



## It Ain't London Greenfield's Tri- er... Bi-athlon

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## Rescued Kestrels Take Wing

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LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

MONTAGUE CENTER

MONTAGUE CITY

TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 42

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 9, 2012

## Window Replacement Still Incomplete at Elementary School



DETMOLD PHOTO

*The Green Repair project has not gone smoothly at Leverett Elementary*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**LEVERETT** – There are just about 20 days left before school starts at the Leverett Elementary School, and the window replacement project is going anything but smoothly. The Green Repair project, meant to tighten up energy use in the original 50-year old section of the brick schoolhouse, was budgeted at \$564,249, with about 50% of the cost to be paid for by the Massachusetts School Building Authority from moneys provided by the Obama administration's stimulus bill. In order to qualify for state matching funds, the town of Leverett had to agree to submit to certain project guidelines, including hiring an architect from a small pool of candidates mainly based in Boston.

The town ended up drawing DiMarinisi and Wolfe, a Boston-based architectural firm which "strives to create superior design, value and experience for [its] clients," according to its website. After first sizing the replacement windows inaccurately, then failing to notice that the win-

dows being replaced had no true structural support above them to adequately support the school roof, DiMarinisi and Wolfe would be unlikely to be hired again by the town to design a dog house, much less to repair its elementary school.

The selectboard called an emergency meeting with the finance committee on Wednesday, August 8th, after board chair Rich Brazeau spent much of the last two weeks, with the help of former school maintenance man John Kuczek, troubleshooting the troubled project, working with county building inspector Jim Cerone and project manager Brian Laroche to devise a last-minute structural fix to keep the roof from collapsing when the new windows are finally installed. It seemed for a while that the long-ago-ordered windows, coming from a Midwestern window manufacturer called Peerless, might have to be cancelled at the last minute, because the required structural components would take up too much room to preserve the dimensional requirements of the window open-

see WINDOWS page 11

## Williams Out, Dodge In as Acting Police Chief



DETMOLD PHOTO

*Chris Williams switched seats with Charles Dodge as Acting Police Chief in Montague as of July 30th.*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MONTAGUE** – In a choreographed move that met with the unanimous approval of the selectboard, Montague lost and gained an acting police chief, all in the space of a few hours on Monday, July 30th.

Chris Williams, who had served as Montague's acting chief for just seven months, since longtime department veteran Ray Zukowski stepped down as chief on November 26th of last year, told the selectboard last week, "I've realized the position is not for me."

But waiting in the wings was Sergeant Charles 'Chip' Dodge, whose third try at becoming chief proved to be a charm, at least on a temporary basis, as he stepped up to the

post the same night Williams stepped down.

"How many times did you get interviewed for this position?" board member Pat Allen asked Dodge lightly.

"As many times as it takes," replied Dodge, who later thanked the board for appointing him acting chief, and said he was looking forward to working with them.

Williams said when the results of his Civil Service police chief exam came back, and he had failed to pass, he actually felt relieved.

"I've been taking stock for a couple of months," said Williams, who added he missed the active duty police work he had been able to perform, at least half the time, in addition to his prior adminis-

trative duties as staff sergeant.

Williams will return to the position of staff sergeant now, and he said he is glad to "step aside and let those who are interested go forward," in applying for the position of permanent police chief.

Dodge said last week he would definitely be among those applying for the permanent chief position.

During his interview for the acting chief position last November, Dodge had been considered an equally strong contender for the job. The board made it clear then, despite the blemish on Dodge's personnel record from an off duty altercation with another patrolman, Joe Yukt, in May of 2000 – which left Dodge with a cut lip,

extensive damage to his private vehicle, and a demotion from sergeant to patrolman after he had urged an investigating officer to keep the matter private – that the board would have been willing to promote Dodge to acting chief then had it not been for the fact that Williams, as staff sergeant, held the higher rank.

When the subject of that 12 year old incident came up during Dodge's November interview, Dodge put it down to youthful indiscretion.

Recalling the November interviews, Allen said last Monday, "At that time we felt we had two excellent candidates."

After the motion to appoint Dodge acting chief was passed see WILLIAMS page 10

## Anyone Remember the White Coal Farm?



CAROL GIRARD-BARTON PHOTO

*This original strawberry crate from the White Coal Farm has come home – to the Carnegie Library*

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**MONTAGUE** – Recently, former Montague resident Carol Girard-Barton called the *Reporter* from Michigan to say she had in her possession an old strawberry crate with a faded picture and the words "White Coal Farm" stamped on it. She hoped someone could tell her more about the farm, once situated near the Turners Falls Airport.

Knowing that I am a contemporary of Moses, the *Reporter* assigned me the task of finding out more about the mystery of the White Coal Farm.

In the mid 1930s, on entering Turners Falls from Greenfield just past the

bridge over the power canal by what is now the Southworth Paper Company, a billboard sign once displayed the words, "Home of White Coal." When I asked what White Coal was, my older sister, Gladys, who read a lot and had a good imagination, told me White Coal is electricity. So instead of cooking over a coal stove, you just snap on a burner on the electric range, providing you've got one, which we didn't.

Gladys was not exactly right, but she was warm.

White Coal, defined by the *Collins English Dictionary*, is "Water, especially when flowing and providing a potential source of

usable power."

Alvah Crocker, the visionary founder of Turners Falls, born before Moses, was a shaker and a mover who saw the potential for using the Great Falls as a source of hydro power. He figured correctly that building a canal would attract buyers for lots to build mills along the western edge of the canal, and he could also sell lots for housing mill workers.

Crocker was instrumental in founding the Turners Falls Company, which laid out the streets and built the bridges across the power canal.

In 1912 the Turners Falls board of trade coined the slogan "Home of White Coal" see FARM page 8

## Exploring the Montague Sand Plains



FURBISH PHOTO

*Great Falls interpreter Janel Nockleby, (second from left) points out features on the Montague Plains*

**BY JOHN FURBISH** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife interpreter Janel Nockleby led more than dozen people on a fascinating walk through the Montague Sand Plains on July 21st. This unique habitat, once eyed as a site for a massive regional landfill, then for a twin nuclear power plant planned by Northeast Utilities, is now a permanent nature preserve.

Home to pitch pine and scrub oak trees, and hundreds of other plant and animal species, the 1,500-acre sand plains are filled with winding dirt roads, trails and footpaths, and fire control lines, not to mention high-tension power lines. They Plains are a popular attraction for hikers, nature lovers, and students of local

ecology from nearby UMass-Amherst and Greenfield Community College. Among the activities popular on the Plains are hunting pheasant, deer and small game, mushroom gathering, blueberry picking, bird watching, and cross-country skiing.

Nockleby explained that the Plains in Montague, like the sand plain of Cape Cod, formed between 20,000 to 10,000 years as ago as the last Ice Age receded and the glaciers melted. In particular, the sand of the Montague Plains accumulated when the waters of glacial Lake Hitchcock eventually broke through a last land barrier and drained down to the sea, leaving the Connecticut River and

deposits of sand, clay, and silt behind.

Flat barrens like the Montague Plains contain little arable land but, because of their great drainage and flat topography, often get tapped for development as shopping malls, or, as at the north end of the Montague Plains, airports. Fortunately, in 1997, the fate of the rest of the Montague Plains was secured when the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife bought the 1500 acres south of the Turners Falls Airport from the Western Mass Electric Company for a wildlife management area.

Nockleby explained the flora and fauna of the sandy barrens "like fire," and wild see EXPLORING pg 10

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Purr-fect



### Buddyboo

I'm Buddyboo, a one year old all around "Purr-fect" male cat! I get along great with humans and animals alike. I am very playful and if you have a dog I know we will be great buddies! I love children because they have so much energy – like me!

I was very sick when I first got here. You see, I had a bladder stone that needed to be removed. I had surgery on May 10th, and now I've recovered and can't wait to meet my new family. So hurry down!

For more information on adopting me, please call the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or reach us by email at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

RECYCLE

### PAPER!

Week of August 13th  
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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY EVENTS

### Music for Everyone

*Music and Movement* for young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson will be held at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Thursdays at 10 a.m. through August.

Live music will take place on the lawn of the Carnegie Library on Thursday, August 16th from 7 to 8 p.m.

## MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### Summer Reading Program Parties

The Montague Public Libraries' summer reading program parties for summer reading program participants and their families are coming up.

On Monday, August 13th, a costume party at the Montague Center Library will start at 6:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged, but optional.

On Tuesday, August 14th, a party with prizes and snacks at the Millers Falls Library will start at 3:30 p.m.

The Carnegie Library party on

## ERVING PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### Summer's End Pirate Party and Prize Day

Mateys! Dress like a pirate or come as you are, but don't miss the annual summer reading pirate party on Sunday, August 12th at 4 p.m. We will walk the plank, talk like pirates, play games, and eat food and cake. It will be fun for children and parents.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q. Can magnets relieve pain?

Here's the official position of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the federal government's medical research agency:

Preliminary scientific studies of magnets for pain relief have produced mixed results. Overall, there is no convincing scientific evidence to support claims that magnets can relieve pain of any type. Some studies, including an NIH clinical trial for back pain, suggest the possibility of a small benefit from using magnets for pain. However, the majority of rigorous studies have found no effect on pain. More research on magnets for pain is needed before reaching any firm conclusion.

Magnets produce a force called a magnetic field. Static magnets have magnetic fields that do not change. Electromagnets generate magnetic fields only when electrical current flows through them.

## LEVERETT LIBRARY EVENTS

### Music on the Patio

The Leverett Library ends its Music on the Patio series on Thursday, August 16th from 7 to 8 p.m. with acoustic world, soul/folk, conga, ukelele, classical guitar, and more with *Rebirth* (Ian Hamel and friends). Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the beautiful garden and wildflowers. In rainy weather, we will move indoors.

Wednesday, August 15th will feature a live Australian creature show with Creature Teachers. Animals will include a wallaby and a kookaburra. The program will be on the library lawn, or inside, depending on the weather. For more information, call the Carnegie Library at (413) 863-3214.

Supporters of the summer reading program include the Massachusetts Regional Library System, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

A celebration for Summer Reading and Jr. Book Club participants will be on Sunday, August 19th at 4 p.m. Summer reading certificates will be presented and the Jr. Book Club will present a short skit. There will be prizes, participation gifts, raffles, and refreshments.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

## Magnetic Therapy – Panacea or Placebo?

Magnet advocates claim that sufferers need more magnetic fields in their bodies. Magnets are supposed to increase magnetic fields and make people feel better.

People have used magnets to improve health for a long time. In the third century A.D., the Greeks treated arthritis with magnets. Medieval doctors used magnets to treat gout, poisoning, and baldness. During the American Civil War, some used magnetic hairbrushes, shoe insoles, ointments and magnet-adorned clothing to treat many types of maladies.

Today, magnets placed in shoe insoles, bracelets, headbands, belts, earrings and mattress pads are popular for pain relief. Lack of regulation and widespread public acceptance have turned magnetic therapy into a \$5 billion world market.

Magnets are considered safe when placed on skin. However, they present a danger to those using pacemakers, defibrillators or insulin pumps because magnets can interfere with these devices. People with metal implants should also avoid magnets.

Magnet therapy has not been tested for safety in pregnancy and infan-

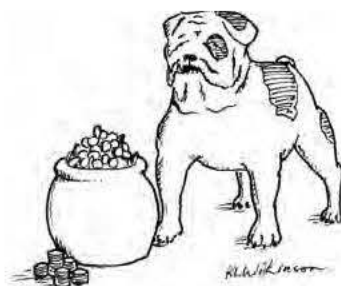


The ribbon cutting of the new business "Pop's Sweet Tooth & Amusements" on Main Street in downtown Orange took place on Saturday, July 28th with (l-r): Kara Bowers, Pop's Sweet Tooth Owner Arlene Tessier, David Ames, his 5-year-old daughter Charlotte Ames, Paul Anderson, Pop's Sweet Tooth's Martin (Marty) Tessier with the scissors, Dave Meausky, Kariann Tessier holding the chocolate, Mike Ruocco, Rebecca Bialecki, Maria Bull, and Jay Deane.

The shop carries nickel and dime candy, candy bars, chips and soda, and over 31 types of novelty ice cream. There are also several arcade games. In one, the player manipulates a claw to pick up candy; one quarter allows you to play until you catch something, no matter how long it takes, so that every child (and adult!) is guaranteed a win.

## Eye on Town Finances

### How Does MONTAGUE WORK? PART II



BY MIKE NAUGHTON – My last column ended some time ago with the question of how a town like Montague can run effectively if its ultimate authority is a 126-member body that only meets a few times a year.

The answer, as you might expect, is that it can't. Town meeting gets a lot of help, and that help is what really runs the town day to day.

The most important helpers are the other elected boards and officials. Like town meeting, they derive their authority from the voters at large, and they are ultimately responsible to those voters.

Probably the most important, and the most visible, elected board is the board of selectmen, sometimes referred to as the "selectboard" in deference to the fact that they have not been all men for some time. They are in charge of the police department, the department of public works, the water pollution control facility (the sewer plant), and most other town departments. They play such a big role that I will save more discussion of them for a future column.

Other elected boards are the board of assessors, the board of health, the library trustees, the Montague Housing Authority, the parks and recreation committee, and the trustees of soldiers' memorials.

The board of assessors is in charge of establishing the value of all real property in the town (basically, land and the buildings on it) for tax purposes. They maintain maps of the town, showing all of the lots with their boundaries, and they maintain lists of all of the properties with their current owners and valuations. Buildings are valued based on a number of criteria (square footage, number and types of rooms, general condition, etc.), and the assessors periodically inspect properties to verify that the descriptions they are using are up to date. This process is governed by state regulations, and assessors are required to take a course to learn it.

The board of assessors' day-to-day operations are handled by the director of assessing, who is hired by the board, and two other employees. Each year, the board makes a recommendation to the selectboard regarding the tax rate, which the selectboard sets. Once it has been set, the assessors prepare the information

see MONTAGUE page 5

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## 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. The Meal Site Manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Voice message may be left when the center is not open.

**Monday, August 13th**  
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo  
NO Knitting Circle

**Tuesday, August 14th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group

**Wednesday, August 15th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, August 16th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, August 17th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Monday, August 20th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday, August 21st**

9:00 a.m. Walking Group

1:00 p.m. Annual Ice Cream Social

## 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 congregational meals. For Center and program information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Lunch is daily 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. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, and find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

## New Quilting Class:

Class will meet on Mondays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Center. Beginners, as well as experienced quilters, are welcome. Class size is limited. Call Polly at (413) 423-3649 to reserve a spot. Donations accepted.

**Monday, August 13th**

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

12:00 Pitch

## Tuesday, August 14th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

12:30 p.m. Painting

## Wednesday, August 15th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba

12:00 Bingo

## Thursday, August 16th

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10:00 a.m. Posture Perfect

## Friday, August 17th

9:00 a.m. Bowling

## Monday, August 20th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise

12:30 p.m. Quilting

## Wednesday, August 22nd

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10:30 a.m. Name that Tune – Steve Damon

12:00 Bingo

## LEVERETT Senior Activities

• Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).

• Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12 p.m. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

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

**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.



JESSICA LARSON ILLUSTRATION

## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** — There will be an *Australian Live Animal Show* with Creature Teachers at the Carnegie Library, Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Wednesday, August 15th, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This program will be on the library lawn, or inside, depending upon the weather.

Come to the first showing of "Artisans on Avenue A" at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 25th, from 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. The lobby of the Turners Falls branch office will be turned into a treasure trove of custom-made creations from jewelry to paintings, stained glass, magical Emu lotions, pillows, sweaters, whimsical decorations, seasonal flags and all-natural soaps. Bring your gift list, enjoy some light refreshments.

Farmers and farm representatives are invited to a meeting on clean energy, farm energy programs, solar hot water, and Solarize Montague discounts on Wednesday, August 15th, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the public safety complex meeting room, 180 Turnpike Road, in Turners Falls.

The Eighth Annual *Harvest Supper of Local Food* will be held on Sunday, August 19th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the Greenfield town common. This free bountiful meal of locally grown food is donated by local farmers and prepared by local chefs along with live music, children's activities and educational displays. Please bring your own reusable place setting. For info, visit [www.freeharvestsupper.org](http://www.freeharvestsupper.org).

## Civil War Anniversary Memorialized

**MONTAGUE CENTER** — A celebration in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War will be held at the Montague Old Home Days, on Saturday, August 18th. A display of Civil War artifacts will be available for the public to view in the foyer of the public library by the Montague Center common.

The River of Lights Lantern Parade *decorating party* will be held on Friday, August 10th, from 3 p.m. to dusk at the riverside picnic area at Unity Park. Those wanting to march in the parade can decorate their own lanterns the day before the Block Party. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic or food to grill.

The *River of Lights Lantern Parade* will start just following the end of Turners Falls Block Party on Saturday, August 11th, starting at 8 p.m. Paraders will begin the route at Avenue A and 5th Street, walk to the bike path, take the bike path along the canal to Unity Park, cross the parking lot and end in the green area by the river. The parade features homemade or decorated lanterns and aims to celebrate the Connecticut River and the beautiful waterfront as one of Turners Falls' greatest assets. For more info visit [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org) or call (413) 230-9910.

The Faith Baptist Church at 331 Silver Street, in Greenfield is having a *free clothes giveaway* on Saturday, August 11th, from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be clothes for all ages and many new items have arrived.

The Millers Falls Rod & Gun is presenting a *Critters & Crustaceans* (a.k.a. beef and lobster) cookout on Saturday, August 25th, clam chowder will be served at 11 a.m. with feeding time starting at 2 p.m. Music will be performed by the Curly Fingers Dupree Band. For tickets and info call (413) 863-3748.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

## Get Ready, Get Set for the Montague Mug Race

**ANN FISK** — The 32nd annual 5.5-mile Montague Mug Race will blast off from the Montague Center town common on Saturday, August 18th at 8:30 a.m. Pewter mugs are awarded to top male and female finishers, and coffee mugs to the top three finishers in each division. T-shirts are given to the first 100 runners. Now in its eighth year, the Mini Mug race will kick off at 8:35. This course is two miles long, and offers a great scenic route around the Old South Cemetery. Both races will finish at the ball field. All runners are entered into a drawing for local prizes.

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

Registration will begin at 7:30 that morning. The entry fee is \$20 for the Mug Race and \$15 for the Mini Race. Forms may be found at the Greenfield Body Shoppe, Montague Parks and Recreation, and the Montague Center post office. You can register online at: [runreg.com](http://runreg.com).

For more info, call: (413) 367-2812 or send an email to: [shol-low@crocker.com](mailto:shol-low@crocker.com)

## Attention Gill Residents

U.S. Senator John Kerry's staff will conduct constituent office hours at the Gill town hall next Tuesday, August 14th, from 1 to 2 p.m.

While we have your attention, there is an opening on the finance committee, and also on the Gill advisory committee, a six-member group that makes recommenda-

tions to the Gill-Montague Regional school committee on matters affecting elementary education, including budget, personnel, and curriculum.

Any Gill resident who is interested in serving on either of these committees should contact John Zywna, town moderator, at (413) 863-9184.

## Elks Donate to Veterans Hospital

**BY PAM LESTER**

**TURNERS FALLS** — The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 in Turners Falls will make a gift presentation on Monday, August 13th at the Leeds Veterans Administration hospital. The Lodge made its per-capita quota in the Elk year 2011-2012, and as a result was awarded a \$2000 gratitude grant by the Elks National Foundation to be used for a community donation, and the Leeds VA was chosen to be the recipient of this award. The

Montague Elks will be donating items to go into an outdoors beautification project at the veterans hospital there. The lodge will also donate a military bench to the VA, emblazoned with the five service insignias and a plaque noting the bench has been donated by the Montague Elks #2521. An ice cream social will start at 1 p.m. with the presentation of gifts to follow. Esteemed loyal knight Kathy Rimby is in charge of the arrangements.

### Montague Old Home Days

Montague Center Massachusetts

**Saturday**  
**August 18, 2012**  
7:30 am: Mug Race registration followed by a day of family friendly fun!

**Sunday**  
**August 19, 2012**  
8-10:30 am: Country Breakfast Buffet \$10 Adults \$5 Children

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## Montague Voter Registration

### SEPTEMBER 6TH STATE PRIMARY

**BY DEB BOURBEAU** — Friday, August 17th, is the last day to for Montague residents 18 years or older as of September 6th, 2012 to register to vote or to change party affiliation for the upcoming September 6th state primary.

Registration hours will be held during normal working hours at the town clerk's office in town hall through Thursday, August 16th only.

Town hall is closed on Fridays. On Friday, August 17th only, registration hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Montague police station lobby.

Registered voters who belong to any one of the three parties (Republican, Democrat or Green-Rainbow) must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the three party ballots.

The Montague police station is located at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. The town clerk's office is located in town hall at 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Town hall is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more info call 863-3200, ext 203.

## MONTAGUE ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE

Absentee ballots are now available at the town clerk's office for the September 6th state primary. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Wednesday, September 5th. To vote absentee, you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from going to the polls, or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the town clerk's office by the close of the polls on September 6th. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Deb Bourbeau is the Montague town clerk. Readers in other towns are encouraged to call their town clerks for voter registration and absentee ballot information for the September 6th primary.

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## The World Suffers, along with Syria

*"It is better to be violent, if there is violence in our hearts, than to put on the cloak of non-violence to cover impotence. Violence is any day preferable to impotence. There is hope for a violent man to become non-violent. There is no such hope for the impotent."*

— Mohandas Gandhi

For the past 17 months, the people of Syria have risen up in an attempt to overthrow one of the most vicious regimes on Earth – the government of Bashar al-Assad.

What began as a peaceful mass protest in the heady days of the Arab Spring has devolved into a lopsided civil war, where the majority Sunni population battles with small arms and occasional commandeered heavy weapons against the tanks, helicopters, fighter planes and half million man army of al-Assad's minority Alawite regime.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been slaughtered, imprisoned and tortured by the regime. The unbelievable truth is that despite every attempt to suppress the rebellion by force, the people of Syria have not only continued to resist, but now, with what arms they are able to buy, smuggle, or confiscate, have brought the fight block by block to Aleppo, Syria's commercial heart, where rebels are today holding out in the heart of the ancient city against sustained firepower and bombardment by tanks and fixed wing aircraft, and even to the lynchpin of the al-Assad regime, the capital city of Damascus itself.

Americans, preoccupied with the hollow fireworks of yet another corporate-sponsored presidential campaign, punctuated by the random gun massacre in a Colorado movie house or hate-fueled killing spree in a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, can barely imagine the courage with which unarmed civilians have taken to the streets of Daraa, Homs, Hama and other population centers in Syria since last March to protest Assad's brutal security state. Unarmed, the Syrian people continued to pour into the streets after Friday prayers, week after week, despite the certain knowledge that dozens of their numbers would be gunned down by al-Assad's henchmen, hundreds more spirited away in the night to torture and death in medieval jail cells. Soon, entire cities were encircled by tanks and battalions of soldiers, cut off from the outside world, and whole neighborhoods laid waste, men, women and children of all sects exterminated as al-Assad clung desperately to power.

But it is plain to see, even from our secure vantage point in America, that al-Assad's days are numbered, and the power of the oppressed to triumph over the worst adversity the world has witnessed in a decade will one day soon succeed in overthrowing yet another brutal tyrant.

To replace al-Assad's regime... with what?

Mohandas Gandhi, the world's paramount apostle of nonviolence in modern times, may have temporized in his ultimate belief in the power of nonviolence, by saying it is better to defend your family with violence than to submit to oppression. But his entire life and struggle against the

superior forces of apartheid and the British Raj are testimony to the belief that active nonviolence is the only, final hope for suffering humanity.

"Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat," he would have told the rebels in Syria, "for it is momentary."

The world of nations is responsible for arming dictators like Moammar Khadafy, Hosni Mubarak, and Bashar al-Assad. America continues to invest millions each year in the armed forces of favored states like Israel and Egypt, regardless of their atrocious record on human rights and the use to which that weaponry is put. This is not surprising, considering the fact that America maintains the biggest arsenal of all, with the largest army, the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, and more firepower per capita in private hands than any other nation on the globe.

But in the offing, as our own citizens are casually gunned down in shopping malls, community centers, college classrooms, Amish elementary schools and movie theaters, we may occasionally reflect on the wisdom of our societal choice to live by the sword, and collude in arming the rest of the world's governments, who time after time use the advanced weapons we sell them to "defend themselves" by exterminating their own people.

We have sowed the clouds with nitroglycerine and lead, and the peoples of the globe are reaping the deadliest of whirlwinds.

Meanwhile, multilateral treaties to limit and ban the global sale and use of various categories of armaments, from small arms to land mines to nuclear warheads with the capacity to end all life on the planet many times over, languish for lack of political will, and for the continued profit of the mega-corporations whose balance sheets grow fat on the wages of death.

It is time, past time, for the feminization of world governments, for the replacement of the machinery of militarism with the ethos and nurturance of life, for the beating of swords into plowshares, and the rededication of humankind's creative potential to solving the urgent problems of global overpopulation, food shortages, and the worsening environmental and climate conditions allowed to run riot in the shadow of our perennial obsession with power and profiteering from war.

Let us never forget what President Dwight D. Eisenhower said so prophetically, nearly 50 years ago, on the occasion of the death of Cold War rival Josef Stalin. He said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, represents, in the final analysis, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

The truth of that statement can today be measured in the pulverized streets of Aleppo, and in the blighted hopes of millions in our own inner cities, and around the world.



SARAH DUPREY ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ban Automatic Weapons

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Following my retirement from the military where I qualified on the 50 caliber machine gun, the 45 semi automatic, 45 side arm, and as an excellent rifleman, did the above Second Amendment to the United States Constitution give me the right to come home and purchase these weapons? I do not believe that

our forefathers intended this to happen.

What is happening in this country is a disgrace when it comes to the purchase and selling of fire arms, and laws should be put in place to stop the selling of automatic weapons and handguns to individuals. The only people who need these weapons are those who protect us, such as the police and the military.

In my opinion, every politician seeking office, and that includes the

presidential candidates, should present to the public any and all information on funds they have received from the National Rifle Association in their campaigns for election.

Due to the recent deaths attributable to the outlandish gun laws in this country, my land as of this date is off limits to all hunting.

— Art Gilmore  
426 Millers Falls Road  
Millers Falls

### Public Hearing Scheduled for Montague Cable

Montague's cable advisory committee thanks all the Montague residents for their overwhelming response to our recent cable survey. It's obvious, from the hundreds of responses we received, that cable services are an important issue to Montague residents.

The committee is now in the process of sorting, collating, compiling and tabulating the data. Once the results are in, they will be publicized through local media outlets and made available for review in

town hall.

The survey is just one step toward negotiating a new contract period with Comcast.

Next, a public hearing on Montague cable services will be held on Wednesday, September 19th, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the select-board conference room in town hall, 1 Avenue A. If you wish to ask questions or speak about cable services in Montague, please attend this public hearing, as it will be the only one.

The cable advisory committee is always looking into ways to make better television, internet and phone services available for Montague residents. The communication industry is evolving rapidly with new and better technology ever on the horizon. The cable advisory committee is open to new members; if you are interested, please leave your name and contact information with the town clerk.

— Garry Earles  
Turners Falls

## Recalling Nora Ephron, Raconteur

BY P. H. CROSBY  
GILL –

*"It is certain that some women eat A crazy salad with their meat."*

W.B. Yeats

Comic essayist, satirist, and filmwriter Nora Ephron died this month. Her passing took me back to the days of crazy salad, heartburn, and Washington, D.C. in the 1970s.

A lot was happening the year I graduated from college, a freshly-minted Catholic University English major, and – to my parents' dismay – began taking jobs for the next nine years as a bookstore clerk at minimum wage. In 1974-1976, the bookstore was the Globe, on the corner of 17th and Pennsylvania. The bus stop to the Northeast neighborhood where I lived was nearby, just outside the White House gates.

Through the doors of the aptly-

named Globe came people from all over the world, drawn by our wide selection of foreign-language newspapers, books and magazines, as well as the impeccable service of polyglot George M, a distinguished and dry-witted Brit retired from the Foreign Service who, though he didn't own or even manage the shop, certainly dominated it.

I was stationed in the front of the store, along with hip Jana and cosmopolitan Ted, minding the register and the towers of bestsellers which, at that point in time, were John LeCarre's *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*; Charles Colson's *Born Again*, and John Dean's *Blind Ambition*. The latter two authors, as well as many others, came through the Globe's doors in those years – John Dean on his way to court, closely but discreetly guarded by an officer in plainclothes. Nixon had just, finally, resigned, making his announcement across the street while throngs of jubilant citizens



Nora Ephron (1941-2012)

celebrated in Lafayette Park.

It was the towering bestsellers that brought Nora Ephron into the store one rainy, muggy, Washington weekday. She stood at the register in a black raincoat, intellectual spectacles, and a dragging shoulder bag, hands in pockets, and semi-mock-whined, "Where's my book?"

see EPHRON page 6

### U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 8/8/12

Wounded:	Deaths:
15,332	2,079



### Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

As a small town weekly, the *Montague Reporter* follows the news of local boards, many of which switch to summer schedules this time of year.

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on August 16th or 30th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Predicting Food Shortages and Global Unrest

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**BERNARDSTON** – India's recent problem with the collapse of their electric power grid is a result, in part, from low water in their rivers producing insufficient hydro electric power. The cause? The climate is certainly warming, and also the condition known as El Nino has led to weak monsoon rains this year, according to climatologist James Gildea of Bernardston, who once published a weather prediction newsletter for farmers, brokerage houses and futures investors.

Gildea predicted this past year's warm dry winter with drought in the Midwest. He saw indications of the coming drought in November, 2011 after earlier noting that a warming of the Pacific began in February of 2011, heralding El Nino. In a meeting with an agricultural committee in Bernardston this spring, Gildea predicted a dry year in the Midwest with very wet conditions in the Southwest, heavy rains in the spring in the Northeast with dry weather to follow. His predictions came true.

"There are many variables," Gildea said, "but the temperature of the North Atlantic Ocean is a good indicator of long term weather in the U.S. A cold Atlantic Ocean results in a blocking ridge of high pressure, which resulted in England and Ireland being covered with snow last winter. A warming of the Pacific

Ocean off the coast of Peru indicates a beginning of El Nino, resulting in drought, among other things."

Weather has a direct effect on economic conditions. Australia is having a rain deficit. That, according to Gildea, is yet another El Nino impact. World grain prices are on the rise because of poor growing conditions in many countries. U.S. corn and soybean prices have doubled from last year. Corn oil or corn syrup go into many foods and soft drinks, so we can expect higher food prices.

And then there's the corn-based ethanol that makes up a small percentage of most of the gasoline purchased in America, but still manages to consume 40% of America's corn crop. Not only does that drive up the price of gasoline, but ethanol has fewer BTU's, resulting in poor gasoline mileage.

The push to include 10% ethanol in gasoline came about when U.S. farmers experienced record corn crops, grain elevators were full, corn was piled up in parking lots, and the price of corn was down. Ethanol production turned things around, big time. Corn prices soared.

With drought in the Midwest affecting harvests of corn, soy beans and wheat, prices will continue to rise. Since the U.S. is the world's largest exporter of these grains,

exporting upwards of 70% of the total imported by other countries, droughts in this country will have worldwide impacts on economic and political conditions.

In India, the monsoon rains came late this year and left earlier than usual, causing food and power shortages from drought conditions. Scarce food, at high prices, has triggered riots, revolution, and economic depression in the past.

In 1929, a cold winter in Europe brought on a slowdown in steel purchases from the U.S., the world's largest steel producer, contributing to the collapse of the U.S. stock market on October 29th, 1929. Previously high wheat prices had encouraged farmers in the Midwest to plow under deep-rooted prairie grass to plant wheat. Drought and wind storms created devastating dust storms that ravaged the land.

The depression became worldwide and despite U.S. economic stimulus programs that had some effect, the U.S. economy did not fully turn around until WWII began. The weather in the near future is sure to have a slowing effect on the world economy, as well as ours, according to Gildea.

"There's no predicting the end of it," Gildea said. "It may intensify and last up to five years, or longer. El Nino has lasted for decades. Prehistoric Mayans abandoned advanced cities in Mexico because of drought from an El Nino that lasted for decades – 20, 30, 40 years...."

One of the reasons why we may have not seen dust storms in present drought conditions, as in the '30s, is due in part to the success of one of

Roosevelt's stimulus programs. FDR had his newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps plant millions of trees across the country, to act as wind breaks and hold the soil, as well as create jobs.

Looking further back, in 1788, food shortages sparked the French Revolution.

When Queen Marie Antoinette of France was informed that the people had no bread, she uttered the unforgettable words, "Let them eat cake."

The French Revolution resulted, and heads rolled; Marie's among them.

Here in present day America, one effect of the recent drought is that the level of the Mississippi River has dropped dramatically, curtailing river barge shipments and forcing shippers to freight grain by more expensive railroad cars to reach the sea for export.

With a cold winter approaching in the U.S., there may be early frosts which drastically affect soybean yields if crops don't reach maturity. With El Nino, a poor anchovy catch results in increased soybean prices. How, you ask? Anchovies don't just go onto pizzas. The larger market for anchovies is fish meal. When anchovies are in short supply, grain companies substitute soybeans in animal feed, again driving up soybean prices.

Ethiopia is one of three African countries where drought is presently affecting 11 million people. Authorities blame climate change and poor farming practices. While Ethiopian crops can be irrigated from wells, poor land conservation practices allow rain water to run off,

taking topsoil with it. Catholic Relief Services has been prompting farmers to plant trees, much as the Civilian Conservation Corps did in the U.S. during the Great Depression, to hold the soil in place and to slow water so it can percolate into the ground and resupply farmers' irrigation wells.

USAID has also supplied grain to the starving Ethiopian population, whose per-capita income has not kept pace with prices. The price of wheat has gone up 85% in Ethiopia since last year, and by all indications will only go higher. If drought persists in the U.S., there will not be enough grain to feed the world, nor will people in poor countries have money to buy what little is available. More unrest will follow.

Beef prices in the U.S. are temporarily low because ranchers are sending their cattle to slaughter. There's no grass to feed beef cattle and high prices prohibit feeding cattle grain.

What can farmers do?

They can practice soil erosion control and no-till farming, use more efficient irrigation methods, and consider drought-resistant seed. Drought-resistant, genetically altered grains may offer a partial solution to alleviate shortages, though there is resistance to genetically engineered seed already in our food supply. Resistance may subside when beef and grain prices soar and shortages continue.

On top of all the bad news, Gildea predicts a cold dry winter for the Northeast.

What can consumers do?

Eat more cake, and snuggle up.

## Skating in Smith's Pasture & Highland Park

BY NANCY LANE STONE

ERVINGSIDE

From my child's perspective, winter in the 1950s chilled you to the bone. Snow piles were taller than my four foot frame. However, undaunted, I was an avid skater who scouted any patch of ice in town on which I could practice my school figures – namely the figure eight.

Spring through fall I took solace walking in Smith's pasture, on the Flat in Ervingside. At the time, I was ripe with the thought I might unearth some arrowheads or lost treasure.

Rather, I discovered a small pond a few feet deep.

Overjoyed, I arrived there winter after winter with shovel in hand and skates draped around my neck by the laces. Heavily clothed, I worked up a sweat pushing the snow aside to glide away an afternoon on the ice.

The near leafless trees encircled the pond in a stark embrace. The flow of the Millers River was muffled by the ice. The air was crisp and the silence was pure. I felt joyously alone and peaceful – perfect conditions for strengthening my skating skills. Skating, interrupted only by dreams of making the Olympic team, transported me out of the post-WWII era into a world of my own making.

When Hannah Smith discovered what I was up to, she suggested I use her side yard, which, when the conditions were right, puddled and froze over every winter. Shoveling the snow was more of a chore because the icy area there was larger than the pond in the pasture. Nonetheless, I did it for the love of the sport.

In addition to the pond and Mrs. Smith's yard, I discovered that

Highland Park across the river provided a skating rink. Many a Sunday afternoon I was alone there twirling and swirling, spitting up ice crystals as my blades cut across the rink.

Joe Conway, our jovial insurance agent, lived directly across the street from the park – through a big window he had a clear view of the rink. He once told my mother he was certain I'd be the next Sonja Henie (1912-69). A Norwegian, she was a three-time Olympic champion figure skater in 1928, 1932 and 1936, a ten-time World Champion and a six-time European champion. She won more Olympic and world titles than any other figure skater and went professional in 1936, touring in live shows including an ice show in Hollywood that caught the attention of 20th Century Fox head Darryl Zanuck. Zanuck signed Henie to a contract that made her one of the highest paid stars of the time.

But I digress . . . gravity wasn't always in my favor when I'd try and try to perfect new maneuvers. Many is the time that I walked home with a sore butt!

I never did become a Sonja Henie, nor did I ever make it to the Olympics, but I had a blast in the attempt. It's good to have dreams!

*Nancy Stone lives in Keene, NH now, but still remembers her childhood on the Flat fondly.*

from MONTAGUE page 2

used by the treasurer to send out the town's property tax bills.

The board of health is in charge of enforcing health regulations and providing public health services, and in recent years it has also taken on a major role in disaster-preparedness, especially for health-related disasters such as a pandemic or bio-terrorist attack. The board of health oversees licensing and inspecting establishments that serve food to the public, including both permanent ones, such as restaurants, and temporary ones, such as food vendors.

The board of health also works with the building department to enforce building codes. The building department's concerns are structural, while the board of health focuses on sanitation and disease prevention. The board hires a health agent and a part-time secretary to do the day-to-day work.

The library trustees are in charge of the libraries in town – the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, and the branch libraries in Millers Falls and Montague Center. The trustees hire the library director and other library staff. The trustees also work with the library director on the annual budget presented to town meeting. Beyond that, they set library policies and long-term goals, and maintain the condition of the buildings. They are separate from the Friends of the Libraries, a non-governmental fundraising group for some of the library programs, though they do oversee the grants the libraries apply for.

The Montague Housing Authority oversees the four town-owned apartment groups in Montague: Hillcrest Homes, Keith Apartments, Highland Apartments, and Sunrise Apartments. Unlike other town

boards, it does not receive any funds from town taxpayers – its funds come entirely from rents on the units, and a small state subsidy.

The Housing Authority hires an executive director, a part-time secretary, and maintenance personnel to run the day-to-day affairs. The Housing Authority's other main function is to keep an eye on the condition of the buildings, and to renovate and upgrade them as necessary.

The parks and recreation commission is in charge of all the parks in Montague, as well as the programs offered by the parks and recreation department. They hire a director who oversees the day-to-day operations and develops and maintains the programs. Beyond that, they oversee major renovations to the park system, such as the improvements at Unity Park, and they make the policies that govern the department and its programs.


The trustees of soldiers' memorials are in charge of the veterans memorial in Turners Falls, along with the flagpoles in the five villages. By law, some trustees are veterans and some are non-veterans.

All of these are independent entities, and although they do cooperate with each other and with other town officials to a greater or lesser extent, based on their functions, they are

ultimately answerable only to the voters. The only exception is that, to the extent they rely on town taxpayer dollars – and all of them, except the Housing Authority, get most or all of their money from the town – they must live within the budgets that town meeting sets for them.

In future columns, I'll discuss the elected officials (the moderator, town clerk, treasurer/tax collector, and tree warden) and the select-board, which, as I noted above, is important enough to merit at least one column of its own.






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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Police Chief's Vacation Time Remains Unresolved

BY EMILY KREMS – The ongoing discussion of how police chief David Hastings can use up his 113.5 accumulated hours of vacation time took center stage at the July 30th meeting of the selectboard. At the board's request, Hastings was present for the discussion to explain how his department's budget works, why more part-time personnel haven't been hired, and how he has accrued so many hours of vacation time.

Personnel committee policy states town employees can carry over up to 80 hours of vacation time each fiscal year – a “use it or lose it” rule – but Hastings' hours started accruing before the policy was enacted.

The problem is, how can Hastings use up his vacation time – and the 200 more hours he gained as of July 1st – if there is no one to cover his duties when he is away?

Furthermore, if there is a situation that needs to be handled, should Hastings wait to address it until he is “on duty,” or should he go to work and accrue overtime?

Hastings has been doing the latter, and in the past year has been keeping accurate records on those hours. “Are we in a position where we should be locking the door? I don't think so,” he said.

The conversation rose in volume in the middle of the

discussion when selectboard member John Ward asked Hastings to explain why his budget cannot afford to pay a part-time police officer who could be on duty and allow Hastings to take time off. Hastings admitted the budget breakdown he presented at the June town meeting had some errors, but said he gave the selectboard a revised budget the next day. He said the approximately \$30,000 left over after salaries and other primary expenses for the police department has to be used for a variety of purposes.

The selectboard voted to hire Christopher Savinski as a part-time police officer through June 2013, pending medical clearance.

At the end of the discussion, selectboard member Randy Crochier commented it is the responsibility of the employer to find a way to allow the employee to use vacation time, essentially putting the burden on the selectboard to figure out a solution to Hastings' vacation time dilemma. Ward concurred, saying, “We are complicit in letting it go as far as it's gone.”

In other news, the selectboard decided, with the approval of Gene Beaubien, fire chief, that the \$400 assessment for repeated false alarms at Stoughton Place would be reduced by 50%, this year only. Ann Banash, chair of the

selectboard, made it clear the board will not reduce the fee after this year. Stoughton Place is managed by the Regional Housing Authority with state-aided funds.

The selectboard was proud to announce Gill has recently been added to the 103 Green Communities in the state of Massachusetts, one of 17 towns to recently receive the designation. Along with the designation comes \$139,900 in grant money Gill must use to further energy conservation efforts within the town.

The Gill energy commission will need to work fast to create a proposal for how to put that money to best use, for vote by the selectboard in time for the September state deadline.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington thanked the energy commission for all they have done to contribute to Gill's becoming a Green Community.

“Hallelujah! We're here and we're hip!” was Purington's response to the new Facebook page for the town of Gill. Purington came up with the idea for the page after Hurricane Irene struck, in hopes to make information during such a crisis more readily available to the public.

So far, the page has received a lot of “likes” by the public, and its popularity seems to be spreading.

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wilder Again Passed Over for Highway Job

BY JOSH HEINEMANN – The Wendell selectboard's August 1st meeting began with a field trip, a walk to and around the town common by board members and Alistair MacMartin, representing the anti-nuclear affinity group Water Roots and Branches.

The purpose was to look at possible places to plant a Japanese Maple on Old Home Day, August 18th, as a memorial for the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear disaster that began in March of 2011.

A cool twilight breeze gave the excursion from the town offices an almost festive air. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said, “We should start every meeting this way.” MacMartin said his preference was to plant the tree just north of the gazebo, behind the war memorials, but the board members thought that would encroach on the north common, and so be contrary to the expressed wishes of the historic commission to keep the common centers clear. Other sites were rejected because they had too much sun, or blocked views of traffic, or they might interfere with Old Home Day vendors.

Back inside the office the selectboard eliminated options until they decided on the north side of the south common, where there is some, but not a whole day of direct sun, and where Old Home Day vendors

are usually spread a little thinner.

The meeting took a more serious turn when Joe Wilder and highway commissioner Michael Gifford met the selectboard to talk about filling the road crew position that has been vacant since spring. At the July 18th selectboard meeting, both highway commission chair Harry Williston and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich had read state ethics rules, and concluded the town could not hire Wilder because he would be under the direct supervision of his brother Rich Wilder, who is the town's road boss.

At that meeting, the selectboard concluded they had no other choice than to hire the highway commission's close second choice, and they instructed Williston to do so.

At the August 1st meeting, Joe Wilder said he had looked further into the ethics rules and found that if he gave a public disclosure statement, his hiring would be legal.

His brother, road boss Rich Wilder, had recused himself from the hiring process.

Pooser said he had been asked to come to the interviews, and it was clear to him that Joe Wilder was the most qualified candidate for the position.

Because of the selectboard's understanding of the ethics rules, the commission's

second choice applicant had been told he had been chosen, but as the decision was not formal, he had not yet given notice at his current job. Pooser said that applicant “was cool with” the idea he might ultimately be passed over for the Wendell highway job.

Aldrich read aloud the ethics law, which said with some exceptions, nepotism or the appearance of nepotism is not allowed.

Keller said an exception is granted in small towns where finding qualified workers without some family tie to town government is sometimes nearly impossible.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said the board first had to decide if it wanted to revisit the question.

Gifford said he was told a decision had already been made, and Heard also said, “I feel we had made a decision,” although she added the board had not taken a formal vote.

The Wendell selectboard often talks an issue through and reaches a consensus, but does not take a formal vote.

Pooser said again the other applicant “was OK” with not getting the job.

The selectboard took a formal vote, 2 to 1, to offer the job to the other applicant.

Wilder said he went to Massgov.com on Williston's see **WENDELL** page 7

from **EPHRON** page 4

Not even hip Jana knew who she was at that time, so first we had to establish what the book was. Finally we did find a copy, and in the window at that – pretty good positioning for a little-known author, we thought.

*Crazy Salad* was a chunky brown book of essays with a P.T. Barnum title font and a quirky Paul Klee image on the cover, as well as a picture on the jacket of Ms. Ephron – a bit more spiffed-up, but with the same bold and humorous gaze.

“But what do I have to do to get a tower of books like these guys?” she asked petulantly, shrugging her shoulder at the espionage masters and Watergate apologists. “Right here at the front door?”

“You gotta sell it!” we told her.

Charles Colson was chatting up his “conversion” book everywhere, and all John Dean had to do was appear in a TV news report, silent and somber in the course of his court proceedings, with his loyal, blonde, perfectly-coifed wife behind him, and we'd get a rush of requests for *Blind Ambition*.

And Nora Ephron did sell *Crazy Salad*, along with many other books, as it turned out. Our bookshop encounter made me an instant fan,

and *Crazy Salad*, which I took home that night, was only the first of a number of delectable reading and viewing experiences Ephron provided us over the next 40 years. *Crazy Salad* was followed by *Heartburn*; more recently by *I Remember Nothing*, and *I Feel Bad about My Neck*. In between there were other great books, plus movies like *Sleepless in Seattle*, *When Harry Met Sally*, and *You've Got Mail*. (How would you like to have a roster like that to your credit?)

Some authors you ‘grow up with.’ Nora Ephron was the kind of author many women of my era grew wise with. We, too, learned to separate the wheat from the chaff when it came to free-wheeling ‘70s (and beyond) men, to stubbornly pursue our sometimes wayward ambitions, to hold fast to things we knew to be right and true no matter what the common ‘wisdom,’ and to go with or without bras when we damn well felt like it. And she led the way, providing us with a host of characters to laugh at, commiserate with, or emulate, and with a triple-host of funny, wry, shrewd and provocative essays that are both of their time and timeless: short on sentiment and long on smarts, punchy, self-deprecating.

Nora Ephron spun grousing and gripes into a kind of earthy, household gold.

*Heartburn* was one of my favorites and may have gotten a little lost in the shuffle of the good work before and after it, so that's the one I'll touch on here. The book, as many may know, was fiction, but clearly grew from her experience of being married to a famous faithless man – namely, Carl Bernstein of the *Washington Post*, co-breaker of the Nixon Watergate scandal. Played by Meryl Streep in the movie (another claim to fame to be relished, wouldn't you say?), the main character subjugates her own writing career to the raising of two children in the glittering and tumultuous social and political environment of her husband's D.C. journalism career, only to find that as she washes diapers, cleans up baby spit-up, manages the household, scrambles daily for an hour at her own desk, and attempts to pull off her own sparkling dinner parties as hostess to her husband's colleagues, he has been carrying on with a tall, thin, sleek-haired and sinuous British journalist dinner-party ‘friend.’

As a food writer, the novel's protagonist manages to insert little

essays about food into the running narrative, including a myriad of easy-but-elegant recipes. I have never been much of a cook, but those recipes I use to this day, not only because they're easy and good, but because half the fun is thinking of Nora Ephron (or Meryl Streep) busily flinging them together between the babbling and wailing of children, the cacophony of a busy urban household, and the scintillation and titillation of 1970s D.C. society.

It was all very far from me, in my humble second-floor walk-up in a low-income block in Northeast, but it was fun to think of something like that going on a quadrant away.

Here is a recipe to tide you over until you can get to your friendly local library and start searching out some of Nora Ephron's books for yourself. (Only the most recent two or three may be available through bookstores.) The recipe is straightforward, piquant and delightful, as was – I think it's safe to say, on the basis of one brief personal encounter, and a lifetime of knowing her through the printed page – Nora Ephron herself.

Enjoy!



Nora Ephron's  
Sour Cream Peach Pie  
from the novel *Heartburn*:

1 1/4 cups flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup butter  
2 tablespoons sour cream  
3 egg yolks  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/3 cup sour cream  
3 peaches, peeled and sliced

## Directions

Preheat oven to 425.  
Put 1 1/4 cups flour, salt, butter and 2 tablespoons sour cream in bowl of food processor and blend until they form a ball. Pat into a buttered pie tin and bake 10 minutes.  
Lower oven temp to 350.  
In medium sized bowl, beat egg yolks slightly then combine with the sugar, 2 tablespoons flour and 1/3 cup sour cream. Arrange the peeled, sliced peaches into the baked pie crust. Pour egg yolk mixture over peaches. Cover with aluminum foil and bake 35 minutes.  
Remove foil from pie and bake 10 minutes more, or until filling is set.

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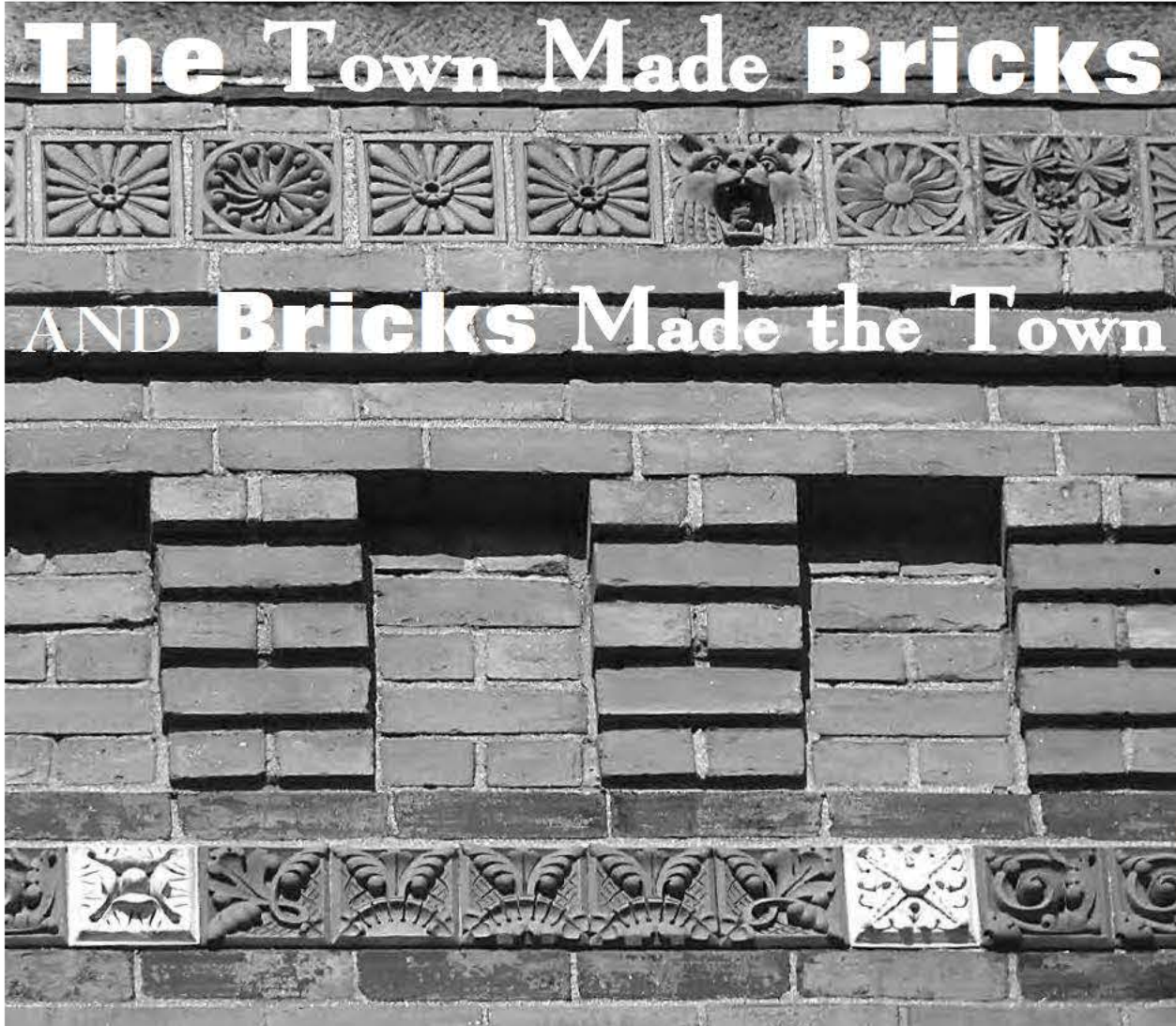
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ANNE HARDING PHOTOS

Decorative pressed bricks on the Crocker Building at the corner of Avenue A and 2nd Street

BY SHIRA HILLEL

**MONTAGUE CITY** – A short stroll through downtown Turners Falls will have you pass striking brick architecture that imbues the old village with its elegant, yet industrial, character. In under ten minutes, you can see examples of intricately patterned corbelled brick cornices and brickwork designs: the stack of the Southworth paper company at the canal bridge crossing, Keith Apartments on the corner of 3rd and Canal, the Crocker Bank Building on the corner of Avenue A and 2nd, the Colle Building on Avenue A and 3rd, and the Equi's

storefront on Avenue A and 4th to name just a few.

At the Great Falls Discovery Center Last Friday, August 3rd, park interpreter Janel Nockleby gave a talk on Montague's brick manufacturing history, and the architecture it helped produce.

At the completion of the Civil War, the village of Turners Falls underwent a period of extremely rapid growth.

In the first half of the 1800s, the Turners Falls canal supported regular freight traffic by boat from Long Island Sound to Bellows Falls, VT. However, the canal closed for navi-

gation in 1856 after railroads became the favored means of transport.

Early Turners Falls industrialists nonetheless understood the potential of the river and its hydropower to facilitate industrial development. These visionaries realized the previous river and canal barge infrastructure could be modified and re-used to power factories.

In 1869, the canal was reconstructed, along with the Turner Falls Dam, to provide waterpower for mills in the village of Turners Falls.

With the industrial revolution

came an urgent need for bricks to build factories and buildings in the developing town. The town visionaries quickly also realized that the river could not only supply power, but that its natural clay sediment deposits also provided the raw material to make bricks. And brick makers could barely keep pace with the construction boom that came on the heels of the widened power canal.

Bricks had many advantages. They provided cheap and efficient building materials practically on site for the canal factories. Another benefit of bricks is that they were relatively fireproof. After the 1835 Great Fire of New York City, builders were particularly interested in preventing fire. Finally, it takes a lot of effort to demolish a brick building and raze it to the ground.

In the mid 1800s, steam powered machinery replaced horse-drawn machinery for the efficient manufacture of bricks.

So, bricks were used to build numerous local houses, churches, schools and the town hall. The local bricks were "fine quality bricks." The proof of their durability is that many of these buildings are still

standing.

Beginning in the 1870s, Montague City saw the rise of several highly successful brick manufacturers. Large brickyards there included those of R. L. Goss, Adams & Son, the Thomas Brothers, the Turners Falls Brick Company and the Burnham Brothers.

A Greenfield newspaper in 1870 wrote that the bricks manufactured at Montague City brickyards "are of superior quality, which is due both to the skill of the manufacturers and the excellence of the clay there found." The article went on to say that "The clay is found in unlimited quantity and is very easily worked."

These prominent brickyards in Montague each made thousands of bricks per day, and millions of bricks each year.

While bricks were easily shipped by cargo trains across the northeast, many were put to use right here in Montague.

The bricks used to build the Crocker Bank Building and the Colle Building on Avenue A, for example, came from the Adams brickyard. The John Russell

see **BRICKS** page 12



These bricks adorn the top of the old Equi's building on Avenue A

**WENDELL** from page 6

recommendation and then called the ethics commission, and was told it happens all the time. He said it is disheartening to lose out on getting a job he is "more than qualified for" because someone else did not do the research.

Two other town departments have or have had family members supervising family members: the treasurer and the tax collector.

Wilder said this is the third time he had applied for a position with the town, and that this result left him disheartened, "with a bad taste in my mouth. Put yourself in my shoes," he added.

Heard said she was sorry, and told him not to give up. Keller said mistakes had been made, but since they made a decision in a public meeting the correct thing to do is remain consistent and not withdraw the offer made to the other applicant.

In order to maintain grant eligibility, the town needs to hold a public hearing, and update its community development strategy sometime before October. Since many townspeople are away in August, board members agreed to hold the hearing at 6 p.m. before one of their regularly scheduled meetings, either September 12th, or September 26th.

Alice Connelly, from the Greenfield housing authority, wrote the town a letter with an offer to administer, for a 10% fee, the town's Community Development Block Grant loans. These are interest-free loans that low or moderate income eligible homeowners may use to bring a house up to code. The zero-interest loans are not payable until such time as the property changes ownership.

On the next day, Robin Sherman, director of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority, sent a

letter stating the FCRHA has been overseeing housing rehab loans successfully for 30 years in Franklin County, and would like to continue to do so by a formal written agreement with the town of Wendell.

Board members saw no reason to stop using the service of the FCRHA. Gina Caputo offered to sell the town three landlocked acres off Old Stage Road she kept in private ownership for sentimental reasons.

Keller questioned, "Why would the town want the land?" He thought neighbors or abutters might want, and be able to use, the land with more profit.

Keller said the Erving police chief had told Wendell's police and fire succession committee that his department, with six officers, staffed 24 hours a day, was interested in cooperating with Wendell as it plans for its future policing needs.



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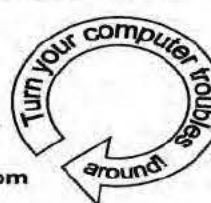
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from FARM page 1

to promote Turners Falls and the inexhaustible water power derived from the canal. John Russell Cutlery, Montague Paper Company, Turners Falls Paper Company, Marshall Paper Company, Griswold Cotton Mill, and Turners Falls Power Company were among the already established companies that had taken advantage of Turners' White Coal.

All but the Turners Falls Power Company, which later became Western Mass Electric Company, used water wheels and the more efficient water turbines for mechanical transmission of power. The turbines turned a system of belts, shafts and pulleys to transfer power to machines in the mills. Later, the turbines were harnessed to generators to produce electricity for electric motors to power machinery in the mills. One such generator is still in use producing electricity in the former Keith Paper Co. Southworth Paper Mill is now restoring a turbine and generator to again generate electricity at their facility.

Getting back to the mystery of the White Coal Farm, it turned out that John George Koch capitalized on the term "White Coal" to promote his strawberry farm, irrigated by water piped from a brook on the Socquet dairy farm on Hillside Road, about a mile away. Koch used a water ram, a device still available today, which uses the flow of water to propel the water, even uphill. The water ram functioned by a system of valves that repeatedly shut the water off quickly, thereby creating a shock wave, also known as a "water hammer," as sometimes occurs in a private home when a faucet is shut off abruptly.

A water ram wastes about ten times as much water as it pumps, but the Socquet stream only dissipates in a bog across the road from the farm. Despite the loss at the ram, enough water remained in the system to irrigate the strawberries at the Koch farm, located at the eastern end of the present day Turners Falls Airport.

After John Koch died and his wife went into a nursing home, the house stood empty. The Turners Falls Airport wanted to extend their runway, necessitating the removal of trees, house and barn.

An heir to the farm, Richard Koch, who lived in California, wanted to restore the house and barn. He hired me to install a water line from Millers Falls Road to the juncture of a spring-fed pipe that ran from barn to house.

Despite his protests, the property was taken for airport expansion, and the Turner Falls Fire Department burned both buildings to the ground. Richard Koch is now deceased.

Girard-Barton recently donated the old strawberry crate to the historical collection upstairs at the Carnegie Library. Go see it there.



## Re-Elect

### Joseph A. Gochinski



## Democrat

## Franklin County

## Register of Deeds

- Ten time Delegate Massachusetts Democratic State Convention
- Member Greenfield Democratic Town Committee (past Chair for five years) Current Chair of By-law Sub-Committee
- Associate Member Northfield and Orange Democratic Town Committees
- Member Franklin County Democrats
- Organized & sponsored local Democrat campaign Headquarters
- Sponsored Democratic Delegate Breakfast "workshops" For Franklin County.
- Sponsored buses for Obama Presidential campaign in New Hampshire
- Worked on Obama and Kerry Presidential campaigns in New Hampshire, Canvassing, voter outreach and visibility
- Worked on numerous Democratic campaigns both at the State and local level.

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## Meetinghouse Restoration Work Progresses



Tom Chaisson of Tri-County Construction working on the belfry of the Wendell Meetinghouse. The belfry is being repaired, painted and re-roofed. The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse are grateful for a generous donation that made this possible.

**BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGER WENDELL** – Tom Chaisson of Tri-County Construction begins work on the repairing, reroofing and repainting of the belfry of the Wendell Meetinghouse on August 1st. A generous, anonymous donation to the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse made the long-awaited restoration of the belfry on this signature architectural treasure on the Wendell town common possible. The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse will be signing up members at its booth on Old Home Day, August 18th. Anyone who wishes to support the preservation of the Wendell Meetinghouse is welcome to join the Friends for a nominal membership fee of \$10.



Dedicated readers Ivan Ussach and Kathy Litchfield, of Gill, can't climb the 12,000-foot Blackhawk Pass in Colorado without stopping to check out the latest news from home in the Montague Reporter! Keep a bird's-eye view on all the news and views of the villages – wherever you roam. Send us a photo of you and your traveling companions reading the Montague Reporter in exotic locales, and we promise to print it in our next issue. Keep up with the news from home, and make all your friends turn green with envy at the same time – what better way to top off your vacation?



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# Suspects Nabbed in Recent Breaks



COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE

Lance Williams

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** — Montague police caught a break in the recent rash of burglaries plaguing downtown businesses when Lance Williams

23, of 63 4th Street, tried and failed to break into Basically Bicycles in the early morning hours of Tuesday, July 31st. Williams, who later told police he was addicted to heroin and was seeking money to feed his habit, was caught on the bicycle store's security camera, making a positive identification easy. He failed to gain access to the bike store, after trying to pry the glass on the front door away from its frame, and reaching in to try to throw the deadbolt and open the latch.

When the burglar alarm went off at Basically Bicycles at 3:26 in the morning on the 31st, automatically ringing at the police station, Sergeant Chris Lapointe and patrolman Mike Sevene responded to the scene within three minutes. They saw damage to the front door and to the back screen door, consistent with an attempt to gain entry. Seven other downtown businesses have been broken into, with cash stolen in most cases, in the last month, including Bob's Auto Body, Phase I Hair Salon, Ristorante DiPaolo, the Shady Glen, Crestview Liquors, along with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Aubuchon's Hardware. Shortly after arriving, Lapointe observed a white male in a black t-shirt and red shorts, along with a black male in a white sleeveless t-shirt, leaving the nearby 3rd Street parking lot on foot, and heading across the alley towards 63 4th

Street. According to staff sergeant Chris Williams, two other officers called in as backup went to Williams' 4th Street, knocked on the door, and were greeted by a person who let them enter. They found Lance Williams at home and questioned him about his recent whereabouts. He told them he had been sleeping on the couch. Meanwhile, David Carr, the owner of Basically Bicycles, came to the store and viewed the surveillance video with Lapointe, who was able to clearly identify Williams on the video trying to pry open the window glass of the front door. The clothes Williams said he had been wearing that evening matched the clothes in the video image as well, and when confronted with that evidence, Williams admitted to trying to break and enter the store, Williams said. Williams said since Williams, and an associate of his named Terrance Williams, arrested a few days earlier in the middle of a breaking and entering

in the night in Greenfield at the Inkwell News, had been taken off the street, "There have been no more breaking and entering attempts downtown, to my knowledge," although Williams added he had responded recently to a breaking and entering at an unoccupied home in Montague Center, where nothing appeared to have been taken. Williams said he felt confident Williams and Williams had been involved in some of the other recent burglaries in Turners. "We're pretty sure these are the guys. We're just working on trying to prove it," he added. Meanwhile, Williams said, Williams who had been out on bail for a previous arrest when he was placed under arrest for the attempted break at Basically Bicycles, is back in jail with an additional \$500 added to his bail. But Williams is back on the street as of Wednesday, August 8th. "I saw him walking around today," Williams noted. "Somebody bailed him out."

**WILLIAMS from page 1**  
unanimously, the board congratulated the 22-year veteran Montague officer, informed him his salary would be set at \$260 a day, and told him, "It's been a long time coming." Following their *do-si-do* as acting chief, the board reinstated Williams as staff sergeant at \$30.70 per hour, and assured him, "You are still employed." Allen said, "I feel confident with what we have here, even though they've switched seats." In other business, the board met with Lew Collins, of Between the Uprights sports bar, to discuss ways to reduce possible friction between the upcoming Downtown Block Party on Avenue A, on Saturday, August 11th, and the sidewalk live music cafe at Collins' bar that same day. Block party organizers have called for Collins to tone down the alcohol advertising in the form of colorful, boldly lettered banners that form the sidewalk barriers for the bar's event, to better conform to the spirit of the family-friendly block party. Collins said his event had been timed to coincide with the block party for years, but last year the

block party, which used to be confined to the blocks between 3rd and 5th Street, had shifted further east down the Avenue to encompass the block his bar is located on, on 2nd Street. He said one inappropriate remark that had been amplified during last year's block party had led to an immediate reprimand from him, and he promised the board such verbal indiscretions would not be repeated this year. But he said he could not forego the outdoor alcohol advertising, since there was too much sponsorship money involved. Wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley came before the board to discuss raising sewer rates by about 5%, even though Trombley admitted that his retained cash reserves from last year had reached the highest level during his long tenure at the treatment plant. "Sewer rates have not changed in four years," said Trombley. "This is great, considering the economic situation we've been in. But I am not sure we will always have the retained earnings we have now." Trombley said the current rates have led to cash reserves in the treatment plant's retained earnings

account of about \$430,000 this year. The board advised Trombley to keep the rates at the current levels, not to raise them, after John Yahres, chief financial officer of Southworth Paper Company, the largest sewer user in town, offered his opinion that rates should remain constant for the coming year. Board chair Chris Boutwell said he had heard talk among some town meeting members that sewer rates should go down, after modifications to the plant's process and sludge handling had reduced operating costs, but the board did not support this approach, after finance committee chair John Hanold, speaking as a private citizen, said it would be unwise to reduce rates now, creating conditions that might lead to a steep hike in the future. The board took under advisement a report from consultant Camp Dresser McKee, recommending the town spend up to \$7.3 million to replace eight sewer pump stations in town with modern facilities. Three

of the pump stations were built in the early 1960s. "Pump stations do not last forever," the CDM consultant told the board, warning that a catastrophic failure at one of the maxed-out pump stations could lead at any time to sewage backups and the endangerment of public health in the affected neighborhood. The board seemed concerned that the town's cash reserves might not last forever, either. Susan Mareneck, director of Montague Catholic Social Ministries, and Lori Millman, development director for the Center for New Americans, told the board they would like to have a proposal to provide educational child care with an English as a Second Language component for preschoolers as part of the town's upcoming Community Development Block Grant application. Millman said the recent decennial census shows that Spanish-speaking residents have increased by 46% in the last ten

years in Montague. The board seemed inclined to support the inclusion of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries' \$15,000 funding proposal in the upcoming grant application. A public hearing will be held on the upcoming CDBG proposal on August 13th, at 7 p.m. at town hall. The board approved spending \$1800 from program income funds to perform a title search on the pedestrian bridge to the Strathmore Mill, as part of ongoing negotiations with First Light Power over the future of that derelict structure. The board accepted a quitclaim deed, for a \$10 consideration, for the former Ste. Anne's rectory on 6th Street, turned over to the town for forgiveness of back taxes from the mortgage company that held the deed. Town meeting had approved the transfer of the property to the town at the May town meeting. "We own it," town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told the board.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

### Restraining Orders; Gunshots Fired

**Monday, 7/23**  
9:10 a.m. Restraining order issued to subject on Munns Ferry Rd  
10:00 a.m. Restraining order issued to subject on Boyle Rd  
4:30 p.m. Social media webpage issue with subject on Main Rd  
8:15 p.m. Repo Company on S. Cross Rd taking possession of subjects motor vehicle.  
**Tuesday, 7/24**  
12:10 p.m. Resident assistance in firearms range at his home.  
3:00 p.m. Trespassing issue of neighbors in Hickory Hill Rd

**Wednesday, 7/25**  
10:50 a.m. Assisted Dept of Childrens Services with issue at the Gill Mobile Station  
**Thursday, 7/26**  
9:45 a.m. Alarm sounding at residence on Hoe Shop Rd. Checked OK.  
10:50 a.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle reported at Jan's Package Store, owners located  
**Friday, 7/27**  
1:05 p.m. Medical response at Stoughton Place. Subject transported.  
9:50 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Riverview Drive. Subject ID'd  
**Saturday, 7/28**  
12:10 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle behind Wagon Wheel restaurant. Checked OK.  
7:40 p.m. Gunshots reported in area of Mountain Rd. Investigated.  
10:05 p.m. Assisted Erving Police Dept with domestic incident.  
10:45 p.m. Same suspicious motor vehicle on Riverview Drive.  
**Monday, 7/30**  
5:00 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Jan's Package Store. Vehicle drove into the building. No injuries.

**EXPLORING from page 1**  
fires have contributed to the ecosystem of the Plains over centuries. In recent pre-history, she noted local Native Americans kept areas like the Plains productive (even for blueberries) through the use of controlled fires. Hence the 17th century colonists saw prime agricultural areas, rather than forests, along the Connecticut and gave some of them names like Springfield, Hatfield, Greenfield, and Northfield. In the more recent past, the Plains were subject to uncontrolled forest fires, one of which came perilously close to the village of Lake Pleasant after burning hundreds of acres on May 7th, 1957. But now the area is maintained with "prescription burns," and the state contracted to thin the forest near the county road to Lake Pleasant in 2004, creating a brake to future wildfires.

Fires can be good for a forest, especially a forest of scrub oak and pitch pine like the one on the Plains. Fire releases nutrients back into the soil. The thick bark of a pitch pine protects the tree from burning in a fire, and in fact the heat of the flames helps its seeds to germinate. New life springs up in the understory when the former tall, broad canopied trees no longer hog the sunlight. Wintergreens and blueberries on the Plains flourish in a post fire environment, and the rare butterfly and bird species that depend on the habitat of the open barrens also thrive. New species take hold in burned-over areas to contribute to a beneficial diversity in the ecosystem. Sensing a fire, box turtles dig themselves into the sand. Mammals like moose and deer smell post-burn smoke and are drawn to it because they know that area will soon be

filled with new succulent shoots. The new plant growths are closer to the ground and their leaves and berries are easier for herbivores to eat. Nockleby's information-filled walk dovetailed with the July 21st slideshow and lecture by Fisheries and Wildlife restoration ecologist Tim Simmons. The heat cancelled his guided walk through the Plains before the address. It will be rescheduled for September. Nockleby invited everybody in her audience, and all others interested in exploring this unusual ecosystem, to call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221 to find out when the "sun date" for Simmons' talk will be scheduled. She said Simmons could answer any and all questions about the various species of plants, animals, insects, and birds that occupy the Montague sand plains.

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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

# They Spread Their Wings and Flew Away



Julie Collier releases a young kestrel back into the wild in Leverett

BY SHIRA HILLEL

**LEVERETT** – On Sunday, August 5th, two fully-grown young kestrels were released back into the wild at the East Leverett Meadow. As one of them flew back across the meadow and swooped over the small crowd gathered to witness their sendoff, falconer Julie Collier called out, “You’re welcome!”

Collier and Jim Parks, two Leverett-based raptor rehabilitators, founded Wingmasters, an

organization dedicated to the care for injured birds of prey. They specialize in raptors: eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, vultures and ospreys. Their goal is to restore each raptor that comes into their care to good health, then return it to the wild.

Most of the birds Collier and Parks rehabilitate can ultimately be released back into the wild, but in some cases the birds are left permanently handicapped. They provide a home for these non-releasable rap-

tors, and use them for educational programs. They currently have about 20 birds in permanent residence. To increase public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey, Wingmasters presents educational programs at schools, libraries and museums throughout New England.

The American kestrel is North America’s most common falcon, as well as its smallest. Fully grown, kestrels weigh about four ounces,

and are roughly the size of a robin.

The two released kestrels came from the Tufts Wildlife Clinic, of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, when they were about three weeks old. They were not injured as many of the birds that come to Wingmasters are. While they were not siblings, these birds were found without their parents and were too young to live independently. Collier described them as “branchers” meaning they could fly, but were not yet developed enough to fly well.

Collier, whose own physiognomy can best be described as bird-like, explained that while adult male kestrels have their own territory, and therefore must be released back into the wild no less than a mile from where they came from, juveniles have not yet established their territory, so that restriction does not apply.

Whenever a bird is released back into the wild there is always the danger that the area is already another bird’s territory.

Collier was nervous that numerous tree swallows in the East Leverett Meadow would attack the juvenile kestrels. She explained tree swallows are not raptors but will sometimes ground a young kestrel and won’t allow it to hunt, thereby starving them out. Larger hawks are major predators of kestrels as well.

“It’s up to them now” she sighed, referring to her released wards.

“They need to be fast and agile to stay out of sight... They should be able to catch a sparrow in the air,” Collier said. Young raptors

sometimes band together. “My hope is that when it’s them against the world, they will form an alliance.”

When Collier first took the kestrels into her care, they fit in the palm of her hand and were downy, goofy-looking cuties. She helped them grow up to become sleek, mature falcons.

Collier kept them for one month. During this time she “taught” them to fly and hunt. Collier explained that hunting is an instinct, but birds need to practice. She raises dwarf hamsters for the purpose of enabling the birds in her care to hone their hunting skills.

Collier entered the kestrel’s cage every day and waved her hands around to keep the birds from perching too long. She would keep them moving and make them fly. By irritating them, she also kept them from liking her too much. She doesn’t want the birds to hesitate when it comes time for their release.

Collier noted that in her line of work she must walk a fine line between attachment and detachment. While she cares passionately for these birds, once a young bird bonds with its human caretakers, any possibility of a normal life in the wild is lost.

“Some people might think it’s crazy, but this way of life suits me.”

Wingmasters plans to release another juvenile kestrel back into the wild at the end of August. The event will be posted at: [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/events](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/events).

To learn more about Wingmasters’ work, visit: [www.wingmasters.net](http://www.wingmasters.net).

## Poets Wanted!

to submit original poems. Please email: [reporter-poems@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-poems@montaguema.net) for consideration in the monthly Poetry Page. Include 25-word bio. Poems may also be posted to Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

*No prior experience necessary, as a poet.*

from WINDOWS page 1

ings. But an ingenious (and expensive) solution was finally arrived at, involving bolted three-foot metal rods drilled through the bottom sills and concrete foundation pad, laminated beams above, and carefully fitted metal corner posts.

The final price tag for the retrofit? Possibly as much as \$90,000, on top of the original construction estimate, Laroche told the finance members and selectboard on Wednesday.

Laroche promised to seek recovery of these added costs from DiMarinisi and Wolfe, first through arbitration, then, if necessary, by

lawsuit. But Laroche also said there were just enough presently unexpended funds and contingency moneys in the contract, as voted by town meeting, to cover the added cost for now, while the town seeks redress from the architect.

Meanwhile, the replacement windows will be arriving at 7 a.m. on Monday morning, August 13th, and workers from Greenfield Glass will immediately begin to install them, working first in the classrooms, then in less-crucial office areas.

“As of now, we are on schedule” to get the school ready for students to return by the end of the month,

promised Laroche, who added, “We have overcome a lot of challenges, but the system we have in place now will meet code.”

But with the town still waiting on the results of tests to determine whether more asbestos may be present in the mastic of some of the original windows, and recently discov-

ered rotting sills still needing to be replaced in some of the seven large window openings (each holding four to eight windows), it is a race against time, and all parties appeared to be keeping their fingers crossed that no further problems would arise before the opening bell.



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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Vandalism; Burglary; Hit & Run

Wednesday, 7/25

9:33 a.m. Threatening harassment at 66 Phillips Street. Referred to other police.

7:00 p.m. Threatening harassment at 145 Second Street. Investigated.

9:20 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at 6 Main Street. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 7/27

2:04 p.m. Warrant arrest of [redacted] for default warrant and straight warrant.

2:04 p.m. Vandalism at 5th Street and Avenue A. Referred to an officer.

5:04 p.m. Threatening harassment at 108 Avenue A apartment. Advised of options.

5:35 p.m. Trespass on Montague City Road between Turnpike and Walnut. Summons issued.

6:15 p.m. Burglar alarm at 28 High Street. Services rendered.

7:35 p.m. Threatening harass-

ment at 370 Montague City Road. Services rendered.

Saturday, 7/28

6:10 p.m. Threatening harassment at 9 M Street. Investigated.

Monday, 7/30

12:18 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for unlicensed operation of motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

8:20 a.m. Motor vehicle theft at 13 Franklin Street. Services rendered.

12:56 p.m. Larceny at 27 N. Leverett Road. Services rendered.

1:27 p.m. Larceny at Avenue A. Services rendered.

6:24 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at 33 Bridge Street. Report taken.

9:45 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] a probable cause arrest for an outside agency.

Tuesday, 7/31

3:26 a.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for malicious destruction of property and trespassing at Basically Bicycles, 88 Third Street.

4:58 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for burglary, breaking and entering at Route 63 Roadhouse, 32 Federal Street, Erving.

10:52 p.m. Attempted breaking and entering at 81 Third Street apartment.

Thursday, 8/2

2:04 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at 17 Bernardo Drive. Report taken.

5:22 p.m. Hit and run accident at Hillcrest Homes parking lot on Griswold Street. Services rendered.

5:45 p.m. Summons issued for breaking and entering, unwanted person at 15 Unity Street apartment.

Saturday, 8/4

1:07 a.m. Disorderly conduct on Avenue A Street at Third Street.

Peace restored.

8:11 p.m. Threatening harassment at 29 E Main Street. Advised of options.

11:57 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for marked lanes violation and OUI.

Sunday, 8/5

5:44 p.m. Larceny at Wentworth Congregate Housing at 60 J Street apartment. Services rendered.

8:32 p.m. Drug/narcotics violation at 9 M Street. Advised of options.

Monday, 8/6

4:43 p.m. Threatening harassment at 47 Park Street apartment. Advised of options.

Tuesday, 8/7

5:50 p.m. Larceny at 118 Avenue A apartment. Investigated.

8:13 p.m. Larceny at 171 Avenue A apartment. Advised of options.

9:50 p.m. Motor vehicle theft at 9 M Street.

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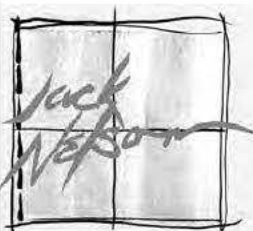


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## Ferry Meadow Farm - part XLIX

Montague 2017

**BY ELOISE MICHAEL** – When I get to Ferry Meadow Farm on my bike, the first person I see is Brigid. “You’re up early,” she says.

“Well, I’m – I’ve been up since morning,” I explain. “I just rode here from Turners Falls.”

She looks at me carefully, and I know she is trying to decide whether I am truly the same person who has been sharing dinners with the community at Ferry Meadow these past weeks.

“It’s really me,” I assure her.

“And the other – ” she pauses. “The other you?”

“Not here,” I say quickly, so she

won’t worry. “Not anywhere. I’m back to having one body.”

She is still studying me, and it makes me a little self-conscious. I look down, taking stock of my own arms and hands. “This is it,” I say.

“That seems like a good idea,” Brigid says.

“Yes, and I’m ready to do farm work, now that I can be awake during the day.”

Brigid smiles. “It will be nice to have you on the team.”

Then I catch sight of Dave walking from the wheat field toward the main house. Even though he is far away, I am sure it’s him. He spots me

right away, too, and comes running. I want to run to meet him, but would feel awkward ending my conversation with Brigid so abruptly. Instead I watch Dave coming closer.

“Looks like we’re all happy to have you here full-time,” Brigid says. “I should get back to work.”

She walks off just as Dave arrives and throws his arms around me, almost knocking me off my feet.

“You’re back,” he says, grinning at me.

“I wasn’t gone all that long,” I say.

“I know,” he says, serious now, “but I wasn’t sure whether you were coming back.”

“Neither was I,” I admit.

He backs away, not letting go of my hands, and looks at me. “It’s you, and it’s not you,” he says.

“No, it is me,” I tell him. I need

him to know that I am the same person he has been spending his evenings with.

“What are you working on?” I ask, changing the subject.

“About to make dinner,” he says.

“Need any help?”

“Sure,” he says, taking my arm. We walk toward the kitchen in the main house. “Are you staying tonight?” he asks.

“No. I want to, but I still have some things to take care of in Turners Falls.”

“You’re staying for dinner?”

“No,” I say, looking up at the sky. The days are definitely shorter now, and I don’t want to ride in the dark. “I just wanted to stop by and let everyone know that I’m OK. And see you.”

“I’m glad you did.”

There are four of us preparing dinner, so Dave and I don’t get to talk much. I eat a little in the kitchen, and then I have to ride back to Turners Falls. Dave walks me out to my bike, and I kiss him goodbye.

When I get home, I am hungry again. I move things around in the refrigerator, setting a few containers and an apple on the counter. Then I pick up the phone to call Diana.

“Theresa?” she says, picking up the phone.

“Yeah, it’s me.”

“How are you?”

“I’m OK.”

“Really?”

“Yeah, really, I am,” I say.

I think she can hear in my voice that I am telling the truth because she seems to relax. “Good,” she says.

– Continued Next Issue

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### BRICKS from page 7

Cutlery building, constructed in 1868-70, used bricks from the Goss brickyard. Many local churches used bricks from the Thomas brickyard.

There are several steps in the brick making process, which begins with mining large quantities of clay, which must be dried before it can be ground up into a fine powder. That powder is then mixed with sand and water. The bricks are

*An iconic pattern tops the stack at the Southworth paper company at the canal bridge crossing (formerly Esleek Paper Company)*

### ANIMAL INSPECTOR POSITION

The Montague Health Department is seeking an Animal Inspector. Duties include conducting an annual barn census in which every domestic farm animal is counted and assessed for humane conditions and general health. Duties also include rabies control and prevention through issuing quarantines. Except for the annual barn inspection the animal inspector responds only when an animal needs to be quarantined and when the quarantine needs to be lifted. The annual compensation for this position is \$1,500.00 for animal inspection and \$500.00 after the annual barn census is satisfactorily completed, submitted and approved.

Interested parties should have experience with domestic and farm animals. Send letter of interest to the Montague Health Department, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 by 4:30 p.m. August 23, 2012.

**MONTAGUE HEALTH DEPT.**  
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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Operating Under Influence; Domestic Assault

**Tuesday, 7/24**

2:34 p.m. Report of annoying phone calls to West High Street residence. Under investigation.

7:50 p.m. Medical emergency on North Street. Assisted Orange Ambulance.

**Wednesday, 7/25**

8:15 a.m. Report of hypodermic needles on east bound shoulder near Prospect Street. Located and collected.

10:36 p.m. Arrested

, for stop sign violation, open container of alcohol, and operating under the influence of liquor, Pratt Street.

**Friday, 7/27**

12:55 a.m. Arrested

, for

operating under the influence of liquor, defective equipment, no front number plate, possession of a pistol magazine, and possession of a dangerous weapon.

10:15 a.m. Neighbor complaint, Dusty Road. Report taken.

4:25 p.m. Medical emergency, State Road. Assisted Orange Ambulance.

**Saturday, 7/28**

9:15 p.m. Well-being check on Pleasant Street. Resident found to be fine.

**Sunday, 7/29**

1:40 p.m. Medical emer-

gency, Warner Street. Assisted with same.

**Monday, 7/30**

6:20 a.m. Report of branch blocking lane on Route 2, Farley. Removed same.

3:30 p.m. Dispatched to West High Street residence for a report of an altercation.

4:00 p.m. Arrested

, for domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

10:15 p.m. Report of assault on North Shore Drive, Laurel Lake. All subjects located and situation under control. All advised of their options.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF MONTAGUE NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING FY 2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION

The Town of Montague will hold an informational meeting on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, second floor, at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and solicit public response to the Town of Montague's FY 2013 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant application to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Local citizens are requested to attend and propose activities which the Town should apply for in this application. The town is considering applying for slum and blight studies in Millers Falls and the Historic Industrial District in Turners Falls; a senior center feasibility study; housing rehabilitation, and social service programs.

In the FY'12 application, the town applied for and was awarded four (4) units of housing rehabilitation in the Turners Falls Target Area and Unity Park Phase Two.

The Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the Community Development Block Grant Program. The HRA will be available to discuss the application process.

The Town wishes to encourage local citizens to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Selectmen

Town of Montague

Advised

7/26/2012

8/9/2012

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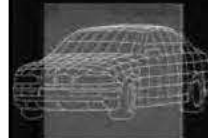
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#### EVERY TUESDAY

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: All Summer long *Kidleidoscope Tuesdays!* With stories, activities, & a craft. For ages 3-6 with a parent/guardian. Siblings welcome, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*, 2 to 6 p.m.

Winterland, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m.

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

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Jake's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Shag*, 6 to 8 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic with Dan, Kip & Shultz from Curly Fingers DuPree* hosting, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 9:30 p.m.

#### EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

### ART SHOWS:

#### NOW through August 25th

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Splash* turns the tiny art space into a veritable aquarium. Paintings by Ariel Jones and undersea art by area artists.

#### NOW through August 26th

Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Work by Hallmark Institute of Photography June 2012 Graduating Class*.

#### NOW through August 30th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nature's Light*, photographs by local West Deerfield photographer Judy Cummings.

### LOCAL EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9th

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12th

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Passport Theater Company presents *Gogol's The Overcoat*

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners

Falls: Coffeshop: Singer songwriter Devlin Miles is a northern girl with a southern charm! 7 to 9 p.m. Suggested donation \$6 to \$12



Marissa Nadler brings her haunting, gothic folk to the 1794 Meeting House in New Salem on Saturday, August 11th at 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adam* with special guest, *Rick Murnane*. Pop Rock. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Friends*, folk rock. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shakedown Street*. Grateful Dead Dance Party! 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Groove Prophet*, Classic Rock 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th

Turners Falls Block Party, Avenue A: Food, fun, antique cars, artisans, crafters, games, BMX stunt show, opening parade, live music, dunk tank, closing *River of Lights* lantern parade. Family friendly. 1 to 8 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Northern Routes with *Marissa Nadler*, *Bunwinkies*, and *Hallock Hill*. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ann Egge* (alt. country) with special guest, *Kelley McRae* (americana/folk/soul). 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Journey of E*, A Jazz Musical. A history of the Jazz music scene in New York and Paris from 1928 through 1945 and an homage to Edith Piaf. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Post-Block-Party-Party* with *Tawdry* and *Katie Sachs* (old-timey folk). Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jim Matus Duo*. Join Jim Matus from Mawal for a World Fusion/Jazz/Trance Jam. 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Reckless*, Classic Rock. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12th

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Flightless Buttress*, folk/instrumental. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 pm. Free.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 14th

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: Free Poker: Texas Hold 'Em. 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiznite*. 8 p.m.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Quebecois Session*, 8 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *DJ-J Cook* -

The International Music Mixer. 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 16th

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music @ the Carnegie*, on the lawn, 7 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Music on the Patio*: Acoustic world, soul, folk, conga and more with *Rebirth* (Ian Hamel and friends). Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the beautiful garden and wildflowers. 7 to 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau & Guests*, "End of Summer Series". 8 p.m. \$5 door.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved* jazz with Larry Klein, Jon Olman, Seth Hoffsommer. 8 p.m. Free.

People's Pint, Greenfield: *Irish Session*, 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Span of Sunshine*, 8 p.m. Free.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jamie Kent* at 8 p.m. *Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez* at 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dedicated to Delilah*, 80's Pop Rock & Ballads, 9 to 12 p.m.

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: *Moose and the Hightops*, 70s & 80s Classic Rock. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th

Montague Old Home Days continues with Country Breakfast Buffet. \$10 adults, \$5 children. 8 to 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m., Sunday Service with special music by the *Fall Town String Band*.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fireseed* (celtic appalachian old-time). 2 p.m.

Greenfield Town Common: Eighth Annual Free Harvest Supper of Local Food. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8 to 10 p.m.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 20th

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 8 p.m. Free.

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21st

Route 63 Road House, Millers Falls: Free Poker: Texas Hold 'Em. 7:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau & Guests* "End of Summer

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# The Rendezvous

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FRI 8/3	Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade at 7pm FREE
SAT 8/4	Original Cowards and Goldwater The Second. indie. etc.) FREE
MON 8/6	Ginevra & Co's Yet-to-be-named Open Mic! 8pm sign-up 7:30
TUES 8/7	MOVIEITE w. host Donna, the original! "Night of the Living Dead" 9:30
FRIDAY 8/10	FRIENDS (folk-rock) FREE
SAT 8/11	Post-Block-Party-Party with Tawdry and Katie Sachs (folk, old-timey) FREE
SUN 8/12	TNT Karaoke FREE 9pm
WEDS 8/15	QUIZNITE with QuizMaster ALEX! 8pm
THURS 8/16	Half Shaved (jazz with Larry Klein, Jon Olman, Seth Hoffsommer) 8pm FREE
FRI 8/17	KWAZMAL JAZZ BAND (standards and more) FREE
SAT 8/18	Span of Sunshine and special guests FREE
SUN 8/19	SUNDAY LOCALS with MARLENE LAVELLE and friends 6pm FREE
MON 8/20	BINGO! 8pm FREE
THURS 8/23	Ray Mason. solo FREE 8pm
FRI 8/24	HOME BODY (indie/electronic) \$3
SAT 8/25	Bell Engine (electric/acoustic indie) FREE
SUN 8/26	TNT Karaoke FREE 9pm
MON 8/27	DADA DINO'S OPEN MIC 8pm, sign-ups start at 7:30
WEDS 8/29	Cap'n Allen's South of the Border All-Stars!! (Latin!) 8:30pm
FRI 8/31	FIRESEED (old-time. jazz, celtic) 7:30 FREE

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The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ray Mason*. 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Sidestreet Band*, Rock/Blues. 8 to 10 p.m.

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Friday, 8/18 9 to 12 p.m.  
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## BENSEN WINS GREENFIELD BI-ATHLON

**BY SHIRA HILLEL** – Who cares about Michael Phelps, when Franklin County's very own Daniel Bensen won first place in the Greenfield Triathlon sprint?

On Sunday, August 5th, the annual Greenfield Triathlon competition took place for the 28th year. The triathlon sprint is made up of a 0.3 mile swim, a 15 mile bike ride and 3 mile run. There was a longer international course, which many athletes also competed on.

However, this year's triathlon ended up being just a biathlon, as the Green River was deemed unsafe for swimming due to high levels of bacteria. The swim portion of the race was replaced by a short run for this reason.

Another difference this year had to do with last summer's flooding from Tropical Storm Irene and the subsequent washout of the beloved

covered bridge. The 2012 Greenfield Lightlife Triathlon course had to be significantly altered. Once the bridge is restored, the Triathlon plans to return to the original route.

Bensen is 27 years old and lives in Greenfield. He completed the race in 57 minutes and 24 seconds. He had the fastest overall time, and the fastest bike leg of all the competitors. One hundred and twenty seven people from as far away as New Jersey and New Hampshire came to participate in this year's event.

Bensen's sister, Mollie, 24, also competed and completed the course. She said that it was a good day for both her and her brother, but added, "It was VERY hot and humid!"

The race has a welcoming and encouraging feel. Everyone who completes the course receives an award inscribed with the phrase "Finishing is winning!"



Siblings Mollie Bensen and David Bensen both competed in this year's Greenfield tri-...er.... bi-athlon. David Bensen came in first!

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