicle parked at International Paper Mill on Papermill Road. Moved same along.

5:40 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with traffic stop at Green River Honda.

6:40 p.m. Complaint of a resident hitting rocks into a neighbor's yard with a baseball bat. Spoke with same and advised of complaint.

7:20 p.m. Report of motorcycle driving up and down River Street erratically. Found motorcycle parked. Located owner and advised of complaint.

**Tuesday, 7/30**

5:20 p.m. Assisted motorist with directions.

6:15 p.m. Dispatched to East Main Street for smell of smoke in home. Erving FD on scene. Found to be overloaded electrical system. Assisted on scene.

7:10 p.m. False alarm on East Main Street. All set.

**7:45 p.m. Arrested**

for operat-

ing a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

9:50 p.m. Responded to High Street residence in response to loud bang. All quiet upon arrival.

**Wednesday, 7/31**

**2:45 p.m. Arrested**

on two outstanding warrants.

**Friday, 8/2**

12:15 p.m. Wires on tree caused a fire on State Road. National Grid removed.

7 p.m. False alarm at Cross Street.

**Saturday, 8/3**

4:45 p.m. Responded to Weatherheads Storage to meet with woman trying to gain entry to locker. Locker was not in her name. Gave options.

5:15 p.m. Dispatched to Laurel Lake for motor vehicle lockout. Entry gained.

5:45 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on North Street.

10:15 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with suspicious activity on Route 2.

10:45 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with underage drinking party on Camp Road.

**Sunday, 8/4**

3:50 p.m. Report of trees on wires on Old State Road. Electric company notified.

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Coming up in the next 2 weeks!

**Thursday, August 8**  
Bookmaking 2:30 to 4:30

**Saturday, August 10**  
Fandom 4 p.m.

**Monday, August 12**  
Trash to Treasures 10 a.m.

**Tuesday August 13**  
Kids' Gardening 10 to noon

**Wednesday, August 14**  
Car Maintenance 5 p.m.

**Thursday, August 15**  
Bookmaking, 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, August 17**  
First Aid in Spanish  
10 a.m.

Making Butter 11 a.m.  
Making Ice Cream 1 p.m.  
Wilderness Survival  
3 to 5 p.m.

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# MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



DENISE MILKEY PHOTO

The Reporter took a little trip to Bermuda with subscriber Brian Milkey of Montague City.

## Fifth of July Coming to the Shea



ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Fifth of July cast members (left to right) David King, Karen Webb-Hinds, Jean Devereux Koester, Regina Diemand and Alex Fortune at a rehearsal at the Shea Theater last week.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – A rare theater experience awaits as the New Renaissance Players presents Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July* at the Shea Theater. This complex, raucous, hilarious and yet powerfully serious look at the post-Vietnam era is presented through the experiences of a small group of family and friends whose lives were changed forever by the Vietnam War.

In her directorial debut, Gilana Chelimsky does a fine job of guiding the actors through a script full of rich lan-

guage, and a story vividly portrayed by actors whose seriousness about humor is evident.

There is no doubt this play will entertain while giving all who attend a lot to reflect upon. This is an ensemble piece, with cast members working together to create a realistic image of these characters as they struggle with the scars they carry and try to move forward with their lives.

Cast members are David King, Karen Webb-Hinds, Johnny Donaldson, Samantha Hinds, Jean Devereux Koester, Regina Diemand, Eric Johnson and Alex

Fortune. Emily Eaton is the stage manager.

New Renaissance Players is the Shea Theater's very own Theater Company. All of the proceeds from this show will go directly into the Shea's operating expenses.

Performance dates are Friday, August 16, Saturday, August 17, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, August 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information or to purchase tickets online please visit [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) or call (413) 863-2281. This show contains mature themes and language; viewer discretion is advised.

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*I'm Zach Bartak, playing football again, and a big believer in Baystate Franklin.*

Zach Bartak and Dr. Darius Greenbacher

Zach took a big hit during his senior season playing quarterback for Greenfield High. When he arrived at Baystate Franklin, they determined he suffered a concussion as well as a badly sprained neck.

*"But despite the injuries, I really wanted to play in my final Thanksgiving game, only weeks away," Zach says. "Dr. Darius Greenbacher, medical director of Sports & Exercise Medicine, took over my care."*

As a result of the concussion, Zach needed to give his brain a rest — cut back on schoolwork, avoid TV, video games, and texting. For the sprained neck, he needed to get intensive physical therapy from Baystate Franklin's rehab team.

*"I was highly motivated, so I did all that was asked of me and was cleared to play in the big game. Because he knew how much I wanted to play, Dr. Greenbacher came to see me practice, just to be sure I was ok."*

Zach earned a football scholarship to St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, where he will attend this fall.

For health care you can believe in, call 413-773-2220 for more information about our Sports & Exercise Medicine program.

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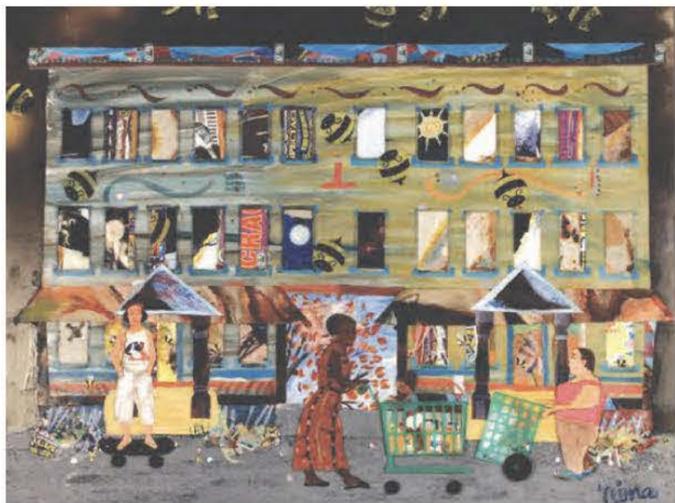
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# BLOCK PARTY TO ROCK DOWNTOWN TURNERS THIS SATURDAY



Art by Nina Rossi

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

It's that time again to celebrate our ethnic diversity, Native American history, unique neighborhoods, music and art, with the Turners Falls Block Party and Heritage festival. The Block Party takes place all along Avenue A on August 10 from 2 to 8 p.m.

As always, the festival is family friendly and free!

The party will kick off with a neighborhood parade beginning at 2 p.m. at the Discovery Center. If you want to join the parade with your neighbors or your dog, your bike, your lawn chair or your motorized chair, your kazoo or your harp, line up on the lawn outside the Discovery Center at 1:45.

The music begins at 2:30 at Spinner Park. As usual, this year's Festival features several bands.

Tawdry, featuring local musicians Hilary Graves, Kevin Smith and Josh Bowling, take the stage first. At 3:30, the Salsa/Latino band Viva Quetzal Cuarteto will shake up the Avenue with Latin roots music; Indie rockers, The Alternate Routes will perform at 5:15. The Pink Floyd cover band, Crazy Diamond will close out the music acts beginning at 6:30.

In addition to the outdoor music, comedian and lounge singer, Lenny Zarcone, brings his act to The Black Cow Burger at 3 p.m. Lenny is well known to valley audiences for his combination of warmth, humor and pure showmanship.

This year, the Block Party also includes guided tours of two important historic sites: Our Lady of Czestochowa 84 K St, will open its

doors to the public at 12:30 p.m. Explore how paper gets made at the Southworth Paper Mill at 4:30 p.m.

The day is also one that children will love. Kids will enjoy giant bubbles, hoola hooping, face painting, bouncy house, karate demonstrations and more, all on the Discovery Center lawn.

And, of course, food will be a big part of the day with a host of vendors offering up tasty treats of all sorts. Among the offerings this year will be Cliff's Smoking Backyard BBQ and Catering, Cakes by Reba, Browning Brook Maple, Bart's Ice Cream and many others. Local restaurants, including Shady Glen, Between the Uprights, Jake's, The Rendezvous, Turners Falls House of Pizza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Baking and Black Cow Burger, will also be welcoming party-goers.

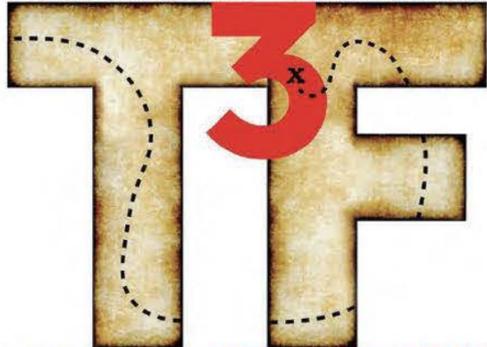
Booths housing a variety of crafts sellers will also line the avenue. Local shops Loot, Nina's Nook, Funk\*Shun, Gary's Coins and Antiques, and Madison on the Avenue will also be offering their eclectic array of collectibles, clothing, jewelry, art and accessories.

Also at Nina's Nook is the reception for Bruce Kahn for his ongoing exhibition "WTF? The Art of Bruce Kahn," featuring digital photography and photography collage.

"There is something for everyone and fun for all," says Colleen Campbell, event organizer. "Come see what our wonderful little town has to offer! This will be an event you don't want to miss!"

**August 15, 5:30 to 8:30**  
**Downtown Turners Falls**  
**TurnersFallsRiverCulture.org**

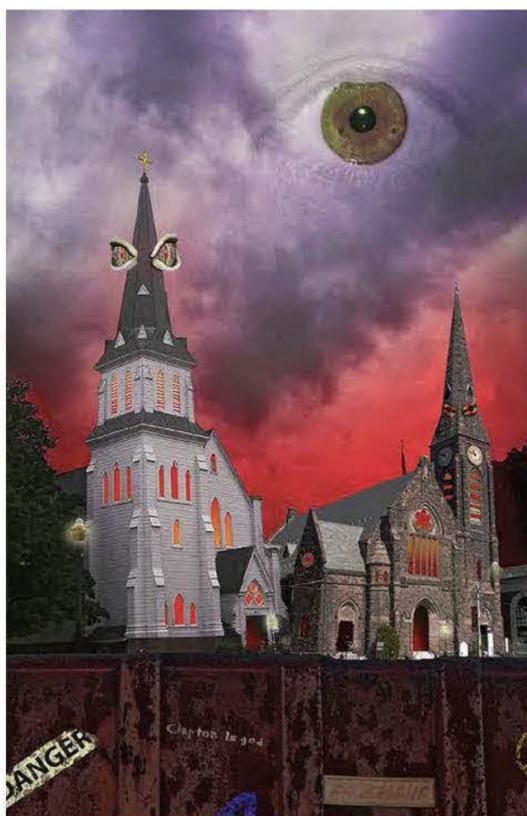
**THIRD THURSDAY TURNERS FALLS**



Third Thursday Turners Falls is a monthly arts, culture and downtown business night featuring art exhibits, open studios, musical performances, walking tours, theater, invited artisans and other attractions in the village as well as extended open hours at participating venues.

This month: Treasure Hunt Theme! Find the treasures, win prizes, have a good time. Accordion player Gus Hollingsworth on the Avenue. Raffle drawing and movie, "Muppet Treasure Island," at 8 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park.

**AUGUST 15 - TREASURE HUNT**



Art by Bruce Kahn

## Bruce Kahn at Nina's Nook

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

WTF? The Art of Bruce Kahn, featuring digital photography and photography collages, is now on view at Nina's Nook, 125 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The opening reception is this Saturday afternoon, August 10, during the Block Party. The exhibition runs through August 31.

Kahn says his current work consists largely of digital collages which tell a story. "My models are often highly modified to the point of becoming non-human, although I also use unmodified models when humanity is integral to the meaning of the piece. I use photography in the way that others use paint... to create fantasy pieces, but with the twist of appearing as if I simply photographed an existing scene."

Nina's Nook is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on August 7, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Montague Says No to Prop 2-1/2 Override**

The mood among the voters was not cheerful. Many of those interviewed said they supported education, but they voted against another tax increase to fund the schools.

Many of the no voters preferred to remain anonymous, but their opinions were widely shared, and carried the day by a 62% margin. Town-wide, 910 voted against the \$326,058 property tax hike, while 557 supported it.

**Justadream Farm to Close**

Cars stretched out for half a mile up and down Main Road on Tuesday, July 30, the day the Lillys' herd of dairy cows went on the auction block. After twenty-two years, Keith and Colleen Lilly, owners of Justadream Farm in Gill, are calling it quits, at least for now.

They got tired of waiting for milk prices to rise and

working seven days a week, week after week, year after year. Prices have sunk to less than the cost of production this past year.

**Lady Killigrew Comes to Montague**

"Pub" is short for public house, explains Matthew Latkiewicz, who with Sarah Reid, and the assistance of Mishy Lieblum, will open the Lady Killigrew any day now. A pub is really "a public gathering space" where the community can enjoy its own company without breaking the budget to do so.

He cites Greenfield's People's Pint as a model of what Team Killigrew would like to achieve. When the liquor license comes through, patrons will be able to enjoy a pint or a glass of wine with what Matthew calls "simple food – the kind that I would like to eat three times a week."

**Turners Falls Airport**

Brian Carroll, chair of the airport commission, told the selectboard the airport provides Montague with a great opportunity to capitalize on

its position at the intersection of Route 2 and I-91 to bring new corporate growth to town by providing an important selling point for the adjoining industrial park. But he stressed the current 3,000-foot runway has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

The plan to expand it to 4,200 feet would enable larger corporate jets that now use the nearby Orange airport – where revenues have tripled since the runway was expanded to 5,000 feet – to safely land at Turners Falls.

**Editorial: Support our Family Farms**

It goes against the grain of Yankee self-reliance, and the hard work ethic of farmers everywhere, to have the price of your wares artificially set by the government.

To be told you can only get \$10 or \$12 a hundredweight – less than they were paid in 1980 – because the price of milk is pegged to the price of cheese or butter in Minnesota and Wisconsin makes little sense to New England dairy farmers.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Skate Drama Not The Only Thing That Happened This Week

By JEFF SINGLETON

In other news from the August 5 meeting, the selectboard responded to two complaints filed under the state's Open Meeting Law. The first complaint argued that the board had consulted to modify a permit for filming in Millers Falls without calling a public meeting as required by the law.

The board admitted the violation, but suggested that a permit change was necessary prior to a posted meeting. The board discussed changing its policies so the chair, in consultation with department heads, can make a similar emergency decision in the future, receiving approval after the fact by a quorum of the committee at a posted meeting.

A second complaint involved an exemption for the Millers Falls Road sewer repair that involved health and safety issues. The complaint alleged that since two members of the selectboard are

also on the Board of Health, the discussion and vote were in effect illegal meetings of that board. The selectboard, under advice from the legal firm that represents the town, rejected that complaint since the Board of Health in its official capacity had not been involved in the issue.

Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother passed out a list of proposed changes in town permitting policy, arguing that permits for events were frequently being requested "at the last minute" without sufficient time for the board to seriously consider them. The proposals were tabled for future discussion.

Ironically, the board then approved a request by the Montague Riverculture for two permits for mid-August events – one for a family-friendly movie, and another for a "roving performer" (either a musician or a clown, depending on availability).

The board "unappointed" Albert Cummings to be Veterans Graves officer and ap-

pointed John Murphy in his place, apparently correcting a previous error.

The board also unanimously appointed Charles Kelly to the Cable Advisory Committee. Chair Mark Fairbrother, noting that Kelly can at times be "passionate" in expressing his beliefs, had spoken with Kelly about his role on the CAC and supported the appointment.

Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems, please email: poetry@montaguereporter.org for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page.

Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to the

Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unpleasant Odor in Lake Pleasant Dumpster

**Monday, July 22**  
8:12 a.m. Bat captured in office at Community Health Center. Released.  
10:26 a.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering over the weekend at a Fourth Street apartment.  
4:17 p.m. Threatening/harassment on Chestnut Street in Turners Falls. Summons issued.  
4:58 p.m. Threatening/harassment reported in connection with an ongoing dog dispute that is the subject of a hearing at Town Hall this evening. Services rendered.

**Tuesday, July 23**  
12:06 p.m. Disabled tractor-trailer unit blocked intersection at paper mill on Canal Street, causing a large backup of traffic. Services rendered.  
1:10 p.m. Box of nails spilled on Turners Falls Road. DPW advised.  
**Wednesday, July 24**  
6:52 a.m. Noisy train idling near Franklin St. in Millers Falls compounded by chainsaw use in same vicinity. Report taken.  
11:36 a.m. Complaint of shoes stolen on multiple occasions from outside a Millers Falls apartment door. Caller advised to consider keeping shoes inside apartment.  
9:32 p.m. Two females

seen ripping down sign on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Parties identified; sign replaced; parties advised of better ways to entertain themselves.  
9:49 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Thursday, July 25**  
5:50 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute.  
**Saturday, July 27**  
3:08 a.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with multiple motor vehicle violations, including operating a motor vehicle with a minor transporting/carrying alcoholic beverages.  
1:31 p.m. A Winthrop Street resident was bitten multiple times by a neighbor's pit bull, sustaining significant injuries. Owner and dog left scene in car immediately after incident. Victim transported to hospital. Report taken.  
4:23 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and battery.  
6:27 p.m. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon and transporting/carrying an alcoholic beverage as a minor.  
7:57 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a probation warrant.  
9:30 p.m. Two highly inebriated subjects were reported shooting a flare gun off the porch of a Central Street apartment building. Responding officers issued summons.  
11:27 p.m. Report of a loud party with possible underage drinking on Woodland Drive. Second call reported a broken window at a nearby residence, presumably connected with the party that was going on. Officers responded and found 200-300 parties in attendance. Parties were cleared out; report taken.  
**Sunday, July 28**  
12:17 a.m. Verbal altercation between bystanders and occupants of a vehicle speeding in parking lot at Second Street and Avenue A; threats allegedly issued by vehicle passenger. Officers spoke to several parties; verbal warnings issued.  
6:33 a.m. Witness reported hit-and-run incident on J Street. Victim evaluated by TFFD. Sub-

ject identified as driver alleged that following an argument, the victim had thrown himself onto her car.  
[redacted] was arrested by Greenfield police and transferred to MPD, where she was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.  
11:43 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on probable cause and transferred to the Greenfield Police Department.  
7:03 p.m. Caller reported that his pit bull was stolen and driven away from his residence on Silver Street in Greenfield. Dog was located on Woodland Drive; subject stated that she thought that the dog belonged to her friend and was lost two years ago. Friend, who had a pit bull puppy removed from him by court order for abuse in 2011, stated that it was not his dog. Dog brought to shelter; original caller notified; owners reunited with dog.  
8:11 p.m. Two arrests made in connection with a domestic disturbance on West Mineral Road.  
**Monday, July 29**  
8:24 a.m. Complaint of a strong odor, "as if something died," over

the past three days near Montague St. in Lake Pleasant. Officer located dumpster on 9th Ave. and confirmed that "it is really bad." Owner advised.  
9:30 a.m. Second call regarding odor in Lake Pleasant. Caller's mother heard it was coming from a dumpster. Confirmed.  
12:48 p.m. Raccoon reported flopping around near 40 Court Square. Caller stated that he saw the same raccoon last night. Unable to locate.  
2:55 p.m. Report of male wearing shorts and no shirt running in and out of traffic with a rake at Plains Road and Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.  
3:30 p.m. Reports of an older looking male operating a grey vehicle pulling up near an apartment and photographing two women. Caller advised that there is no law against taking pictures of people outside.  
9:25 p.m. Woman reported missing from Hatchery Road; had left home approximately 12 hours earlier. Relatives had not heard from her; Montague Plains area searched. Described as white female, 4'10", with long, blond, curly/frizzy hair, last seen wearing grey sweatpants and a

pink top. Party entered as missing in national database.  
11:23 p.m. Report of several teens fighting in front of the senior center on Fifth Street. Officers responded; determined that individuals were wrestling and "getting their energy out in a positive way." Gathering dispersed.  
**Tuesday, July 30**  
2:41 p.m. Caller reported that as she was walking in Lake Pleasant, a man in a small red car followed her, stopped, and took pictures of her. Unable to locate vehicle or operator. Caller advised of options.  
8:15 p.m. Bicycle reported stolen on Keith Street.  
10:11 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with failing to stop at a stop sign; lacking an inspection sticker; and operating a vehicle with a suspended license.  
**Wednesday, July 31**  
1:03 a.m. Officer approached two parties, hunched over in the alley near Scotty's convenience store on Unity Street. Male was attempting to charge cell phone on exterior outlet. Parties sent on their way.  
2:28 a.m. A 19 year old Conway resident was arrested in Turners Falls

on charges of domestic assault and battery.  
6:32 a.m. Sick possum reported walking in circles in the middle of Central Street.  
1:00 p.m. Report of possible mail tampering on Randall Wood Drive. Report taken.  
4:14 p.m. Bear reported on back deck eating from bird feeder. Info/advice given to caller.  
10:01 p.m. Greenfield police took two parties into custody in connection with breaking and entering/burglary incidents in Turners Falls and Greenfield.  
**Thursday, August 1**  
6:24 p.m. Attempted breaking and entering reported on Avenue A. Report taken; area will be monitored.  
**Saturday, August 3**  
1:38 a.m. A Vermont woman was taken into protective custody after attempting to drive the wrong way over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.  
10:51 p.m. Caller reported a man lying in a ditch on Green Pond Road. Party found to be intoxicated. Released into care of his grandmother.  
**Sunday, August 4**  
10:50 a.m. Sick woodchuck reported in a garage on Burnett Street.

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD Meeting Over Quickly

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

On July 31, the Wendell selectboard's meeting closest to midsummer's night was short. Selectboard member Dan Keller was away, and board chair Christine Heard was ready for a short meeting. The third board member, Jeffrey Pooser, did not object to the short agenda.

The town treasurer, Carolyn Manley reported that she had not yet received payment for the back taxes and fees on the occupied house the town acquired through land court proceedings. After that the owner contacted her and arranged to pay, but Manley said that after a land court taking only the selectboard has the right to accept back payment.

As she said at the June 19 meeting when she first brought this house to the board's attention, the town cannot have tenants. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich added that

the town's insurance does not cover rental property. Until the owner makes his payment the town is in an awkward legal position.

The owner has shown some good faith, but he said that freeing the money has taken longer than expected, and he has not paid yet. The selectboard gave Manley authority to accept a check and together they decided to give him until Wednesday August 7 to make his payment and return to owning the property. Without some communication from him by then the town would have to begin an eviction process.

Pam Richardson did not come to this meeting but she sent to Aldrich the wording for a plaque for the Japanese Maple that was planted on Old Home Day. The Plaque will be white pine and will read, "In Solidarity with Fukushima March 11, 2011."

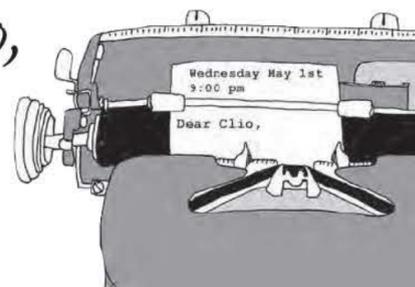
Town clerk, Gretchen Smith reported that there are still unregis-

tered dogs in town. Veterinarians will send notice of a rabies vaccination to the town and that makes her aware of vaccinated dogs who have not yet been registered. The fee for a spayed female is \$4. The town will begin the process of getting full compliance by having police chief Ed Chase write letters to delinquent dog owners. Selectboard members do not want to take the issue to court as do Athol and Orange.

Sharon Wachslar sent an e mail stating that she does not want the Wendell access committee to be merely an advisory group, but a full town committee. The selectboard may form an advisory group at any meeting, but a full town committee can only be created by a town meeting vote.

Aldrich relayed an invitation to the selectboard to participate in Warwick's 250th anniversary parade Saturday, August 24, 2013.

Dear Clio,



Dear Clio,

"Kathy" and I have been married for three years. We're very happy together. The problem is her parents, who have never approved of me.

Kathy's dad particularly doesn't like me. He's an executive. Her mom is a housewife. I'm a carpenter. I dropped out of high school but got a GED. Kathy has a Masters degree and is a social worker. Whenever the family is together, her father manages to make some comment about me that is anything but nice. I know he thinks I'm not a good catch.

Clio, I work hard and make decent money. I love Kathy, but it's really hard putting up with her parents. She doesn't stick up for me. She just says her dad is like that, and that there is nothing she can do.

What can I do to prove to him I'm really a good guy? If I can't do that, how can I get him to stop belittling me?

This is a real problem, and it's starting to put a wedge between the two of us.

Sincerely,  
Really a Good Guy

Dear RGG,

You want to prove to Kathy's dad that you are a good guy. I think that you have proven that already, by being a responsible, loving husband with a good job. Those things alone make you a good catch. Unfortunately Kathy's dad doesn't see it. I would hate to see you spend your energy trying to prove yourself to him, since he doesn't recognize a good thing when it's right in front of him.

Parents-in-law are notorious for being difficult. The problem is that Kathy has had her whole life to figure out how her parents think. She has also had many years to come up with the best ways to deal with them. Maybe she has learned how to not take her father's comments personally, or else which answers will shut him up.

The thing is that she has been working on this problem since she was a baby, and you haven't. Now you have to spend just as much time with her parents as she does without the same coping strategies in place.

Kathy's long experience with her parents makes her the perfect person to help you in this situation. First, she needs to understand the problem. Perhaps she is so used to her father's behavior that it does not feel insulting and infuriating to her. She just thinks, "Oh there he goes again," and wonders why you can't do the same.

Make it clear to Kathy that you feel hurt and angry when her father treats you this way. Kathy thinks

that just living with it is an option. Tell her that it is not. I think you can tell her that it is affecting your feelings about the marriage.

Once Kathy realizes that you can't just ignore the insulting comments, it will be up to her to find a creative solution. An easy one would be seeing her parents less.

If Kathy values the time that she spends with her parents, and hopefully she does, then she will need to find a way to make time with her parents somewhat pleasant for you. Maybe she can say great things about you to her dad. Maybe talking privately with her mom is the right choice. Maybe Kathy can just tell her dad to stop when he starts insulting you. Maybe it would be enough to put her arm around you to let everyone know she is on your side.

Kathy knows her family, and can figure out strategies that will work. Once the two of you have come up with some ideas, don't expect everything to be perfect right away. Relationships always take work, especially difficult ones. The main thing is that you and Kathy start moving in the right direction with her parents so that you can feel positive in your marriage.

I am sure that Kathy knows what a great husband she has and wants to keep you happy. Just in case this slips her mind in the critical moment, however, it wouldn't hurt to remind her, just before seeing her parents, that she promised to help out.

Also, if she misses something and doesn't stick up for you, be sure to tell her about it later when you are at home. Maybe she is so used to her father's behavior that she just doesn't notice some of his comments. If you can help her see the behavior through your eyes, I believe that she will work to make each visit a little better.

Many people learn to deal with, or ideally, to care about, their in-laws over time. I am sure that you can move in this direction once you and Kathy are on the same team. It sounds like the two of you have something really good. By speaking honestly and working together, may you transform this challenge into an opportunity to strengthen your relationship.

Yours,  
Clio

### A Reader Responds to Clio...

Read your response to "Miserable, Frustrated, and Angry." Could have been written by Meryl Streep in *Hope Springs!* Do you know the movie?

Judith Wobst  
Leverett

## Evil Phone Company Zaps Neighborhood Newspaper



The editor-in-chief attempts, in vain, to rectify the situation.

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** — Last evening, in the middle of our usual mad rush to get out this edition of the paper, we began to receive emails from folks informing us that our telephone line was constantly busy.

"Where are you?" asked one person who was desperately trying to get in touch with us. We were here, of course, as we always are on Wednesday night, working away rather quietly. Quietly. That is to say, the phone hadn't rung once for hours and hours.

We picked up the receiver on our landline. It was, of course, dead. Though some of the younger folks here at the paper have no real sense that wires are occasionally connected to phones, one old geezer, the editor, knew in a flash that we were a victim of wiring gone awry.

Since we knew that all the good

folks at [telephone company name redacted] had long since gone home, the editor pulled out his Swiss army knife and began to check the phone jack. He found one wire loose; he tightened it; the phone was still dead.

He next retrieved his wire testers. To his dismay, juice was simply not flowing. [Telephone company name redacted], whom we reached on a cell phone, told us that it was all their fault, which we already knew, and that they were really sorry but couldn't do anything about it until tomorrow.

We were as phoneless as a city slicker trying to use his cell phone in the wooliest wilds of Wendell. But, as is pretty obvious, we still managed to get out the paper.

And since we believe in reporting all the news we can, we also decided to keep our readers abreast of our latest woes. We hope that any frustrated callers will call us again. On our landline: 863-8666.

If you have read this far, we can surely count you among our most loyal readers. So we will let you in on a little secret as a sign of gratitude: on Monday, *The Montague Reporter* signed a lease on a new office.

Six years ago, on the weekend of the first Turners Falls Block Party in August 2007, we moved into our present confines, a former dentist's office in the basement of a beautiful Victorian house on Fourth Street.

Our landlords have been gracious and supportive, it was a short commute for the editor, and the office kept warm in the winter and cool in the summer. But change is the only constant, and the wheel's still in spin.

By the end of this month, assuming nothing unexpected and terrible happens, we will be all moved and open for business in a new, spacious storefront office on Avenue A.

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Ten Feet More of Parking at Gill Elementary; Second Nuke Siren at Northfield Mount Hermon

By MIKE JACKSON

At its July 29 meeting, the Gill Selectboard approved the paving of a larger parking lot at Gill Elementary, and the purchase of several pieces of fire and emergency equipment. It also approved the transfer of funds from Meals on Wheels into housing rehab, contingent on partner towns' agreement, and agreed with a request to the state to install a second siren on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus for a nuclear emergency at Vermont Yankee.

The slow but determined litany of approval was interrupted only when the reported size of a resident's koi pond prompted the board to withdraw a sewer abatement it had briefly passed, so that someone could investigate whether the pond should have required a building permit first.

MJ Adams, Director of Community Development at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), attended the meeting to explain a proposal to shift funds earmarked local for Meals on Wheels to housing rehabilitation. The FCRHRA administers a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) shared by Gill, Erving, Colrain and Deerfield.

The \$180,060 dedicated to Meals on Wheels in the FY'12 CDBG budget turned out to be far more than needed, said Adams, and in fact was based on "some sort of miscalculation." She estimates that a third of that should be "sufficient, based on current demand" for the program, which delivers meals to homebound elders.

The FCRHRA is asking the towns served by the grant to approve the shift of \$120,000 to housing rehab, a "lion's share" of which may end up in Gill's account, where 5 projects have been funded but 12 remain on the waiting list. Colrain

and Deerfield each have 5 on their waiting lists, and while Erving has 11, that town also has a high balance sitting in its housing rehabilitation revolving fund account, which can be tapped after the grant is spent. Adams and her colleague Deb Little, the program manager, planned to make the rounds of the other three towns, seeking approval of the midstream correction.

A concern expressed by selectboard member John Ward about whether such a move would jeopardize future Meals on Wheels was addressed by Adams, who clarified that the CDBG money is not the primary source of the program's income, and that she didn't expect it would create a "backlash" in any case. The selectboard gave the FCRHRA its blessing for the proposal.

Highway Superintendent Mickey LaClaire spoke about the elementary school parking lot, the narrowness of which was cause for complaint and confusion at this summer's town meeting. "We're ten feet shy," confirmed LaClaire: the 110-foot-long lot should be sixty feet wide, but it is only fifty.

The lot will need to be expanded and repaved on short notice. The good news for the town is that the recently installed guardrail can stay where it is, but the bad is that staff will be starting the school year on Monday, August 26 in preparation for the arrival of students on Thursday, August 29. Administrative assistant Ray Purington pointed out this requires "very quick turnaround" to get the job listed in the state's Central Register for the required two weeks before the town can accept a bid.

LaClaire estimated that the paving itself could be done in eight hours, as long as the town handled the pre-work and prepara-

tion. Bad weather could push the job into September. The selectboard authorized the job, and authorized Purington to sign the contract for them. Feedback from an August 7 meeting at the elementary school, called by Principal Kathleen Adams, would be taken into account.

The parking lot job is expected to be listed in the Register from August 7 to 21, leaving a week or less for a contractor to schedule and complete the work.

Moving along in the agenda, Purington reported that consultants Tighe & Bond had emailed that day to confirm that their study of recent high wastewater flow showed a strong correlation of high flow with heavy rainfall, indicating groundwater infiltration of sewer pipes. He expressed hope that the town could take the next steps of tracking down the problem "in-house, with Tighe & Bond's guidance," to conserve money.

The board briefly discussed logistics for the Wheeling for Healing Charity Bicycle Ride, on the morning of Sunday, August 25. The ride asks to set up a water station in Gill as in past years. The board approved this, noting that it has generated very little trash in the past.

It also approved the appointments of Kathy Augustine and Anne Wiley, as Registrar and an Election Worker, respectively, both through June 30 of next year.

A \$98.82 sewer abatement request submitted to the town by Linda Chudzik was rapidly and reflexively approved before the board realized that the 730 cubic feet sounded like an awful lot of room for koi. The approval was withdrawn temporarily while the town checks to make sure the pond shouldn't have needed a building permit.

Next up was a string of items for emergency prepared-

ness. Fire Chief Gene Beaubien spoke on behalf of his department. The first request was a new thermal imager, to replace the older of the two the department currently owns.

"In the old days," explained Beaubien, "if the chimney felt warm, you started taking down the sheetrock..." Thermal imagers help firefighters quickly identify the location and extent of hotspots to make their approach to the fire quicker and safer. The estimate for a replacement is \$3,995, a rate secured by the town's membership in the Franklin County Fire Chiefs' Association, and it may be possible to get a \$250 rebate for trading in the old imager.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier spelled out the rationale for keeping two imagers. "If you roll up to my house at three in the morning, and the first one dies, I want you to have another one." The board approved the purchase.

Next in the shopping cart was a strobe LED light for the rescue boat, costing \$620. Low visibility on the river during a nighttime rescue in early July, in which the Turners Falls department towed a distressed vessel to safety while Gill attended as backup, prompted this request. "It makes sense," noted selectboard member Ann Banash. "We have a river."

Beaubien then continued the meeting in his capacity as the town's emergency management director. A grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency would cover the next item submitted for the board's approval, four handheld GPS devices expected to total \$2,030 in cost. Department members attended a recent training in Turners Falls for the use of such devices in man-hunts, and in mapping the perimeters of brush fires. Software on the

devices can calculate the area of an encircled perimeter, and the devices can instantly locate each other, a useful tool for interdepartmental and interagency operations. The board approved the purchase.

Beaubien expressed his approval of the emergency shelter plan proposed by the Franklin Regional County of Governments (FRCOG). The area's primary shelter is proposed to be the Franklin County Technical School. There is a possibility of Northfield Mount Hermon providing a backup shelter in case the river is not traversable. The selectboard endorsed the draft plan.

Beaubien and the board agreed to sign a letter requesting a second emergency siren be installed on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus, as there have been many reports that not everyone living within the ten-mile radius of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant can hear the existing siren during its monthly test blast.

Sirens located in Colrain, Leyden, Bernardston, Gill and Northfield are managed by the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham. Some residents living in the north part of town have reported they don't hear the siren's monthly test.

"In a radiological emergency," quipped Ward, "the radiation will stop at that ten-mile boundary."

Finally, the board and fire department discussed an invitation to Warwick's 250th year anniversary celebration, a parade to be held in that town on the morning of August 24. Regrettably, none of the members, nor the fire chief, could commit to serving as an ambassador. The conversation turned to Gill's own bicentennial celebration in 1993. "My first act as selectman was to march in that," said Banash. The 225th year of Gill (the quasibicentennial?) is coming up fast.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Break-Ins on Mountain and West Gill; Party on Camp Road

##### Monday, July 22

5:30 a.m. Trees reported on wires on West Gill Road. Traffic detoured.

8:20 a.m. Truck operating erratically on Route 2, near Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

12:15 p.m. Stolen checks reported at French King Highway business.

11:35 a.m. Breaking & entering reported at Mountain Road residence. Under investigation.

10:55 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a fight on Avenue A.

10 p.m. Person reported crying at Taylor Place residence. Assisted same.

4:10 p.m. 911 hangup call from Meadow Street

residence. All OK.

Friday, July 26  
11:20 a.m. Welfare check-in on Munn's Ferry Road.

5 p.m. Restraining order issued at West Gill Road residence.

6:40 p.m. Security alarm reported at West Gill Road residence. All OK.

6:55 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle reported at Factory Hollow. Assisted same.

7:15 p.m. Arrest on Main Road for past assault and battery.

10:30 p.m. Caller from Riverside complained about music from boat club. Told to call again if music not off soon.

Saturday, July 27  
9:50 p.m. Complaint of fireworks in Riverside area. Checked same.

10:35 p.m. Motor ve-

hicle accident at Route 2 intersection. No injuries.

Sunday, July 28  
2:30 p.m. Suspicious man reported at Oak Ridge Golf Course.

4:30 p.m. Arrested resident on North Cross Road for outstanding warrants.

5:40 p.m. Arrested resident of Main Road for driving with a suspended license. Same will be summoned to court by Greenfield PD for a hit-and-run accident.

Monday, July 29  
11:45 a.m. Dog bite incident reported at French King Highway residence.

3 p.m. Rabid raccoon reported on West Gill Road. Gone on arrival.

Tuesday, July 30  
7 p.m. Stolen stereo

items located in the wooded area off Mountain Road.

7:35 p.m. Doors open at a Main Road home. Nothing seems missing.

7:55 p.m. False alarm at a Mountain Road residence.

Friday, August 2  
7:50 a.m. West Gill Road resident reported past breaking & entering into home. Under investigation.

11:30 a.m. Assisted Department of Children and Families on Dole Road.

2:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle trailer at Jan's package store. Damage to roadway noted.

3:40 p.m. Medical emergency on Munn's Ferry Road.

7:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Gill

Road. Assisted with tow.

Saturday, August 3

10:30 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicles at Route 2 business. Same all moved along.

10:50 p.m. Camp Road resident reported numerous motor vehicles in the area. He is arming himself for protection.

11 p.m. Large youth party reported on Camp Road. Cleared all parties out while contacting parents. Assisted by Northfield, Erving, and Bernardston PD.

Sunday, August 4

10:20 a.m. French King Highway resident reports more of his trees have been poisoned. Under investigation.

1:45 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at the Wagon Wheel.

### MCTV Offers Video Classes for Beginners

MCTV is seeking five beginning or advanced beginning students for four training sessions between August 12-22.

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### NORTHFIELD: FREE WEEKLY PLAYGROUP

Come and enjoy time with your child(ren) and other families and caregivers from your community at the Northfield Mountain Environmental and Recreation Center, 99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, on Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon.

sports game?

Let us know which evenings are best for you, and whether you can begin at 6 or 6:30 p.m., and train until 9 or 9:30. No class will be offered on Monday the 19th.

This class is highly recommended, and will soon be required, for all who wish to use MCTV's equipment and/or crew on TV productions with us. We'll be offering it at least once or twice every other month.

Let us know if you are home schooling or are unavailable in the evenings and would like a daytime class in the fall. Contact Cindy Tarail at 863-9200.

The Playgroup is facilitated by Samantha Wondolowski. We will be enjoying special storytelling and musical guests, hiking the trails, and creating art!

Playgroup is intended for kids 0-8 years of age from any community. It runs until August 23. For more information please contact the CNC Coordinator, Gillian Budine, (978) 544-5157 or email budine@erving.com.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**ONGOING:**

**EVERY SUNDAY**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic session*, 10:30 a.m.

**EVERY TUESDAY**

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, environmental program for ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.

The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

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

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

Avenue A & 2nd St., Turners Falls: *Farmers Market*. 2 - 6 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**

Montague Center Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers are invited. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip, and Schultz* from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

**ART SHOWS:**

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *WTF??*, featuring digital photography and collage by *Bruce Kahn*. Through August 31.

**EVENTS:**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8**

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *AlbinoTree*, with Guy DeVito, Al Guimaraes, Billy Klock and Joe Boyle. 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*, funky-tonk. Free, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9**

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Banish Misfortune*, traditional Irish and Scottish music. Refreshments. 7 to 9 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Miyazaki's *My Neighbor Totoro*. Color, 86 min. G. Music before the show: *Ken Swiatek*, folk, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Montague Bookmill: *Trine Cheile*, original Celtic music. \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: Art opening and concert: *Patti Rothberg*, indie pop rock. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Janet Ryan & Straight Up*, blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*, renegade blues, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 10**

Downtown Turners Falls: Block Party and Heritage Festival. 2 to 10 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Avenue A, Turners Falls: Reception for *WTF?? The Art of Bruce Kahn*. 2 to 6 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Outdoor Café Day*, with DJs, cornhole tournament, giveaways and fundraisers. Music at the Extra Point Nightclub, 7 to 10 p.m., *Jimmy Just Quit*, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., *DJ MIA*. Fun during the Block Party.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Miyazaki's *My Neighbor Totoro*. Color, 86 min. G. Music before the show: *Dick Moulding*, rompin' rags, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Scream to be Heard* Entertainment presents: five bands, underage show. 7 to 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Joe Young*, indie folk singer/songwriter, with special guest *Christie Leigh*, country pop folk. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Hee Hawk*, jazz/americana, with *Adam Howl* and *Rambling Kind*. \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Eve Christoph* and *Cesar Santana*. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, chicago-style blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: SaturdayFunday with *Bryan Gillig*, *Bangtail Cat*, and *Maybe Marlene*. Free, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Cal Folger Day*, country folk pop punk. 2:30 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Remote Desire*, *Sucked Dry*, *Snot Rocket*, and *Secret Parts*. Punk. \$, 7 pm, all ages/substance free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Steve Crow*, *Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, warped americana. 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 12**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nick's Sweet '80s Movie Night: *Cannonball Run II*. Free, 9 p.m.

Feeding Tube Records, Northampton: *Aykroyd*, *Psychic Blood*, and *LL Beans*. 10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13**

Gill Common: Friends of Gill presents *the Romeos*, barbershop at its local best. Music and refreshments. Rain location is the Congregational Church. Free, 7 to 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, with special guest *Al Laughlin* of the Samples, reggae, r&b, ska. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Open Mike Cabaret*. Sign-up at 7:30; starts at 8 p.m. Free.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Flightless Buttress*, instrumental folk, with special guest *Jared Salvatore*, pop. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Simon White & Boo Pearson*, acoustic reggae. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15**

Downtown Turners Falls: *Third Thursday Turners Falls (T3F)*. Music, strolling, open studios and shops. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a treasure hunt. Raffle drawing at dusk in Peskeomskut Park, followed by a screening of *Muppet Treasure Island*.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Choral Concert. Amherst-based *Da Camera Singers* sing Eric Sawyer's original composition "Anterooms," as well as pieces by Tomkins, Weelkes, Billings, Whitacre, and Janequin. Violinist *Elizabeth Chang* is the guest artist. 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. Free, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*, acoustic rock. 8 to 11:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July*. 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Wildcat O'Halloran*, blues. \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls:

*Pamela Means*, folk, jazz, rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and much more. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Jazz with *Pat Garland*, *Sam French*, *Matt Clegg*, and *Michael Gleason*. \$, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Technicolor Teeth*, *Ukiah Drag*, *Potty Mouth*, *Neutral Fixation*, and *Longings*. All ages, substance free. \$, 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July*. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Reading by *Catherine Gammon*. Free, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Alan Williams*, of *Birdsong at Morning*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Samirah Evans' annual Leo Party*. Vocalists and musicians welcome to join Evans and her *Handsome Devils* in celebration of her birthday, and those of all Leos. \$, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: Wendell Old Home Day, with *Zydeco Connection*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, dance party. \$, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July*. 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Brian Dolzani*, alt folk rock. 2:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall Museum, Old Deerfield: the *Valtchev-Tchekorotova Violin and Piano Duo*, performing Brahms and Frank. \$, 3 p.m.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 19**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo Night*. It was his name-o.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, with special guest *Ray Mason*, blues. 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21**

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Barbara Cassidy Band*, folk americana. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *QuizNite* with Quizmaster Alex. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield Arts Block: Yes Exactly Anniversary Party with *Rebel Base* and *Daniel Hales and the frost heaves*. \$, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *The Demographic*, loud rock two-piece, with the *Dire Honeys*. \$, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Zak Trojano*, of *Rusty Belle*, and singer/songwriter *Sorcha*. \$, 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dancerteria*, with DJs *Just Joan* and *Andujar*. Free, 9:30 p.m.

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# Old Home Day in Wendell...



KAREN COPELAND PHOTO

L to R: Lynne Meryl, Terri Koehler, Annie Diemand, Clearwater Liberty. Weaving by Clearwater Liberty. Undated picture from a Wendell Old Home Day past!



DIANE DOLAN PHOTO

Fire trucks parade during Montague Old Home Days.

## ...and Montague

Old Home Days held in Montague Center are a mainstay of the late summer and have been for over 50 years. Sponsored and organized by members of the First Congregational Church on North Street in Montague Center as well as others in the village. Old Home Days year after year present a wide variety of low-tech, but high fun activities for little more than a song.

This year's events begin on Saturday August 17 at 7:30 a.m. with registration for the celebrated Mug Race and continue throughout the day with everything from a Quilt display to a parade, a magic show, music and dancing. Sunday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. there will be a buffet Country breakfast, and at 11 a.m. an Old Home Days Worship Service featuring Montague's own Dr. Paul Mariani speaking on "The New and the Old" with special music by soloist Charles Hunting.

If you are a crafter wishing to sell your work, please call the Crafters Wanted line at (413) 367-2061.

By KAREN COPELAND

It's time to get the energies movin'!

Saturday, August 17 is officially Wendell Old Home Day celebrating another year of being a creative, unique and magical community!

The day begins with the Kids Parade at 11:30 a.m., which this year will include Madam Donna

riding on her sacred elephant, as well as the initiation of the Wendell Marching Band, and, of course, kids, bikes, kazoo's and fun.

Following the parade comes "poetry energy" featuring a kids' poetry slam at around 12:15 p.m. Get out your pens and computers and voices.

The Wendell energy will be everywhere: at 11:15 a.m., a special dedication for the Meetinghouse

renovation project will occur at the gazebo.

The Wendell Common will be hopping with a huge tag sale, kids games, the famous Mushroom Museum (if Mother Nature cooperates), as well as the farmers market, local art, crafts, drumming, yoga, and lots of food...including food from the famous Diemand Egg Farm, home-made fries, ice cream, barbecue and more.

There will also be demonstrations of some new solar/alternative energy items, including a "Solar Cooker."

Music begins at 1 p.m. with Francis Doughty, followed by many local musical heroes, including The Equalites and Simon White and Friends for the reggae

vibes; singer-songwriter Carrie Ferguson; a special appearance by Boys Night Out featuring Jeffrey Bauman for that rock and roll feeling; The Bear Mountain Boys to give you the blues; Annie Hassett and Julia Burroughs, Ajika drums, and many other musical surprises.

All activities happen on the Wendell Common. The festivities begin with the Kids Parade at 11:30 a.m.; the music goes on until 7 p.m.

For more information call Karen at (978) 544-7352 or email at kckeepthebeat@yahoo.com.

Food vendors must get a permit in advance from Wendell Board of Health.

This is a rain or shine kind of a day...a happy day!

## Montague Old Home Days

Montague Center, Massachusetts  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013

7:30 am	Mug Race registration
8:00	White Elephant Tag Sale
8:30	Mug Race start
8:35	Mini Mug Race/Walk start
9:00	Quilt display, Booths, & Games open
10:30	Soloist Dusty Dufresne
11:30	North County Line Dancers
12:30 pm	Celtic Heels Dancers
1:30	Old Home Days Parade
2:00	Karen's Dance Studio
3:30	Magic from Ed the Wizard
4:00	Ruby's Complaint
8:00	Drawing Results

Crafters wanted  
Call 413-367-2061

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013

8:00-10:30 am	Country Breakfast Buffet Adults \$10 Children \$5
11:00 am	Old Home Days Worship Service Dr. Paul Mariani delivers the message "The New and the Old" Special Music by Soloist Charles Hunting <a href="http://www.montaguechurch.org">www.montaguechurch.org</a>

## Montague Mug Race is On and Poppin'



DIANE DOLAN PHOTO

Mug Race participants shoot off from the starting line.

The 33rd annual Montague Mug Race will be held on Saturday, August 17. This 5.5-mile road race "blasts off" at 8:30 a.m. from the Village Common. Pewter Mugs are awarded to the top male and female finishers, and coffee mugs to the top finishers of each division. Tee shirts go to first 100 runners.

Now in its ninth year, the Mini Mug race will kick off at 8:35 a.m.

This course is 2 miles, and is a great scenic route around the Old South Cemetery. Both races will finish at the ball field. All runners are entered into drawing for local prizes.

The course is well-marked, with plenty of water stops, and features a few challenging hills with a run along the Connecticut River.

Registration forms are located at the YMCA, Body Shoppe, Mon-

tagne Post Office, and Montague Parks and Recreation. Runners may also register online at [runreg.com](http://runreg.com).

Proceeds benefit Montague Old Home Days and the Fire Association, which has requested their share go directly to the One Fund Boston this year.

For more info, contact Ann Fisk at 367-2812 or [shollow@crocker.com](mailto:shollow@crocker.com).

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