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The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 22, 2013

Manufacturing Still Matters: Judd Wire Celebrates 25th and 60th



JEFF SINGLETON PHOTO

From left to right: the current president of Judd Wire, Hiro Watanabe, outgoing president, Toshi Kinuta, state senator Stan Rosenberg, Chamber of Commerce president, Ann Hamilton, state representative, Stephen Kulik and Montague selectman, Mark Fairbrother.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “Strong companies make strong communities. Strong communities make strong companies,” Hiro Watanabe, newly appointed president of Judd Wire, declared at the company’s 25th and 60th anniversary celebration on Thursday, August 15. The event, appropriately, was attended by nearly 225 members of the company and the community. Dignitaries included State Senator Stan Rosenberg, State Representative Steven Kulik, Montague Selectboard Chair Mark Fairbrother, and Ann Hamilton of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

The two dates celebrated by the event mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of Judd Wire in 1953, and the 25th of the purchase of the company by the Japanese firm Sumitomo

Electric Industries in 1988. Watanabe and outgoing President Toshi Kinuta recounted the history of the company and its stated corporate values of innovation, employee professional development, and community responsibility. Judd Wire is a “high technology” company that makes wire components for the aerospace, automotive and communications industries.

Rosenberg and Kulik, in their comments, stressed the continuing importance of manufacturing in the economies of the state and region. Judd Wire, one of the largest employers in Montague, has remained viable in a highly competitive industry, weathering three recessions in the past twenty years. The legislators presented the company with several commemorative plaques, but Rosenberg noted that “this is the first and last free thing you will ever get from the state.”

Franklin County Boat Club’s Expansion Goes to ZBA



SAWYER LAUÇANNO PHOTO

By DAVID DETMOLD

GILL—After two years of hearings, followed by litigation, the Franklin County Boat Club’s pursuit of a new pavilion will land back in front of the zoning board of appeals on September 10 at 7 p.m. at town hall.

The Club, which built a new pavilion at their own risk while their special permit to do so was under appeal at Franklin County land court, plans to ask for a new permit to simply attach the pavilion to the boat club’s clubhouse.

The court ruled last fall that the ZBA erred in granting a special permit to put up a separate pavilion on the property, which lacks proper frontage. The town’s bylaws do, however, allow for the extension of an existing structure on non-conforming properties, as the court pointed out in its ruling. So, the boat club is hoping to use this channel to sail its new pavilion onto firmer legal footing, despite neighbors’ opposition.

Some of the boat club’s abutters have complained over the years about noise and late hours of operation for club activities in what is otherwise a

quiet residential section of Riverside. These complaints seem to have coalesced in the abutters’ appeal of the ZBA permit allowing for the new pavilion.

Three years ago, the club had come before the ZBA seeking to construct a new clubhouse, on the footprint (more or less) of the existing clubhouse. In the process of taking down that structure, club members were able to salvage the clubhouse roof intact, and they sought and received permission from the ZBA to put that roof up on poles as a separate pavilion. That led to the court battle, which now returns to the ZBA in an amended application to attach the pavilion to the clubhouse.

Given the twists and turns the case has already taken, ZBA chair Suzanne Smiley asked the selectboard on Monday, August 12 for permission to consult town counsel Donna MacNicol for help. “It’s hard having attorneys for the parties telling you what to do,” and not having town counsel to turn to for guidance, said Smiley.

The board authorized Smiley to have MacNicol present at future ZBA hearings on the boat club’s application.

Thomas Osborn Named New Turners Falls HS Principal

By C. SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

Turners Falls High School has a new principal. Thomas Osborn, who served for two years as assistant principal at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, has already moved into his office on Turnpike Road. Although born and bred in New York City, Osborn has lived and worked for a number of years in Massachusetts. He said he was “absolutely delighted” to be selected as the new principal. “I’m humbled, actually, by the opportunity to become part

of this community and genuinely honored to be given the chance to serve as principal.”

He said that this year would be an “observational year” for him. “I want and need to learn the culture here, need to learn what’s important for the people and the community and the students. I can say, though, that I will be accessible to everyone. My door is always open – to students, parents, teachers. In the morning you’ll find me greeting students as they

see TFHS page 10



SAWYER-LAUÇANNO PHOTO

Wendell Honors Leaders at Meetinghouse Dedication

By CHRIS QUEEN

“It seems poetic and fitting to honor Rosalie today, August 17, her 78th birthday. A soft-spoken, compassionate woman who touched the lives of many, Rosalie dedicated her life to aiding others.”

So spoke Phyllis O’Malley, daughter of the late Rosalie May Robinson Rosser, founder of Wendell’s Good Neighbors food pantry, at a dedication of new windows and doors at the Wendell Meetinghouse. In addition to Rosser, fourteen other town leaders and families were honored by relatives, colleagues and friends who packed the former church on Old Home Day.

“This is the first meeting this room has seen in twenty-two years,” observed Nan Riebschlaeger, president of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, opening the ceremony. Built in 1846, the Greek Revival building was the successor to the original church in Wendell, established in 1783 by Oliver Wendell, a Boston judge and banker who owned much of the land in the area. Serving congregations until 1991, the Meetinghouse was the spiritual center of a town now famous for its diverse viewpoints and lifestyles.

At 1 p.m. on a sunny Old Home Day, the Meetinghouse bell, cast and installed in 1846 by G. H. Holbrook, an apprentice to Paul Revere, rang its invitation to the ceremony. Those who entered were met by the glow of amber and white glass in the eight tall windows of the main meeting room, and the smaller windows

that face the town common.

Decades of rubble had been cleared, the floors scrubbed, and the old pews moved to the edges of the room. In the center were concentric circles of folding chairs, a hint of the moveable, multiple uses the building will offer in the future.

Most of the glass in the newly mounted windows dates from the early years. “Wavy,” transparent glass from the era of the original church was donated by the late Fanny Hager, whose ancestors are buried in the old town cemetery, when she weatherized her house in South Deerfield. The amber panes of “hammered,” translucent glass contribute to the character of the most prominent structure in Wendell’s Historic District.

“We are looking forward to the next phases of the project,” Jerry Barilla, treasurer of the Friends group, told the audience. These will include commissioning a historic structure report that surveys the past and future. The Friends will invite proposals from townspeople who have suggested future uses: a place for theater and the visual arts, music and speaker series, a fitness gym with storable equipment, a wedding chapel and a place for yoga, meditation and worship.

The naming of new windows and doors gave townsfolk a chance to remember and honor their leaders. Harry Williston recalled Danny Bacigalupo’s years of service as tree warden, cemetery caretaker and road boss. Ted Lewis praised the Ricketts brothers Everett and Byron, their mother Nellie Belinda Parson, and Everett’s son Lonny

Erving Hires Mediator

By KATIE NOLAN

At its August 8 meeting, the Erving selectboard put the fire chief hiring process on hold after one of the two recommended candidates, Mitchell LaClaire, Sr. withdrew his name from consideration. The board voted to hire organizational management consultant Sophie Parker & Associates of Boston and proceed with mediation within the fire department.

Interim fire chief Almon “Bud” Meattay, who has been fire chief since 2008, was re-appointed in 2010 for a 3-year term that ended June 30. In June, the selectboard advertised for applicants to the chief Position, and appointed a fire chief selection committee. At a crowded July 1 selectboard meeting, many citizens spoke in support of retaining Meattay and presented a petition supporting him. At that meeting, the board appointed him as interim chief until August 31.

At the July 22 meeting the board received the fire chief selection committee’s recommendation of Philip Wonkka and LaClaire as fire chief candidates. Although Meattay had applied, his name was not

see MEDIATOR page 9



ALYS QUEEN PHOTO

Phyllis O’Malley dedicates a Wendell Meetinghouse window to her mother, Rosalie Rosser, founder of the Good Neighbors food pantry.

for their many contributions. Jean Forward paid tribute to the Sundell family for their generosity and devotion to historic preservation.

Dan Keller recalled Lee Trousdale’s timely rescue of Wendell’s town finances. Patti Scutari reminded the audience of her husband Vic’s humor and his gifts to the town – Wendell Country Store and Déjà Brew Pub. Families with special ties to the town were honored – the Hagers, the Diemands, Mitchells, Godfreys, Russos, Barillas and Queens. Doug Dawson recited a haiku by Christine Tarrantino, a beloved artist and poet who passed away last year.

State Senator Stan Rosenberg and State Representative Denise Andrews were on hand to pledge their support of the Wendell Meetinghouse project. Both had toured the building on Old Home Day one year ago, and remarked Saturday on the progress that has been made. They praised the people of Wendell for valuing community life and historic preservation.

Many funds will be needed to prepare the Wendell Meetinghouse for its future roles. Tax-exempt donations may be mailed to The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, Box 171, Wendell, MA 01379.

Pet of the Week

No Grumps Here



“Crabby”

Greetings! Don't let my name fool you - I'm no crab!

I'm the sweetest kitty you'll ever meet! I love to purr and be petted and curl up next to you on the couch!

I'm also very pretty - don't you just love my markings and green eyes? I'm laid back and friendly – and I promise that you could never stay mad at this face!

Currently I am in a foster home till I find a place to go.

I love making new friends, so feel free to drop by the shelter and get to know me. Hope to meet you soon! *Meow!*

For more information on adopting me, please call the Leverett Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 and ask about me.

Library News

Wendell Free Library Playgroup

Sylvia's awesome playgroup is held most Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road.

Children, ages newborn to five, and their guardians, are welcome to attend. Sylvia has a sand table and lots of other activities to engage

participants.

Parents will enjoy socializing with their peers just as much as kids do with each other.

The program is co-sponsored by Union #28 Community Partnership for Children and the Wendell Free Library.

Turners Falls: Weekly Events at the Carnegie Library

Young children of all ages and their families or caregivers are invited to the free programs. Registration is not required.

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.: Story Time!

Young children of all ages and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music,

activities and snacks with artist Ruth O'Mara.

Thursdays at 10 a.m.: Music and Movement!

The weekly series with Tom Carroll and Laurie runs through the end of August.

For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Gill: Storytime At The Slate

Please join us every Friday at 10 a.m. for stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project!! We welcome new families! For more information, call 863-2591.

Montague Center: Evening Crafts

Children of all ages are invited to the Montague Center Library for informal crafts, Monday evenings around 6:30 p.m. with Linda Hickman.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

Q. I understand that getting a hernia fixed today is a lot easier than it used to be. Is that true?

You get a hernia when a section of an internal organ bulges through weak abdominal muscle tissue. The protruding organ is usually the intestines. About 80 percent of hernias are located in the groin. The overwhelming majority of groin-hernia victims are men.

About 5 million Americans develop hernias annually, but only 700,000 get them fixed surgically. The common theory for this phenomenon among doctors is that most people fear having an operation. But hernia surgery today is not the ordeal it once was with a large incision and long recovery.

Today, patients requiring hernia surgery are in and out of the hospital the same day.

Q. Do men have different brains than women?

Here are some fascinating facts:

* Dr. Gabrielle M. de Courten-Myers, a University of Cincinnati scientist, has determined men have about 2 billion more brain cells than women but the extra cells don't make them smarter than women.

* Louann Brizendine, a San Francisco neuropsychiatrist and author of *The Female Brain*, asserts that the difference between male and female brains explains why women like to discuss their feelings, while men love to dwell upon sex.

“Women have an eight-lane superhighway for processing emotion, while men have a small country road,” Brizendine says. “Men, however, have O'Hare Airport as a hub for processing thoughts about sex, where women have the airfield nearby that lands small and private

Everybody's Hernia, Male and Female Brains?, and Anybody's Hip

planes.”

* A brain-scanning study suggests that when males watch a mild electric shock given to a cheater, they don't feel his pain. Instead they enjoy it. Women's brains empathize with the cheater's pain and they get no pleasure from it.

* Men tend to perform better than women at certain spatial tasks, target-directed motor skills, mathematical reasoning, and navigating. (Is that why they don't ask for directions?) Women tend to excel at word tests, identifying matching items and precision manual tasks.

* Men and women with equal IQ's achieve the same scores with different areas of the brain, Richard J. Haier, PhD reported in *NeuroImage*. He also found that women have more white matter and fewer gray matter areas related to IQ than men do.

Q. What is hip resurfacing?

It is a surgical alternative to total hip replacement.

The hip is a ball-and-socket joint. The ball is at the top of the femur (thigh bone), and the socket is in the pelvis. In hip replacement surgery, the ball is replaced with a metal or ceramic substitute. The socket is fit-

ted with a metal cup to hold the new ball.

The primary difference in hip resurfacing is that the surgeon doesn't remove the femoral ball. Instead, the damaged ball is reshaped, and then a metal cap is anchored over it.

A crucial issue in joint replacement is longevity. A substitute hip is good for about 20 years, and it is difficult to remove and replace one that's shot. Hip resurfacing, unlike hip replacement, preserves enough bone to permit a total replacement if it is necessary later.

Surgeons estimate that 10 to 15 percent of people with bad hips can consider hip resurfacing instead of replacement. For example, resurfacing is not recommended for patients with osteoporosis, a disease that makes bones porous and vulnerable to fractures.

If you have questions for Fred, contact him at www.healthygeez.com.

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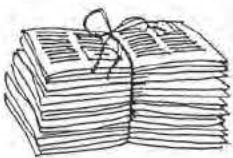
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Senior Center Activities – August 22 to August 30

GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Thursday: 8/22

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday: 8/23

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 8/26

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:55 a.m. Chair Aerobics

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

3 p.m. Balance Boot Camp

Tuesday: 8/27

10 a.m. Healthy Food Talk

12 noon Lunch

1 p.m. Beginning Gentle Yoga

Wednesday: 8/28

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Monthly Health Screening

12 noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday: 8/29

9 a.m. Tai Chi

12 noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday: 8/30

10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

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

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call Mealsite Manager Rebecca Meuse at (413) 423-3308, for meal information and reservations. For information, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call the Center to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out when is the next blood pressure clinic.

Thursday: 8/22

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

12:00- Cards

Friday: 8/23

9 a.m. Bowling

Monday: 8/26

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12 noon Movie

Tuesday: 8/27

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10:30 a.m. Greenfield Savings Bank-Craft Project

12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday: 8/28

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 noon Bingo

Thursday: 8/29

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Posture Perfect

12 noon Cards

Friday: 8/30

9:00 a.m. Bowling

9:30 a.m. Sit and Knit

LEVERETT

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

Take-It-Easy Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4 (first class free).

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

WENDELL

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



Officer Mike Sevene of the Montague Police Department surveys the Turners Falls Block Party from his futuristic vantage point.

GATE WOOLNER PHOTO



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

The 4-H Open House at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is on Saturday, August 24, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for all youth, ages 5 to 18. 4-H is part of UMass Extension, Amherst, and offers membership and educational programs to all area youngsters. Project areas include horse, leadership, rocketry, sheep, rabbits, computer science, sewing, gardening, biking, poultry and much, much more.

Come find out about 4-H. See examples of different types of 4-H Clubs. Learn how to start a 4-H Club. Meet other children and 4-H leaders as well as project demonstrations. Find out how you can get your whole family involved through being a member or leader. 4-H is fun, friends, family and the fine art of hands on learning. Bring your family and join this informative 2013 4-H Open House event. For additional information, contact the 4-H office at (413) 545-0611 or visit the MA 4-H website at www.mass4h.org. Light refreshments will be provided by GSB.

The Watershed History Series at the Great Falls Discovery Center will investigate the story of the **Great Hall** on Saturday, August 24, from 1 to 2 p.m. Originally built as a machine shop during the early days of industrialization in Turners Falls, the Great Hall building of the GFDC has a great story. Presenters will investigate tales of machines, fly fishing rods, historic preserva-

tion, and more. Do you have a story to tell? Come share it! For more info please call (413) 863-3221.

Interested bicyclists should register now for Baystate Franklin Medical Center's sixth annual **Wheeling for Healing bike ride** benefit to be held on Sunday, August 25, starting and ending at the White Eagle Polish Picnic Grounds, located at 249 Plain Road in Greenfield. Help raise funds for Baystate Franklin's cancer patients, programs and services, while enjoying a great bike ride.

Registration is \$50 for adults, and \$25 for children 12 and under. There will be exhibits, a barbeque cookout, raffle opportunities, and live music following the ride. There are four different courses for participants, ranging from a 3-mile family-friendly flat ride, to a challenging 50-mile route that includes the hills of Warwick and Wendell. Participants are encouraged to collect pledges to help raise additional funds for cancer programs and services at Baystate Franklin. For more information, and to register, visit www.baystatehealth.org/wheeling-forhealing, or call the Development Office at (413) 773-2573.

The Swift River Valley Historical Society, located at 40 Elm Street in North New Salem, is free and open to the public this summer in honor of the 75th anniversary of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, before the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir in 1938

and the flooding of the Swift River Valley to provide drinking water for the residents of Boston.

The museum recognizes the way of life and sacrifice made by the more than 2500 residents of those towns whose homes were moved or destroyed. For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, please visit www.swiftrivermuseum.org, or call (978) 544-6882. The museum's buildings are open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate the end of summer with a **hike to a sunset scenic** view at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area on Friday, August 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. Spend an evening hiking to the sounds of crickets and katydids and enjoying late summer wildflowers. Feast on a picnic supper (bring-your-own) on a rocky ledge while enjoying the sunset and beautiful views.

Adventure-seeking participants in moderate condition, able to walk three miles and comfortable with a small amount of elevation gain will be a good fit for this hike. Wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes that can get wet or muddy and bring a trail picnic, water and flashlight. Directions to nearby hike meeting location will be shared with registered participants. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960. For ages 9 and older, and free.

On Saturday, August 31, join participants and facilitators of the Brick House Summer Workshop Series for an free, end-of-summer **taco party**. Learn to make **torillas** at 11 a.m., bring toppings to share with others for a noon feast, and stick around for a 1 p.m. concert by Fireflies. **The Brick House** is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Have a youngster who loves to

MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD

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

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

The Planning Board will consider a range of actions including:

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

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

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

Ron Sicard, Chair

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22



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THEATER REVIEW: FIFTH OF JULY AT THE SHEA

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – At the Shea Theater last weekend, the production of "The Fifth of July" by Lanford Wilson, presented by the New Renaissance Players was a fun filled romp at times and complex serious drama at others. The actors offered a strong, believable performance, true to their characters who were well developed and unique yet shared many of the qualities familiar to us all.

These characters, written about so well by Wilson, remind us of those men and women from long ago, when the '60s generation was young, the Vietnam War was interwoven with women's rights and civil rights, and the nation was gripped

with conversations that seem now just a tapestry of our past.

This is an ensemble performance with no specific lead parts, and everyone involved did an excellent job, especially Gilana Chelimsky in her directorial debut. Unexpected and surprising is the play's format, with no scene breaks that allow for such norms as costume and set changes. Instead, actors come in and out of one long scene and frequently change costume off set while others remain on the stage which remains the same.

The one break, for Intermission, seemed to confuse the audience, which was not sure what to do, perhaps thinking it was an actual scene break or even the end of the show.

Act II offered a new set but

the same formula with no scene breaks, which by then the audience understood and appreciated, settling in to enjoy the fireworks. David King, who played the injured war veteran Kenneth Talley, remained onstage most of the time, seated on the right of the stage, frequently joined by others. His portrayal was rich and substantial, with a mostly upbeat, good-humored attitude that at times slipped when his inability to function normally was brought forth

and his unwillingness to go back to the world of teaching showed just how much pain was beneath his smiles and jokes.

At one point he fell, his legs askew, and his humiliation was clear as it took three people to lift him back up, standing on artificial limbs.

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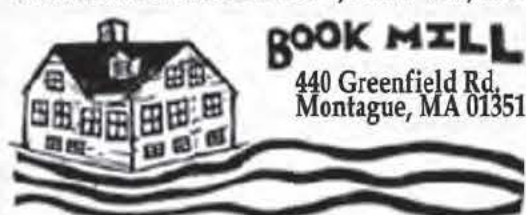
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The Sequester is Hurting

According to a Gallup Poll released on July 30, 54 percent of Americans say they are unsure of whether the budget sequester that went into effect on March 1 has been a good or bad thing. In other words, slightly more than half of Americans haven't yet noticed much difference. There's a reason for this: cuts didn't happen overnight, and certain basic federal disbursements such as food stamps and Social Security were protected by a special agreement hammered out by the president and congress in late March. But the effects are beginning to be felt by a fair number of Americans. As usual, it's those who have the least who suffer the most. Programs such as Head Start, Meals on Wheels, and federal unemployment benefits have begun to suffer as the cuts are really kicking in. This means benefit cancellations, fewer meals, smaller checks, and staff layoffs.

Head Start, the federal pre-K education service for low-income families, has eliminated services for 57,265 children (nearly 6,000 of whom attend Early Head Start). According to Health and Human Services, 18,000 employees nationwide will have their pay reduced or be laid off. This means centers will close or cut back on school hours or school days. Medical and dental screenings and bus routes will also be adversely affected.

It's not just Head Start that's getting whacked by a tea bag ax. Less publicized but also significant are cuts to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, or CCDBG which provides child care subsidies to help low-income families pay for child care. Head Start and CCDBG funds are critical for low-income families. Child care is expensive. For the working poor, it's really beyond reach without assistance. That's not an exaggeration: child care, on average, sucks up 42.6 percent of working poor wages.

Meals on Wheels already runs on shoestring budget but the cuts to this program are devastating. According to the White House the cuts

will mean 4 million fewer meals for seniors this year; the Meals On Wheels Association of America puts the loss at 19 million meals. And this is happening just as food banks are swamped with those seeking to help feed their families, and a record 46 million people – 15 percent of all Americans – receive SNAP benefits.

The cuts are even starting to hit the middle class. Tens of thousands of federal workers are seeing their hours cut through mandatory furloughs and bans on overtime. In July, the Pentagon started to furlough 650,000 civilian workers out of about 800,000 total for up to 11 days each.

Even conservative columnist George Will, writing in the *Washington Post*, noted that the cuts to NIH (National Institute of Health) were also exacting a toll by severely curtailing promised research funds: "...Much research proposed by extraordinarily talented physicians and scientists cannot proceed because the required funding is prevented by the intentional irrationality by which the sequester is administered."

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) recently released statistics on the effects of the federal budget cuts on unemployment insurance payments to the long-term unemployed. Overall, the average weekly unemployment payment of \$289 was cut by \$43 per week or 15%. Workers who received the maximum benefit amount in their state suffered a cut of \$62 a week as a result of the sequester.

The legislature of North Carolina, now famous as the state that decided to out-do the sequesterers, voted to eliminate payments to an estimated 70,000 North Carolinians. This in the state with the fifth highest unemployment rate in the nation.

But Congress hasn't been totally uncaring. They did step in to eliminate cuts to air traffic controllers so as not to inconvenience themselves as they boarded planes to get out of Washington for their long summer vacations.



Sequestration Cuts Head Start Services For More Than 57,000 Children

GUEST EDITORIAL

Vermont vs. Entergy

By DAVID DETMOLD

In the hellish wake of the US sanctioned and equipped bloodbath swirling out of Cairo last week, it was easy to miss the stomping of democracy administered by the 2nd District US Court of Appeals in New York City in the case of *Entergy Vermont Yankee vs. the State of Vermont*, handed down in a hail of sniper fire from on high.

As the clouds of teargas settled and women and children wailed in the streets, the lawyers in Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrel's meeting room in Montpelier picked themselves cautiously up off the glass strewn floor and peered over the edge of their conference table at the tanks massing in the halls and consulted their Blackberries for recent instructions from Governor Shumlin's summer headquarters in Putney – and found nothing but a blank screen.

The cracked and hissing nuclear reactor on the banks of the Connecticut River is now stamped with appellate court approval to continue spewing its unholy rain of radioactive isotopes onto the flatlanders in Cheshire, Windham and Franklin counties for another 20 years or more beyond VY's official expiration date of March 21, 2012.

Vermont's brave attempt to stem the helltide of carcinogens raining down from Vermont Yankee on a daily basis has been brutally clubbed to the curb, and we who live downwind from the nuke now

have little official recourse but to line our bunkers and bite our nails while the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nation's jaundiced ranks of decrepit nuclear utilities play a losing game of radoroulette with their aging fleet of 100 rapidly decaying reactors. When and where will the next meltdown occur? Odds are it will be at one of the last remaining jury rigged GE boiling water reactors – like Vermont Yankee.

Entergy, an opportunistic bottom feeder in the foul atomic sewer of America, has run Vermont Yankee into the ground for the last ten years since it purchased the derelict concrete shell from Vermont's major utilities for pennies on the assessed dollar. That coup allowed Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Public Service Co. to wipe their necrotic palms on their greasy overalls and back quickly away from their 600 megawatt cesspit and its steaming 700 ton heap of high level nuclear waste forever.

Back in the heady days of electric power deregulation and heavily leveraged mergers run amok in the crooked back alleys of the end of the century Enronized energy market, Vermont state officials were only too happy to hand over responsibility for the Green Mountain State's lone nuclear reactor to the shark skinned suits swarming their marble halls from Entergy's corporate HQ in New Orleans.

Now – ten years and miles of underground cracked pipes and misplaced fuel rods, collapsed cooling towers, and rising fenceline radiation later – in the lurid aftermath of Fukushima, the deal with Entergy has taken on a fiendishly heightened glow, and the legislators away up north in Montpelier want nothing more than to end their relationship with Entergy and pull the plug on VY. If only they hadn't signed the escape clause in disappearing ink.

Last week, the Second District Court of Appeals rejected Sorrel's argument that the legislature had intended to shut the nuke down on the simple, common sense grounds of reliability, cost of power, and the fact that Entergy's corporate flaks are a bunch of high priced whores who lied repeatedly and viciously and without remorse to them about little things like the existence of underground pipes that have been leaking radiation into the groundwater next to the Vernon Elementary School and into the Connecticut River for who knows how many years. The good justices in New York City decided Vermont was trying instead to make an end run around the federal government's legal pre-emption on the safety of our nation's nuclear reactors.

For God's sake. The legislators

in Montpelier are trying to protect their citizens from a nuclear meltdown! They have no right to legislate for the safety of their citizens when the interests of a nuclear raider like Entergy are at stake.

As the dust settles and the blood pools in the streets, Entergy is free to go on pushing their rattletrap reactor to 120 percent of its original design capacity in pursuit of corporate profit for the foreseeable future, or a reasonably amortized facsimile, while the rest of us are free to sit back and count the crop of breast cancers and brain tumors popping up like some hellbroth of Pluto across the hills of Leyden, Gill, and Northfield. Here in Montague there is no shelter in the wild-life refuge of the Montague Plains. Radiation is an equal opportunity neutron bomb and it is targeting Franklin County with a vengeance.

The gall of those legislative hicks in Montpelier! Trying to shut down a 41 year old nuke before it blows apart and destroys Brattleboro in a poison cloud of radiation and lays waste to fertile farms as far away as the Quabbin Reservoir and beyond. If the little state of Vermont could get away with that, what's to stop New York from doing the same thing to Indian Point? And California to Diablo Canyon?

We can't allow individual states to legislate the safety of their citizens in the arena of nuclear power and radiation. What would that mean for the future of our country?

No. The corporate captains of Entergy have instead been given carte blanche to continue to pillage, loot and rape the cute little towns, picture postcard hills and dairy barns of Vermont for their own profit for as long as the bolts and rivets of VY's overstressed piping system can stand it.

Entergy has never in ten years managed to find one thin dime to contribute to the Vermont Yankee decommissioning fund, and is now in the process of another ruthless round of layoffs at the nuke to boost the bottom line. Soon there will be no one left in the control room but the janitorial staff.

Meanwhile, the thousands of antinuclear activists who marched and sat in at the gates of VY in the 1980s have been lulled into a near cataleptic state by the recent round of court proceedings. How easily we forget. The only power in the land capable of forcing a final reckoning with the corporate greedheads who hold our lives in the balance is the power of average people facing down the atomic pallbearers in the village square, and there bringing the truth about nuclear power home through nonviolent direct action.

Don't wait for another appeal to go down. The lives you save may be your great great grandchildren's.

Letter to the Editor

Christmas in July: Clarification

Upon reading your Local Brief on the fireworks I noticed an error.

I have organized the show for all 11 years, and the Turners Falls Rod and Gun was only involved with the very first show, 11 years ago, as it coincided with their anniversary.

The last 10 years have been completely sponsored by the Franklin County Boat Club, with no involve-

ment from the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club.

The show is mainly funded by our membership and some contributions from our Riverside neighbors who enjoy the show.

Anyone who enjoys our show and wishes to contribute to help make next year's show bigger can send a donation to:

FCBC, PO Box 217, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

– Leon Ambo, Director
Franklin County Boat Club

The editors respond:

We regret the error. Our information came from the Town of Montague's website.

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ANOTHER LETTER

The Fate of The "Canal Nine"



By KARL MEYER

Forty-three years after being chosen as the upstream route for migratory fish, the Turners Falls power canal remains the black hole of fisheries restoration on the Connecticut.

In current filings the US Fish & Wildlife Service is requesting telemetry coverage across the mid-Turners Falls canal to puzzle out the unexplained fate of thousands of fish. Trout Unlimited wants balloon-tagged shad and more monitors bracketing its powerhouse to study turbine kills and migratory delay.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wants a hydraulics study of that canal, where all migrants must bypass two turbine stations, then negotiate blistering turbulence just to have a shot at spawning in Vermont and New Hampshire. On August 14, 2013, canal/dam owners GDF-Suez FirstLight rejected those studies as unnecessary in legal filings for a new 30-50 year federal operating license.

While every fish attempting to spawn upstream of Turners Falls dam must enter the canal, scores of questions about their fate there remain unanswered. Basic questions like, do shad spawn in the canal, have never been studied – even though shad spend an average of 25 days there and just one-fish-in-ten that enters emerges beyond the canal. US Geological Survey Conte Fish Lab researchers have been paid by Northeast Utilities and FirstLight for studies to improve the fish exit from the canal for the past 15 years.

Yet forty-three years after this system was put in place, it's still one-fish-in-ten. And canal spawning, germane to the ecosystem restoration puzzle, has never been studied.

Even more basic to success is this: if only one fish in ten makes it through – what's the fate of the

other "canal-nine"? But you don't pose that question if you want to keep being paid to study the public's fish in the company's private canal. You study little sections of the canal – fiddle around near the company's preferred exits and entrances – make big claims for tiny, discreet successes. A mountain of data is collected, yet never finalized, published; nor peer reviewed. After 15 years of study and reengineering, it's still one-fish-in-ten.

Other agency experts wink in this shared belief: most fish entering that canal don't survive. Sliced-up in downstream turbines, they flush directly into the river.

"Unconscionable" is the term Dr. Boyd Kynard uses for plans afoot to move hundreds of thousands of shad into that canal via a new lift (as opposed to tens of thousands today.) He's an award-winning fish passage expert who logged over 25 years as a federal fish scientist-- helping found the Conte Fish Lab while with the US F&WS.

Kynard believes the ineffective ladder system in place there for decades may have actually saved hundreds of thousands of fish from death in Cabot Station turbines: "The Cabot ladder is so bad most fish never reach the canal where most will exit downstream through deadly station turbines."

Kynard, a fish behavior specialist who studied shad passage and turbine mortality at Holyoke Dam through the 1980s, believes a new lift below Cabot Station could prove the ecosystem's next 50-year disaster. He witnessed massive fish kills in Holyoke's canals in the early 1980s when, starting in 1976, a new lift passed hundreds of thousands of fish upstream to spawn for the first time in 120 years. It was hugely successful, but no one foresaw what would happen when adults headed back to sea.

While part of the migrants rode over the dam during high flows, others reencountered the dam-and-canal-system. Tens of thousands got

sucked into turbines at Hadley Falls Station or died in the canal--unable to return safely to the river. A stench of rotting fish hung over that city while dump truck after dump truck hauled tens of thousands of dead shad from the canal to the landfill.

That condition was eventually remediated when dam owners installed a louver system in the canal to divert down-running shad into a pipe and back to the river, thus bypassing all turbines.

But whereas Holyoke's lift allowed shad to first spawn upstream in the river before encountering turbines, at Turners two hundred thousand fish could find themselves in a turbine-filled canal before ever getting a chance to spawn in Vermont, New Hampshire or northern Massachusetts. And this canal's Frances-type turbines are far more deadly than Holyoke's. Stressed, those newly-lifted shad can encounter two discreet turbine sites before meeting the massive canal turbulence near the dam.

This ecosystem can't absorb another 40-year failure in the Turners Falls canal. The USFWS, TU, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council are backing a study – adopted from Kynard's Holyoke work, which would use low-frequency sound to deflect shad from entering the canal.

If deployed correctly it could send migrating fish straight upriver to a lift at the dam, like the one that's succeeded at Holyoke for decades. It's a simple, inexpensive study – one FirstLight is already seeking to limit to a single year, or exclude altogether.

But it's FERC who'll decide by September 13th. They have a mandate to protect the public's fish.

Karl Meyer of Greenfield, MA is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Read more of his writing at: www.karlmeyerwriting.com/blog

The Rogue Editor

What's A Condo Mean, Again?



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

In our July 25 issue we incorrectly headlined our article about the proposed reuse of Montague Center School as a "Condo Project." Though we recall early talk about "mixed use," developer Mark Zaccheo is only proposing to create rental apartments in the building.

We apologize to our readers for the error. As a way of making amends, and to offer you a little more than just one more correction, we decided to ask our language imperator to weigh in on the term "condominium."

By NEIL SERVEN

For a word that connotes to us a modern-sounding idea – an individually owned apartment that is part of a shared building or complex, with shared common areas – "condominium" is actually quite old.

In the early 18th century, it had a much different meaning, referring to joint sovereignty of a geographical area by two or more nations. The Sudan, for example, was ruled by a "condominium" agreement between Egypt and Great Britain that spanned over fifty years and ended with Sudan's independence in 1955.

One of the earliest writers to employ the term was the Scottish theologian Gilbert Burnet (1643-1715), Bishop of Salisbury, who around 1715 wrote in *History of His Own Time*, "The Duke of Holstein began to build some new forts ... this, the Danes said, was contrary ... to the condominium which that king and the duke have in that duchy."

This sense of the word is still used on occasion today – there are a handful of scattered and miniscule parts of the world that fall under shared domain for various reasons. One is Pheasant Island (also known as Conference Island), located in the Bidasoa River running between France and Spain, which had its joint status designated as a

stipulation of the Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659.

The meaning of this sense is rather straightforward when one looks at the word's Latin roots: the prefix 'com-' means 'with' or 'together' and 'dominium' means 'domain' or 'lordship.' The modern sense of the word, pertaining to shared communal housing comprised of individually owned units, didn't come about until the early 1960s (the short form 'condo' sprung up in 1964).

A June 10, 1962 article in the *Toronto Blade* reporting on an upward trend in apartment living in the U.S. describes the new 'condominium' thusly: "The owner then gets a deed, mortgage and tax assessment covering the apartment. He owns it as he would a single-family home. ... This is different from the more familiar cooperative apartments. In a co-op, occupants usually buy shares of a corporation which owns and manages the apartment building. The occupant merely pays the corporation monthly carrying charges that cover the various costs."

At the time, only eight states even had laws permitting condominium apartments, but as they became more popular, the term lost its scare quotes. What is not clear, however, is how a word for joint sovereignty between nations made the leap to the lexicon of the real estate business. In 1961, William Kerr wrote in the journal *Lawyers Title News* of "a strange, new word [that] has appeared in the vocabulary of the real estate fraternity."

Although the analogy might seem easy to project, none of the earliest instances of usage of the term pertaining to real estate indicates any tie back to the sovereignty sense, even though that would seem a logical means of explaining the parameters of this new kind of housing on a public still yet to be sold on it. In any event, it didn't take long for the term – or the idea – to become rooted in American culture.

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“WINGS OF FREEDOM TOUR” COMES TO ORANGE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

By CINDY HARTWELL

ORANGE – In 1945 Captain Vincent “Bill” Purple was piloting a B-17 Flying Fortress from Savannah, GA to England when he decided to do a flyby over his parents’ house, on Fish Street in Athol, to wave goodbye.

Reminiscing about that day was the spark that caused Purple and a small committee to bring a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, along with a Consolidated B-24 Liberator and a North American P-51 Mustang, to the Orange Municipal Airport in September 2012 so that area residents could again hear the sounds of a vintage B-17 soar above the treetops.

Due to the great turnout for last year’s event, Purple is bringing the planes – and more – back

for an encore, this September 11 through 13.

Last year’s event attracted over 3,000 visitors, ranging in age from

young children to 99-year-old veterans, and the Dinner Dance was a sell out! Negotiations are currently underway to bring in more planes and WWII ground vehicles, and have a variety of daytime entertainment and a special “9/11 Remembrance” as the planes arrive.

On September 11 around 1 p.m., the Collings Foundation planes will be landing at the Orange Municipal Airport in Orange, MA for a 3-day living history event! This is a rare

aircraft inside and out. The event is \$12, and \$6 for children under 12.

WWII Veterans can tour the aircraft at no cost, and there are special rates for school groups: call (800) 568-8924. The planes will be open for tours and rides on Wednesday, September 11 from 2 to 5 p.m., Thursday, September 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, September 13 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Wings of Freedom Tour travels the nation as a flying tribute to the flight crews who flew them, the ground crews who maintained them, the workers who built them, the soldiers, sailors and airmen they helped protect, and the citizens and families that share the freedom that they helped preserve. The rarity of the B-17, B-24 & P-51 – and their importance to telling the story of WWII – is why the Collings Foundation continues to fly and display the aircraft nationwide. For more information on the Foundation, visit www.collings-foundation.org.

Bill Purple, his daughter Cindy Hartwell, and her husband Chuck Hartwell are the driving force be-

hind this event in Orange, to be known as “Operation Kimbolton” after Bill’s airbase in England.

Aside from Bill’s personal history with these aircraft, he wanted to bring the planes to Orange because it would be a great

their aircraft for their next mission. Schools are strongly encouraged to bring their students to see the planes and learn about this important time in history.

Like last year, in addition to the planes, this year’s activities will include a WWII-themed Dinner Dance with a 1940’s swing band

in one of the hangars at the Orange Airport, parachutists from Jump-town bailing out of the B-17 bomb bay, and several WWII ground vehicles and dis-



This North American P-51 Mustang will be visiting the Orange Municipal Airport on Sept 11-13.

event for the North Quabbin region, and more importantly, “because it will be FUN!”

History comes alive when you can walk through these planes and talk to people who lived through the war; their memories are priceless. Don’t miss the opportunity to speak with several WWII Veterans at the “WWII Veterans Meet & Greet” and hear their stories first hand!

There will be a Mission Briefing Tent for young and old alike to replicate what these brave soldiers experienced before boarding

plays to explore. A pre-1946 Car Show will be held Weds afternoon, 1940’s music will fill the air, and a special WWII Portrait Exhibit will be on display. Photo opportunities abound!

For more information about the event, email operationkimbolton@gmail.com, go to flyore.com, or call (978) 544-5783. For flight reservations and to schedule school groups, please call the Collings Foundation on (800) 568-8924. You can also follow us on Facebook at “Wings of Freedom – Orange Airport.”



Clay Rushford of Orange is on the left, Bill Purple of Petersham, Event Chariman, on the right.

opportunity to visit, explore, and learn more about these unique and rare treasures of aviation history. Visitors are invited to explore the

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

Zach Bartak and
Dr. Darius Greenbacher

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

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

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

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

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

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West Along the River

The Very Rich Hours of High Summer

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – Summer is here and now today, or else is nowhere.

Morning comes as always quietly with early light, around 6 a.m. nowadays. Jays call in the distance, a redwing takes in the first rays, in the lilac. Then he wings across the river to his territory in the marsh. Rising yellow sun angles early shadows onto the green grass and emerald woods.

Silently sleeps the yellow and black garter snake in the woodpile. Coiled and recoiled upon her length, her chin rests calmly on her back. Like a contented cat in the sun, her sphinx-like eyes follow me as I busy myself in her near distance. She knows me, she thinks she's invisible, and yet has but to slip smoothly into the safety of the labyrinth of stacked wood if need be. She's there now in the warming sun, she'll move into the shady parts of the beehive-shaped wood pile during the noon time heat, and she'll still be there in the 4 p.m. golden afterglow of the day.

Adirondack chair drawn up under the cherry tree, leaves throw dappled shadows on these journal pages. Another perfect day shaping up on a wet morning like this after last night's rain. In the deep green beyond the dripping rhododendron, at the edge of the light, catbirds and green frogs haunt this lush New England rainforest. A family of thrushes work the undergrowth of ferns. Wasps buzz behind me on the deck, their job is to cool the nest, their wings a humming blur to fan the others. The heat will rise quickly, as yesterday.

A random ant, out for an exploratory walk across the drying boards of the deck, nips a single shot of formic acid into my big toe before moving on. Ouch! Ant keeps scurrying on, likely whistling innocently to himself, hands in pockets as though nothing had happened.. Didn't mean to nip me really, just a little zen nip actually, only a little figurative slap in the face (*kwatsu!*) to remind me that this is real life, and that I should delight in the ordinary, this fine day.

By the middle of this August month, birds, the young of this year, move through the garden flowers and

berry-flooded margins of the yard. Bands of new chickadees lilt from branch to branch, cheery as always, carrying on chickadee tradition. A young red-eyed vireo works the lilac. It's good to know a true vireo was fledged, instead of the imposter cowbird, who victimized the black and white warblers on the island. The cowbird's mother laid her egg

birds sit there side by side, sipping long through slender bills like kids with straws on soda fountain swivel stools drawing in the last drops of a root beer float. Hmm. Nobody drinks rootbeer floats anymore. Can't find too many soda fountain stools to sit on either. We lost our last ones long ago, was it Fournier Brothers store on the corner of 4th and Avenue A, or Drago's? I suppose you could still have the experience at the Shady Glen if you had a mind to.

A trip to the seashore is required to prove that this is really high summer.

Plum Island is a good destination as always. Never too crowded, Seniors (ahem) get in free and when you are thoroughly grilled by the unrelenting sun, slammed around in the washing machine of the waves, properly salted and sand coated, you can

always go to the marshes to watch birds. There's a fine boardwalk stroll through the woods and loosestrife where marsh wrens clatter in the cat-tails and mosquitoes will remind you that this is indeed August. Of course they'll be waiting there in September too. Maybe even well into November if this climate change thing keeps up.

Everywhere signs are pointing now to the months with *burr* in them, starting with September. Birds move through the yard barely making a chirp, putting on weight for the autumn trip south. Tomatoes are (finally) ripening, millions of crickets fiddle, chirp, and scream all day and into the night. We try to banish the occasional early red of a few swamp maple leaves from our sight. Hold back the hands of time on a real clock, one with hands not impersonal digital numerals, remember those?

Then the inevitable happens. Cousin Tom turns up with tickets for the Scheutzen Verein Clambake three weeks from now.

That does it. The calendar, time, and clambake wait for no man, and here comes September, just speeding around the corner on one leg.

For more of David's journal and writing, visit his website, ancestryplaceandrace.com.



Cardinal Flowers and Joe-pye Weeds along the Millers River

in the warbler's nest, and they raised it as their own. Now he follows them around, three times their size, begging for an endless supply of food, as the adoptive parents work themselves ragged to feed him.

This year's rose-breasted grosbeak hops and dangles from jewelweed and wolf bane, experimenting with the various seeds, new to her young palate. As for me, was out playing fiddle last night with the band, and now this early morning, happy with my studying, poetry, and coffee.

In the late afternoon, down to the river, with a cold bottle of Narragansett, I sit on a rock with my feet in the rushing water, and watch the Joe Pye weed and Cardinal flowers grow.

*Who shall say I'm not
The happy genius of my household?*
William Carlos Williams

But now, these days, the quality of sunlight has changed. Early morning in the fog, later in the day, golden light comes slanted through the trees from the southwest corner of the stone pasture along the west-flowing river. Here is where the sun spends the late afternoon.

The flower garden has reached full bloom and is starting to wane. The hummingbirds find fewer and fewer scarlet bee balm spires, mostly now gone by. The sugar water feeder replaces the real thing. Two sister

REPTILES COME TO TURNERS FALLS



Dexter Knight-Richard of Turners Falls and the rest of the audience had a chance to hold an alligator at the Rainforest Reptile Show at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, August 14.

By LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The second floor of the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, August 14 was packed to capacity with kids, parents, grandparents and the reptile-curious, all craning their necks to get a view of various large reptiles.

As part of the party celebrating Carnegie Library's Summer Reading Program, Michael Radowsky, of the Rainforest Reptile Show Company, brought to the library a traveling road show of scary rain forest creatures including a giant cane toad, a black throated monitor lizard, a ten-foot common boa constrictor, an alligator and many smaller animals.

With all of the animals, Radowsky, who enthralled the audience with his humor and knowledge, discussed why they do not make good pets. Many of them were rescued by the presenter. The alliga-

tor was found in the Charles River in Needham, and the large monitor lizard was captured on a busy street in Brooklyn.

Radowsky was totally at ease with these reptiles but stressed that these animals should not really be in captivity, and that while he was highly experienced in handling them, others needed to be very careful. The alligator's snout, for instance, was taped shut as a safety precaution.

As Radowski discussed the history and habits of each reptile, he gently held the animals in his hands except for the ten-foot long boa, which he wrapped around his shoulders. He also allowed volunteers from the audience to get up close and personal with the reptiles.

The Summer Reading Program continues through the last day of public school vacation in Montague next week.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Wheelchair Swing, Sewer Rate Rise, Vicious Dog, and More

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The August 19 meeting agenda of the selectboard was jam-packed. Topics ranged from a discussion with Fire Chief Bob Escott about joining the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Regional Emergency Shelter Plan, to a vicious dog hearing, a wheelchair swing for Unity Park, and a preliminary discussion of new sewer rates, plus the 23-article-long warrant for a Special Town Meeting on September 12 – to mention just a few of the issues the selectboard had to weigh.

Just when you think the Unity Park children's playground is complete and wonderful, some sensitive persons realized what is still missing, namely a tailor-made piece of play equipment to make it possible for a child in a wheelchair to swing in the playground along with other children. The group sponsoring the acquisition of just such a swing is called A Friend to Friend, represented at the meeting by vice president Lesley Cogswell and director Kathy Webber, and recreation director Jon Dobosz who enthusiastically endorsed the addition of a wheelchair swing to the children's play area. So far the group has raised \$9000 toward the purchase price of \$15,000. Cogswell told of a family who made raspberry jam and managed to raise \$104 selling their jam to donate to the purchase of a wheelchair swing. For more information, or to donate, go to www.afriendtofriend.com.

WPCF Superintendent Bob Trombley was on the agenda to discuss the new sewer rates and to announce September 9 as the date of the public hearing on sewer rates. He explained that the repairs to sewer lines on Industrial Boulevard and Millers Falls Road had used up much of the WPCF's retained earnings, monies that are usually applied to lowering the sewer rate. He noted that the average use for residences is 61,000 gallons. His preliminary estimate is for an approximately \$13 increase over this year's average bill for sewer use.

Charlie Blanker from Southworth Paper asked why his surcharge was estimated to increase 20%. Trombley said they needed to meet one-on-one so he could make it clear. Blanker agreed. Trombley was also there to ask for approval for pay requisition #2 for Baltazar Contractors in the amount of \$153,662.50, which the board approved. His third request, for approval to apply to the state revolving fund to inspect pumping stations, was denied for not being on the agenda. However, later in the meeting selectman Nelson made a motion to add a BOS meeting on August 26, because of the length of the agenda under the vacation sched-

ule of every other week.

Next came a lengthy dog hearing involving a pit bull attacking a neighbor and biting her nine times. This was the second complaint on the dog. All parties agreed the dog was not well-socialized or well-supervised; none of the parties felt the dog should be put down. Selectman Nelson suggested the formal conditions the owners must meet to keep their dog and keep their neighbors safe.

The board agreed and all parties agreed to abide by the stated requirements: Within 24 hours the owners must acquire a leash sufficiently strong to hold a 100-lb. dog; when in the yard, the dog must be attached to a chain lead (the owner said she did not have the funds to build fencing around her house, Nelson's original request); and the dog must wear a muzzle when out on walks or in his yard. The owners must undertake a dog socialization training for the dog. Finally all parties must return to the selectboard for a follow-up report in 60 days, with no incidents in the meantime.

Gary Earles, co-chair of the Cable Advisory Committee asked the board to "issue a preliminary assessment of denial of Comcast Inc.'s cable television renewal proposal to the town of Montague, dated April 15, 2013. The board will issue a written statement of reasons for denial in accordance with 207 CMR 3.06(3)." Earles said this was a procedural step required in order to continue the ongoing negotiations, but it was the town's request that was necessary. He said Comcast and the CAC were still negotiating some 21 points where there was disagreement between the proposal offered by Comcast and the CAC.

Chief Dodge once again came before the board to discuss Officer Richard Suchanek's Section 111F Leave. This time he was happy to report that Suchanek had returned to full-time work as of August 15.

Community Events and Permits

The selectboard issued the following permits/licenses: Michael Muller and Montague Community Cable, for assembly, public demonstration, and use of public property for the Montague Soapbox Derby on September 22; Mark Wisniewski of the Rendezvous, for a one-day liquor license on September 22 at Unity Park; Mike Nelson, request to change date of Toll Booth fundraiser from September 21 to September 28. Ted and Alice Armen were given a permit to plant, cultivate a garden, and install a perimeter fence on a School Street property.

The next meeting of the Montague selectboard will be on August 26 in the upstairs selectmen's room of town hall.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

First Town in Western Mass to Build its Own High-speed Broadband Network

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard signed a million dollar bond on Tuesday, August 13 to provide a downpayment on the \$2.2 million buildout of the town's first in Western Mass municipal high speed broadband network.

A company called Millenium, which placed as the runner up to G4S in the first round of bidding, won the contract to install the town-wide high speed fiber network after the attorney general tossed out the first bids on a technicality.

According to selectboard member Peter d'Errico, the selectboard liaison to the broadband committee, Millenium is already working with local utility companies to make sure all utility poles are ready for the high speed fiber. That process could take another few months, but once that aspect of the work is complete, Millenium's contractors should begin stringing the trunk line and house to house connections, an effort that may take another year to complete. At which point, Leverett residents will finally join the modern age of high speed connectivity.

The board offered a rough estimate of costs to residents: an average of fifty dollars a month in user fees and higher property taxes to cover the cost of internet and phone service on the municipal system, a figure which should represent a cost savings over what many residents are paying for phone lines and dial up service now.

Shutesbury Road Redesign

Stewart Olson, a member of the fire department, came before the selectboard to call attention to the dangerous intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads. Olson lives on the corner of that steep hill, one of the historic village centers of Leverett. In more recent years, GPS systems have been sending tractor trailer truck traffic on a long diagonal from I-91 North to Route 2 East via this rural route, and Olson said in the summer the five mile S-curve hill down from Shutesbury is popular with motorcycle groups and bike tours.

"They're all going too fast," said Olson, who witnessed a bicycle accident near his property recently, and talked about a more serious motorcycle accident just up the road.

"People come flying by with no regard to other people... I'm just concerned that I'm going to end up dealing with some horrendous accident at that intersection."

Board member Julie Shively called that intersection "the worst in town," and chair Rich Brazeau said the highway department and past selectboards had studied the problem and come up with various plans for redesigning that corner. But each of the plans presented problems, and the town has taken no action over the years.

Apparently, drivers heading north on Cushman Road often disregard the fact that they are the ones entering traffic, as Shutesbury Road bends around the corner and heads up the hill toward the town of Shutesbury. One suggestion discussed briefly on Tuesday would be to have the through road change to run from Cushman to Shutesbury, and have traffic entering from the direction of Leverett Center join the main thruway at a stop sign, rather than the three-way free-for-all that exists now.

The board will look over the various plans before deciding next steps.

Equitable Teacher Pay

The school committee met with the selectboard to discuss a common response to a letter to the editor that appeared in local newspapers calling for more equitable pay for Leverett teachers, who, the letter writer said, are paid less than their counterparts in the Amherst-Pelham regional schools. However, Shively said, if teacher salaries at Leverett Elementary are compared to salaries at the other elementary schools in elementary school Union 28 (U28), Leverett teachers fare very well in comparison to their colleagues.

"On average," said Shively, "Leverett teachers are paid 11% higher than teachers in Erving, 7% higher than teachers in Shutesbury, and 33% higher than teachers in Swift River." Shively also said, "I don't think we should be comparing ourselves to Amherst; we're completely different towns." D'Errico said, "We have nowhere near the tax base as Amherst does to spread the costs out."

After school committee chair Catherine Brooks asked the board not to respond with a letter to the editor while contract negotiations with Leverett teachers are ongoing, the selectboard agreed to post the salary comparison information Shively had compiled on the town website instead. Shively is among the members of a planning committee working to present a regionalization plan to voters in Leverett, Pelham and Amherst. If accepted,

the plan would force Leverett to bring its teachers' salaries up to parity with those in Amherst.

Meanwhile, with the date of the regionalization vote being pushed forward from the fall 2013 to spring 2014, the board asked the school committee about the status of U28 interim superintendent Bob Mahler. Mahler, former principal of Shutesbury Elementary, was hired this summer as the head of U28 on a one-year interim contract.

"I don't even know if Bob might want to stay on another year," said Brooks, who added, "That would be the best outcome." The U28 personnel committee will meet in September to plot strategy for what looks like another year of uncertainty for the five-town (Erving, Wendell, New Salem, Shutesbury and Leverett) elementary union.

Full-time Firefighter

In other news, the board authorized fire chief John Moruzzi to apply for a two year federal grant that would pay for a fulltime firefighter, to respond to calls and "do stuff around the station, wash and wax the fire trucks," as Moruzzi put it.

The Leverett fire department, like many local departments, has a lack of personnel in town during daytime working hours. If Leverett were to receive the grant, the town would have the option, but would not be required to pick up the cost of the third year of the firefighter's salary. The selectboard is waiting for a final draft of the fire department study committee's report, expected in September, to decide whether to support funding for a fulltime firefighter at town meeting, regardless of whether grant funding is available to defray the initial cost of that person's salary.

Meanwhile, the board accepted Moruzzi's recommendation and appointed Cesar Bernal-Corzo, as a new call member of the Leverett department, on six months' probationary pay of \$14.47 per hour. Bernal-Corzo is a member of the Amherst fire department.

Chapter 90 State Aid, and Road Repairs

Highway boss Will Stratford reported to the selectboard that he intends to use \$184,425 of Chapter 90 state aid to repair paving on Lead Mine Road, Cave Hill Road, Cushman Road and Shutesbury Road. That sum represents the entire allocation of state highway aid for the town this year, combined with what is left over from last year's funds.

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NOTES FROM THE
GILL SELECTBOARD

Parking Lot Paving
... and Ice Cream

By DAVID DETMOLD

The selectboard opened bids on August 21 for repaving at the Gill Elementary School. The plan is to expand the width of the parking lot by ten feet to avoid the problem of cars backing into each other as they exit the narrow lot. The town hopes to have the parking lot repaving complete before school starts on the 29th.

But just in case, the selectboard granted permission for principal Kathleen Adams to hold the school's annual ice cream social on the town common on the 27th – if the paving is ongoing as of then. Check the school's website for more details closer to the date.

And the highway department is offering a mint 1999 Chevy Blazer as surplus equipment for a minimum bid of \$200!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Golf Cart Stolen

Monday, 8/5
11 a.m. Attempted warrant service for Franklin Road resident. Suspect moved.

1:45 p.m. Tree climbing equipment reported stolen from Mountain Road location.

3 p.m. Dog reported missing from Mountain Road residence.

Tuesday, 8/6
8:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Camp Road. Subject located walking a dog.

11:30 a.m. Suspicious person reported behind the DPW. Cleared with Highway Superintendent.

4:05 p.m. Four mailboxes vandalized on French King Highway. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 8/7
7:55 a.m. Golf cart re-

ported stolen from business on West Gill Road. Under investigation.

Thursday, 8/8
5:35 p.m. Welfare check requested on Munns Ferry Road resident.

Friday, 8/9
1:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a child custody issue.

Saturday, 8/10
12:50 p.m. Downed tree reported on River Road.
4:55 p.m. Family dispute at Chappel Drive residence.

7:10 p.m. Attempted warrant arrest of Main Road resident.

8:25 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Main Road residence.

Sunday, 8/11
2:30 p.m. Assisted with medical call at Barton Cove.

MEDIATOR from page 1 forwarded by the committee. After hearing from more citizens, the board decided to follow multiple approaches in finding a long-term fire chief: interviewing the fire chief selection committee's candidates; hiring a mediator to work with fire department members; and researching changing the fire chief selection process.

In her proposal to the board, Sophie Parker wrote that she would interview Meattey, town administrator Tom Sharp, the selectboard and firefighters to gain a better understanding of the issues and then plan and facilitate an "all hands" fire department meeting lasting for three to four hours. Parker said she expects to work with a meeting planning group consisting of selectboard members, Sharp, and selected firefighters.

According to Parker's proposal, there are five major purposes of the fire department meeting: to improve relationships within the team; to accept more responsibility

for finding solutions to problems, to begin to shift the culture from competitive to collaborative; to share information about the scope and impact of the chief re-appointment conflict; to engage firefighters in a discussion about how communication could be improved; and to identify ways that the rift within the fire department can be mitigated.

"The meeting is designed to facilitate truthful discussion, which invites trust. Trust is the currency of changed behavior," Parker wrote.

Parker, Meattey, and Sharp met August 9 to begin preliminary fact-finding discussions. According to assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard, Parker was given a list of people to interview and will be scheduling interviews this week.

The selectboard will meet next on August 26, when they will assess the status of the mediation process and decide how to proceed after Meattey's interim appointment ends.



NOTES FROM THE
ERVING SELECTBOARD

Geothermal
Repairs, and
Appointments

By KATIE NOLAN

While the majority of the meeting on August 8 was devoted to the fire chief hiring process (*see pg. 1*), two other items did make their way in front of the selectboard.

The board approved a contract with CTC, Inc. for \$3,435 for changes to the senior center geothermal pumping system, including changing the pump from pressure-based controls to temperature-based controls. Sharp said that CTC was not the contractor who installed the pump.

William Bembury of Church Street was appointed election warden, and Nancy Kruzlik of East Prospect Street as election inspector/teller.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Five Vehicle Breakdowns and a Grill Fire

Tuesday, 8/6
8:50 a.m. Assisted on scene of a medical emergency on Forest Street.

4:30 p.m. Assisted with removal of property at storage units.

6:30 p.m. 911 call from Laurel Lake campground payphone. No one found on arrival.

7:45 p.m. Report of gas grill fire at High Street residence. Secured area and assisted FD.

11:25 p.m. Suspicious subject reported near Erving Center fire station. Found subject and sent home.

Wednesday, 8/7
3:50 a.m. One-car crash on Papermill Road. Took report.

5:25 p.m. Erratic operator reported on Route 2 in Farley. Discovered to be medical emergency. Transported operator to hospital.

6:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2, Farley Flats.

Thursday, 8/8
5:30 p.m. Assisted Montague PD in domestic disturbance at Cumberland Farms.

8:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for violation of probation warrant.

10 p.m. Assisted out-of-gas motorist reported walking on Route 2.

Friday, 8/9
6:30 a.m. Tree limb posing road hazard on East Main Street. Removed.

6:50 a.m. Assisted ambulance on scene of medical emergency on North Street.

Saturday, 8/10
9 a.m. Report taken concerning annoying telephone calls on Forest Street.
10 a.m. Report of stolen motor vehicle. Located same.

7:23 p.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license and without insurance.

Sunday, 8/11
10:23 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2 eastbound.

7:40 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Route 2, Farley Flats.

Monday, 8/12
8 p.m. Two-car crash with injury. Took report.

8:45 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on an outstanding warrant.

Tuesday, 8/13
8:45 a.m. Assisted on scene of a medical emergency on Old State Road.

11 a.m. Arrested [redacted] on a court warrant.

7:10 p.m. Report of train blocking Moore Street. Found to be having engine problems. Same moved.

Wednesday, 8/14
4 p.m. Two-car crash at Dunkin Donuts parking lot. No injury.

5 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with a traffic stop on Northfield Road.

Thursday, 8/15
4 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Farley Ledges, Route 2.

5 p.m. Domestic disturbance reported on French King Highway. Found to be verbal only.

Saturday, 8/17
10:05 p.m. Disturbance reported at Weatherheads Apartments. Spoke with tenant. Guests were in process of leaving.

Sunday, 8/18
7:50 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Main Street.

Soap Box Derby
Call for Racers

Now is the time to build a soapbox cart so you, too, can zoom down the First Street hill during the Fourth Annual Montague Soap Box Derby on September 22nd. The Derby, to be broadcast live in most of Franklin County including Montague and Greenfield, will also be streamed live via Internet. Madison on the Ave is sponsoring a cart for the first time, and the Turners Falls Fire Department has signed up to race. MCTV challenges other area fire departments to compete. For that matter, Derby spectators would be thrilled by a competition of bars, car repair shops, youth groups, or banks!

"This year will be exciting due to the expanded live broadcast coverage in surrounding towns," said Derby director Mik Muller. "And with the return of at least four racers from Sharon, CT's fire department, racers from Brattleboro, VT, and possibly even Nazareth, PA, this year's competition will be wide and fierce."

Local sculptor, racer and inventor Joe Landry has offered to give suggestions to would-be cart builders; contact Derby organizers to make an appointment with Landry at his Turners Falls studio. Check out www.kartbuilding.net for cart building ideas, and www.montaguesoapboxderby.com for race rules and registry.

33rd Mug
Race at
Montague
Old Home
Days

For 33 years racers have been chewing up the course at the Montague Old Home Days famed and fabled Mug Race. Last Saturday's race was a great joy for runners young and old.

Montague Center's Alan Ross, who was among the early organizers of the race, won first place in the "Over 70" category. Aaron Stone

of Greenfield came in first in the general 5.5 mile race with a time of 31 minutes, 21 seconds. Robert Landry placed second at 32:01. Natalie Mako of South Deerfield, the top woman finisher, placed sixth at 34:04.

For complete results, see: www.coolrunning.com/results/13/ma/Aug17_33rdAn_set1.shtml.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on August 21, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Crocker Studios Closed

For now, Greenfield Community Television has shut down its satellite production facility, Crocker Studios, in Turners Falls.

The announcement pinned the shutdown to the failure of the town of Montague to finalize a contract with Comcast. GCTV is waiting on the Comcast contract to receive reimbursement for its capital outlay on the studio's renovation. The contract has been in negotiation limbo for months.

Keller Runs for Wendell Board

According to Town Clerk Anna Hartjens, Daniel Keller of Ross Road is the only candidate to turn in papers for the seat. Keller, a farmer and independent film producer

who first moved to Wendell in 1969, has been a member of the finance committee for the past eighteen years. Keller said, "The big issue is how the town will handle development. We have people on both extremes in Wendell."

Bright Lights of Erving

Although there is general agreement the lights are a pleasant addition to the Erving Center streetscape, residents have criticized them for being too bright and too close together.

Contractor Mike Moore recently concluded that steps could be taken to remedy the problem. He suggested deactivating alternate lights. This would involve disassembling portions of the lights, a process he said would cost about \$1,500.

A Stalled Project

The Montague selectboard heard from building inspector

David Jensen on the status of repairs to the Powers Block in Millers Falls, now under the ownership of Richard Conley. Jensen said he ordered structural repairs to the building in 1997, which were largely completed within three months. Since then, he said the pace of work has slowed.

"It's a stalled project," Jensen said. "Is there a timeline for completing the repairs?" asked selectboard member Allen Ross. Jensen answered, "No."

Letter: Free Lake Pleasant

It appears that the ban on swimming in Lake Pleasant is about a century old. Since then, there has been progress in our understanding of the ecology and microbiology of healthy waters, and it is pretty clear that swimming will not cause any deterioration.... Anyone willing to put some effort into this?

— Ronald Bosch

TFHS from page 1

come into school; in the afternoon I'll be there, too. And I expect to learn the names of every student in this school."

Osborn has a clear enthusiasm for young people and a true belief in the power of learning. Indeed, for him, learning is an ongoing process: "I want to learn something every single day. I want the staff to do the same. If we do, and model it to the students, we are creating a sense of education that is vital and strong and extends beyond these walls."

He also said that he feels that education is not just about being in a classroom. "Students can learn in many ways. In this regard he said he is a "believer" in what he calls "co-curricular" activities: "Music, art, clubs, teams, sports, assemblies help to create a greater and holistic environment that can help produce well-rounded and socially-adjusted stu-

dents."

He credits his own training in martial arts as helping him to see that learning can exist everywhere. "In New York I trained in jujitsu under a wonderful teacher, Shihan Lovering, at Goshinkan Dojo. I credit my teacher for giving me the right tools for living my life. I'll be forever grateful to him."

Osborn also stated that he believed strongly in the unity between town and gown. "There should be no separation between the school and the community," he said. "The school and the community are the same; the students are simply younger members of our community." In that regard, he also said he was planning as soon as possible to move to the community which he serves.

Osborn, who was selected from about 25 applicants, signed a three-year contract with his first year's salary set at \$93,000. The selection committee members were Martin Espinola, Joyce Phil-

lips, Michael Langknecht, Morgan Ozdarski, Pam Grimmer, Vicki Valley, Glenn Doulette, Faith Kaemmerlen and Jeff Singleton. The final decision was made by superintendent Michael Sullivan.

Osborn received his B.A. in English and an M.A. in English and Education from SUNY College at Old Westbury. He also obtained an advanced graduate studies certificate in school administration from UMass Lowell.

He was previously a middle and high school English teacher, as well as acting assistant principal at Bartlett Junior Senior High School in Webster. He also taught in North Brookfield. Prior to entering education, he worked in both advertising and editorial at Newsday. He is married and has a one-year-old son.

Osborn replaces Patricia Gardner, who left in July to become the director of teaching and learning in the Southbridge School District.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Raccoon Sighted; Chickens Unfazed

Monday, 8/5

6:33 p.m. Rough language on Avenue A.

7:03 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant.

Tuesday, 8/6

1:26 p.m. Structure fire at Coolidge Avenue and James Avenue.

4:27 p.m. Attempted break-in reported on Central Street. Report taken.

6:37 p.m. Two horses and a pony galloping loose in vicinity of Federal Street. Located and retrieved by owner.

7:54 p.m. Smoke reported in wooded area behind Food City. Traced to a camp fire. Verbal warning issued.

9:02 p.m. Firearm reported missing from home on Federal Street. Report taken.

11:56 p.m. Neighbor reported loud banging from downstairs apartment; concerned for welfare of female tenant. All OK: noise was from the assembly of furniture.

Wednesday, 8/7

6:00 p.m. A Turners Falls man was arrested following

an altercation near Third Street and Canal Street.

Thursday, 8/8

11:00 a.m. Raccoon reported eating a peach under a peach tree on Turners Falls Road. Raccoon did not appear to be ill, and nearby chickens were unfazed by its presence.

11:50 a.m. Report of ongoing issue with aggressive dog on Randall Wood Drive. Advised of options.

4:48 p.m. Report of possible drug activity on Avenue A. Investigated.

11:02 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle with a suspended license (revoked for OUI), unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, a lights violation, and a default warrant.

Friday, 8/9

1:17 a.m. Parked vehicle on L Street observed with shopping cart upside down on the hood.

5:54 a.m. Rear license plate reported stolen from vehicle on Park Street.

7:49 a.m. Damage to three pieces of construction equip-

ment parked behind Town Hall overnight discovered. Report taken.

6:14 p.m. Drug paraphernalia located by the river off East Mineral Road.

7:01 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle following FRTA bus. Vehicle located. Operator reported that his four-year-old passenger wanted to see where the bus goes, so he was showing her.

10:44 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested on a default warrant.

Saturday, 8/10

10:31 a.m. Vandalism reported to vehicle on Bridge Street.

Sunday, 8/11

1:29 p.m. Verbal altercation on Avenue A.

5:36 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested on a straight warrant.

9:48 p.m. Domestic assault and battery reported in Turners Falls. Summons issued for suspect's arrest.

Monday, 8/12

9:34 p.m. Complaint of par-

ties trespassing on roof of an Avenue A business.

Tuesday, 8/13

12:52 p.m. Report of subjects on a dirt bike and four-wheelers doing donuts in the practice field at Turners Falls High School, resulting in damage to field. Report taken.

8:29 p.m. [redacted]

was arrested and charged with violating a restraining order.

Wednesday, 8/14

6:40 p.m. Report of a rifle in the grass near the sidewalk on Park Street; turned out to be a BB gun.

Thursday, 8/15

2:49 a.m. An inebriated male party with various injuries was found sitting in the middle of Spring Street and turned over to the care of his family.

11:18 a.m. Larceny reported at the former Ristorante DiPaolo.

12:28 p.m. Motor vehicle accident with severe personal injury at West Pond and Main Street; patient trans-

ported to hospital.

12:43 p.m. Anonymous report of a male attempting to sell Percocet to people downtown. Unable to locate.

3:20 p.m. Possible drug activity reported in the alley on Fourth Street.

8:08 p.m. Verbal warning issued to vehicle operator suspected of illegal dumping on Greenfield Road.

8:14 p.m. Noise complaint regarding unruly youths on the lawn of the Senior Center. Verbal warning issued.

8:34 p.m. Report of six or seven youths destroying a shopping cart in the Fourth Street alley. Verbal warning issued.

Friday, 8/16

12:54 a.m. Malicious destruction reported to scooter on Avenue A. Report taken.

5:52 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Restraining order served in hand.

6:41 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Central Street.

Saturday, 8/17

12:10 a.m. Officer encountered male party running

barefoot from Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Party reported that he was just running to blow off steam.

2:10 a.m. Firearm confiscated from T Street residence pending investigation.

6:44 p.m. Check on possible disabled motor vehicle on Turners Falls Road. Operator had stopped to let groundhog cross.

11:18 p.m. Complaints received regarding noise at music festival at Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club. Officers responded; music was done for night; overnight catfish derby could result in extra lighting in area.

Sunday, 8/18

3:28 p.m. Poplar Lane resident reported being bitten by bat in his home. Bat taken for testing. Caller strongly encouraged to seek medical attention.

4:54 p.m. Motor vehicle accident with personal injury on Avenue A at Third Street. One party removed to hospital; vehicle operator cited.

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EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Dan, Kip,*

and Schultzy from Curly Fingers Dupree Band. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

ART SHOWS:

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



ALAN THORNTON PHOTO

Pat & Tex LaMountain perform as part of COOP Concerts this Thursday, August 22 at the Energy Park, Greenfield at 6 p.m. Hear them also on Saturday, August 24 from 11 to 1 p.m. at Green Fields Market as part of "Welcome to Co-op Valley!" event.

EVENTS:**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**

COOP Concerts, Energy Park, Greenfield: *Stephanie Marshall* and the Annual Band. Pat & Tex LaMountain Band. free, 6 p.m.

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Simon White and Friends*, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

The Country Players presents: *Broadway Beats*, a musical review. Frontier Regional School Auditorium, Deerfield. \$, 7 p.m.

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

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

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Choral Concert. Amherst-based

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Kristen Ford*, 9 p.m.

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Kristen Ford*, indie rock, 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Welcome to Co-op Valley!* Celebrate our co-operative economy, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Informational tables, kids' activities, free bike raffle, bike tune-ups, chair massage, music by *Pat & Tex LaMountain*, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. all free, open to everyone.

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Watershed History: The Story of the Great Hall*, 1 p.m.

Frontier Regional School Auditorium, Deerfield: The Country Players presents: *Broadway Beats*, a musical review.

\$, 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *How Green Was My Valley*. B&W, 118 min. MR. Music before the show: *Patrick Boyd Owens & Friends*, eclectic guitar, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Juke Joint Jazz*, back for another jazz attack! \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Eric Kehoe*, pop rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: Wendell Country Store & Donna's 20th Anniversary Party, with music by *Dedicated to Delilah*, '80s pop rock and ballads. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Darkside of Haven*, modern rock. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *boomboom II*. DJs, dancing, eclectic & juicy. \$, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Great Falls Discovery Center:

Canal-Side Nature and History Walk. Meet outside the main entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will leisurely explore level, paved bike paths to learn about plants, animals, and mill town history.

Frontier Regional School Auditorium, Deerfield: The Country Players presents: *Broadway Beats*, a musical review. \$, 2 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Circus Mutt*, roots rock. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Moonlight & Morning Star*, new & old r&b. 8 to 10 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Snakepriest* and *Kieran Lally*. \$, 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's Open Mic*. Sign up at 7:30, show at 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A night of Spoken Word*, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Pear*, \$, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

COOP Concerts, Energy Park, Greenfield: *Roland LaPierre, Charlie Conant* with Maple Ridge, *Pat & Tex LaMountain Band, Devlin Miles Band*. Free, 6 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Montague Bookmill: *A. Burris Jenkins & Forest Thompson*, \$, 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: New Orleans Piano Blues and Jazz with *Nelson Lunding*, \$, 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Nicole Alexandra*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Atomic Scissors*, 60's & 70's classic rock, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Santina King, Tigerhound, Twin Pines*. Rock/indie. 9:30 p.m., free.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Bingo!* 10 to 11:30 a.m. Reservation needed.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, guitar based blues, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Locks*, featuring Ian and Krystal from *Imetajuju*. 9:30 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Moose & the High Tops*, 9:30 p.m.

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By **LESLIE BROWN**

As we prepare for two weeks' vacation on the Maine coast, I try to prepare the garden. The black plastic mulch around the new strawberry plants has done its job and there are few weeds.

Although we lost the tops of at least half of the plants to the deer, they have set new leaves and are now setting runners. Removing the mulch will allow these offshoots to set roots for more plants while we are away. I mulch heavily with compost to discourage new weeds and to feed the new shoots. These new plants will fill in the bed guaranteeing a good crop of berries for next year. When we return from our travels we'll trim out any rootings which look to overcrowd the bed and thus mean smaller fruit.

We have had a couple of pints of wild blueberries from the bushes that have finally matured. The birds had a sampling of the first ripe berries but at last the mosquito netting I ordered has come in allowing us to cover the crop and save most of it for human consumption. The

berries have been small to medium sized on these Maine and Nova Scotian plants. They have a wonderful strong flavor and we have enjoyed them out of hand and on cereal and yogurt. Now I uncover them to save any random critters while we are away. We caught one adventurous squirrel earlier but happily he was able to free himself without tearing the netting.

We add additional supports for the ever lengthening tomato plants. It is a poor crop owing to much too much rain, but there is some fruit and we want it to mature to bright red, full-sized tomatoes. We've harvested several small crops of cherry tomatoes which seem to have been the hardest. Now we look forward to fruit large enough for slicing.

The heat loving crops have thoroughly enjoyed the weeks of humidity and are sprawling amongst each other. I encourage the baby watermelons to climb the fence rather than the cages of the pepper plants and twist a recalcitrant bean vine around the pole. Our vacation timing should be good. We will be able to harvest a good crop of beans on our return; we are leaving tennis ball sized watermelons which are growing quickly. We expect to harvest one or two when we return.

The asparagus is feeding its roots with strong, tall ferns. The asparagus beetles are done either by their natural cycle or by human picking.

I am very pleased to see several parasitic wasps chasing after any beetle larvae. At the end of the season it will be time to cut the fronds and fertilize the bed.

Having arranged with a neighbor boy to mow the lawn it seems that we are leaving everything under control as much as humanly possible.

Our first Maine stop is Wells, which boasts what must surely be the longest stretch of beach in a state known more for its rocky coastline. The town is jammed with visitors from Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York and Quebec. There are the occasional vehicles from Georgia, the Middle West and one from the California coast. They swarm the beach midday and the local restaurants and gift shops at all hours. But the big draw is the lure of the ocean for all. Walking, tanning, swimming, surfing, digging and building of sand castles occupy many. Children can entertain themselves endlessly with the water, the sand and a few toys.

For us, the prime time is early morning with a cup of coffee. Sitting on a bench above the beach we assess the changing condition of the sea and skies. Then a brisk walk along the sand which seems to go forever. Later we retreat from the heat of midday for a lunch of local beer and fish, a rest, a read.

The late afternoon finds us head-

ing beach wards again with chairs, towels and books. Unbelievably, we swim. The first day barely a dip in what seems like frigid water, the next two for longer as the wind has shifted and the water temperature turned up a few degrees. I pick up a small boogie board and enjoy floating on the waves like my much younger companions.

At night we picnic in our small yard with salad, fruit, cheese, bread and wine. We watch the often challenged Red Sox and then sleep the deep red of those who have spent the day in the sun and the fresh salt air.

Our second week is a study in contrasts. We are on the rocky shores of midcoast in an area of lighthouses, hiking, boating and surf. We have traded our small two room efficiency for what turns out to be an absurdly well decorated and spacious home away from home.

I have spent summer vacations in Maine since the late seventies and always rented some small, gray shingled cottage, each with its particular landmarks of tilted floors, uncomfortable beds, kitchens or bathrooms built for midgets and have loved returning to each and every one until the elderly owners moved to a cottage in the sky and we had to find another.

This is like renting from Martha, but we are near our favorite haunts and are trying to adjust. We

will after all spend most of the time outdoors. Still our lodgings seem ridiculously extravagant from the formal dining room to the spacious kitchen and bath.

The Maine garden season is a short one with crops doubling onto each other. When we arrive, the wild blueberries are legion at the roadside but there are still strawberries. There are corn, melons and tomatoes as well. If you are lucky, you can still buy fresh peas at some farm stands.

Maine gardeners extend their notoriously short season by starting seeds indoors, using row covers, container gardening and raised beds, all tools to hold in the warmth of the soil and beat the season by putting in plants which are well along. Heavy mulching also helps the soil stay warm and many gardeners use seaweed.

Seaweed has a triple bonus: it provides trace elements not found in typical fertilizers, helps retain moisture in sandy soils and builds disease resistance.

Whatever the length, all summer seasons come to an end. In a couple of short weeks it will be September, the finish to the garden season. It will be time to harvest, freeze, can or store what we can to enjoy over the months of garden rest. Time, too, for many to store up energy for the return to work or school. The coast of Maine is the perfect tonic.

How I BECAME MISS TURNERS FALLS

By **QUICKCHANGE**

"How did you get to be 'Miss Turners Falls?'" a fellow party goer asked me at Saturday's seventh annual Turners Falls Block Party where I spent the day, in character as the same, dressed in a poofy white dress reminiscent of the 1950s. "By loving myself!" I answered fervently.

"When were you crowned?" asked another. "Every day!" I answered, "Every day I crown myself!" I explained, referring to the love I bestow upon myself each day. As I sacheted along the pavement of a closed Avenue A, donning my shiny, silver crown, I felt love emanate from me and I knew it was coming from my own sense of inner love.

A girl asked in earnest, wide-eyed innocence, "Why are you wearing that crown?" Adjusting to her intellect with admitted ease, I

said, "I got it at a toy store, and I wear it to make myself feel happy inside!"

"You can wear a crown, too!" I added with conviction. The experience of remaining in character for the eight-hour duration made me very happy indeed but it was neither the dress, nor the crown, nor the navy blue on lavender "Miss Turners Falls" sash that made me sparkle.

As I mixed with party goers and vendors from out of town, mingled with friends from my neighborhood, and reveled as I sat listening to strains of live band music playing in front of the spinner statue, I identified the force that created the persona and triggered my glow.

It was the love with which I fill myself every day, and in that moment I realized that filling one's self with love is something anyone can do – gown, tiara, and sash notwithstanding!



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