



## The Odd Couple

Lights up the Shea



## Stephen Kulik

Reviews the State Budget

Page 16

Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT

MILLERS FALLS

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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 – NO. 40

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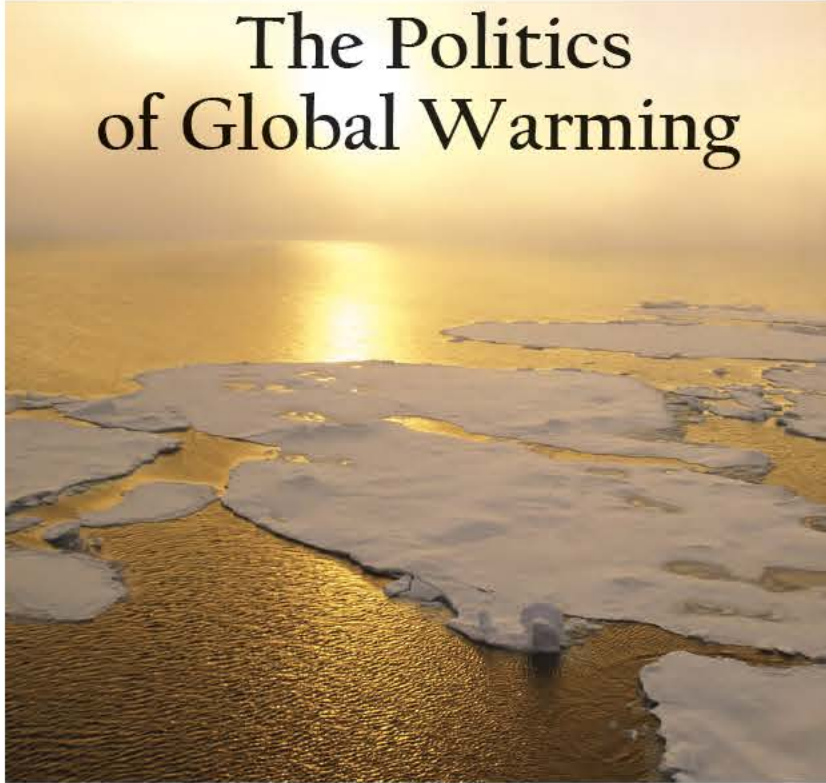
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 12, 2012

## The Politics of Global Warming



BY SHIRA HILLEL

**SHUTESBURY** – We live in unusual times. Humankind has accidentally wandered into unknown territory, and will have to adapt to changes we have brought on the planet by global warming.

On June 26th, professor Ray Bradley, director of the Climate System Research Center at the University of Massachusetts, spoke at the Shutesbury town hall about his recently published book, *Global Warming and Political Intimidation*.

Bradley began by stating that “science has nothing to do with politics.” Science has always tried to stay out of the business and political arena. Yet, in this case, Bradley said, he was forced in.

The overwhelming majority of climate scientists and the data they have gathered around the globe agree there has been a relatively sharp rise in temperatures during the second half of the 20th century, and that it is human activity that has altered our planet’s climate.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body made up of

thousands of scientists that assesses the current state of knowledge on climate change, concluded in 2007 there is an over 90% chance that recent global warming is effected by human activity, stating: “Most of the observed increases in globally average temperatures since the mid-20th Century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic (human-produced) greenhouse gas concentrations.”

Since temperature records only go back about 100 years, Bradley and his colleagues analyzed paleoclimatic data (e.g. tree rings, ice cores, and coral data sets) to surmise temperatures over the last millennium. Their findings were published in *Nature* in 1998, and included what came to be known as “the hockey stick graph.”

The hockey stick graph depicts a sudden rise in temperatures over the last 100 years. The term “hockey stick” describes the graph’s shape. It is relatively flat until about 1900, forming the hockey stick’s “shaft,” followed by a sharp increase corresponding to the “blade.”

Bradley’s, and his colleagues’, see **WARMING** page 5

## Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program Iced



*After 45 years and hundreds of millions of dollars invested, the federal program to restore Atlantic Salmon to the Connecticut River appears to have come to an end.*

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**THE PATCH** – Facing budget shortfalls and the destruction last year of a crucial hatchery in Bethel, VT in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, Wendi Webber, Northeast Regional Director for US Fish and Wildlife, told a meeting of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) on Tuesday, “Due to the lack of returning salmon numbers, compounded by the fiscal situation we are in, we will no longer be reproducing fish at our hatcheries at White River (Bethel, VT) and Eisenhower (North Chittenden, VT).”

“We will be looking at the larger restoration of the watershed,” said Webber, effectively announcing the end of the federal government’s 45-year, multi-hundred-million dollar effort to restore an extirpated strain of Atlantic Salmon to the Connecticut River.

The representatives of the fish and game agencies of the four states that joined in and helped fund the restoration program through the federal – state compact reacted to Webber’s announcement, at the CRASC meeting at the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Lab.

The agency will remove up to 75% of the resources and fry from the program, continue stocking certain rivers in Connecticut with salmon for recreational fishermen, continue but not expand the Salmon in the Schools program, and reevaluate the future of the salmon restoration program at an upcoming meeting in October, given the withdrawal of federal support.

After the meeting, Connecticut River Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Kenneth Sprankle said it was likely that federal support for Atlantic Salmon would now focus on restoration efforts in coastal rivers in Maine.

Meanwhile, CRASC chair William Hyatt said, “At this point, our intention is to use our hatcheries to support a fisheries program, as we have for a number of years,” to stock certain rivers for cold-water anglers, rather than to try to re-establish a breeding population of salmon on the main stem of the Connecticut River, where the species has been extirpated for nearly two centuries.

This year, just 50 Atlantic Salmon returned to the Connecticut River, down from 111 last year.

Karl Meyer, an environmental

journalist from Greenfield who has emerged as one of the CRASC’s most vocal and persistent critics over the years, said after the meeting that he welcomed the decision to suspend the federal restoration program for salmon in the Connecticut.

“I commend them for actually doing this. Something will take its place: the other fish that have always been here and have always been neglected, since we’ve wasted all these resources on salmon.” Meyer ballparked the federal expenditures attempting to restore salmon to the Connecticut over the last four and a half decades at between half a billion and a billion dollars. “It’s unfortunate that it went to a species that had no chance here.”

Meyer asked Hyatt if the commission planned to change its name now to reflect a broader approach to species recovery in the Connecticut, and to avoid public confusion on the committee’s focus. Hyatt said that could be considered, but for now the commission’s name would remain the same, since the CRASC has always encompassed a whole-river approach to habitat restoration and fish passage for all anadromous species.

## The Patch – a Local Treasure



Janel Nockleby (center, facing camera) prepares to take a troupe of sightseers on a tour of the Patch

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**SOUTH END, TURNERS FALLS** – On Saturday, July 8th, Janel Nockleby, interpreter for the Department of Conservation and Recreation at the Great Falls Discovery Center, took about a dozen interested people on a tour of the manmade island at the south end of Turners Falls. Steeped in history, this little sliver of land supports a tight-knit neighborhood. Nockleby met the group at the 11th Street Bridge, “the gateway to

the Patch.”

To begin with, the 11th Street Bridge is of unique design in Massachusetts, and most likely the only such bridge in the entire United States, according to former Massachusetts Highway Department director John Hoey. No bridge of this type can be found in the Massachusetts DPW data base, among 194 metal truss bridges listed.

“The basic truss configuration is a double-intersection

Warren,” Hoey said, “with four cones of trusses forming a triple-barreled bridge.” Warren is a type of triple-barrel bridge named after the designer.

A pair of trusses flank the central roadway. Lateral struts and bracing join the side trusses overhead, forming tunnels for sidewalks on either side. No upper struts or bracing of any kind join the pair of trusses over the central roadway, leaving the roadway open

see **PATCH** page 14

## Winning Teams, Winning Coach

AN INTERVIEW WITH GARY MULLINS

BY JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – After several months of controversy, it appears Gary Mullins will return to Turners Falls High School next season as the women’s softball and men’s basketball coach.

Over the past 30 years, Mullins has been enormously effective in both positions. Softball in particular is no doubt one of the most successful and well-publicized programs in a school district that might want to extol its triumphs. Given the context, why Mullins’ coaching status should have ever been at issue is a mystery to many.

Which raises several other questions. What makes a successful coach and a successful sports program? I posed these questions to Mullins on a relatively cool, sunny July morning at the Montague Bookmill.

“I asked my wife that question last night getting ready for this interview,” Mullins said. “To be honest, I wasn’t really sure. ‘Of course you know,’” she said.

Mullins, whose Turners Falls women’s softball teams have dominated Division 3

see **COACH** page 13



Gary Mullins









## Local Briefs

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** – The second annual **Upper Valley Music Festival** is a multi-venue, 12 hour music event in downtown Turners Falls on Saturday, July 21st, to benefit the American Cancer Society. This year’s line-up includes 30 local, regional and up-and-coming artists as well as an Irish music session and contra dance. Admission is just \$10 for the whole day. Come see acts at the Shea Theater, St. Kazimierz, Great Falls Discovery Center, The Rendezvous, and Burrito Rojo, and help fight cancer. Wristbands can be purchased early at [www.uppervalleymusicfest.com](http://www.uppervalleymusicfest.com) and will be available at all concert locations.

Come learn about the history of fire on the **Montague Sand Plain** on Saturday, July 21st, from noon to 2 p.m. Learn why the landscape on the Montague Plains is similar to Cape Cod, though the ocean is miles away. Find sand dunes, scrub oak, pitch pine, and pick blueberries. Join an interpreter for an introduction to the fauna, flora, and geology of this unique and threatened habitat. Bring water, bug repellent, and sun screen.

This event is free. For more info, call (413) 863-3221. Participants will meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls to carpool to the site

The Boys-to-Men New England **Mentoring Network** offers a program for teenage boys between the ages of 12 and 17 designed to help them develop into men with commitment, integrity, and accountability. On Thursday, July 19th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the meeting room in the Green Fields Market, Boys to Men of Western MA will hold an introductory open house for men interested in learning about mentoring. Mentoring is a big commitment, but the rewards are boundless. Boys who are interested in joining the program are invited to come to this event. For more info: go to [www.btmne.org](http://www.btmne.org), or call Sam Rogers at (413) 367-2447 or Daniel Yalowitz at (413) 772-8586.

The **Wendell Farmers Market** is held on Saturday mornings at the Country Store from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Look for the tents in the shade to the south of the post office. Local offerings include basil, lettuce, kale, chives and more.

Massage therapists and Bodyworkers are lending their hands to Greenfield in celebration of the award-winning national event, **EveryBody Deserves a Massage Week**, on Tuesday, July 17th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street. The event is sponsored by Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP), the nation’s largest massage membership association.

Volunteer massage therapists and bodyworkers will offer mini-sessions to raise donations to benefit Hospice of Franklin County, to provide support and care for those living with advanced illness.

On Friday and Saturday, July 20th and 21st, Northfield Mountain will host the 30th Annual Connecticut River Valley **Astronomer’s Conjunction**. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain. Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend will be jam-packed full of slide presentations, talks, and night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes. The conjunction is appropriate for ages 12 and older. Check out the conjunction website at: [www.philhar-rington.net/astroconjunction/](http://www.philhar-rington.net/astroconjunction/). For registration forms, email Richard Sanderson at [RSanderson@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:RSanderson@springfieldmuseums.org), or write to Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118.

Ed Gregory and Paul Fontaine

from the Jurassic Roadshow will have “**dino tracks**” and other local fossils on display at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on Saturday, July 14th, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. A dino track will raise money for the Roadshow.

The Turners branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank will be the scene of a “**Secure Business Financing Workshop**,” with tips on how to prepare for a commercial loan. Topics covered will include determining how much to borrow, financing sources, things to be aware of and how to use the business planning process to support your loan. The workshop is presented by Amy Shapiro, business assistance director, Franklin County CDC in partnership with GSB, and will held on Tuesday, July 24th, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Registration is recommended as seating is limited. For more info please call Amy at (413) 774-7204 ext 107 or email [amys@fccdc.org](mailto:amys@fccdc.org).

The **Lake Wyola Beer and Wine Tasting** will be held on Saturday, July 28th, from 5 to 11 p.m. at the Lake Wyola Association Hall, 1 Shore Drive, Shutesbury. With over 16 brewers, there will be beer, wine and dancing. Great food at reasonable prices. All proceeds to benefit the preservation of Lake Wyola. Visit [www.lakewyola.com/beertasting](http://www.lakewyola.com/beertasting) for more details. Attendees must be at least 21. The event will be held rain or shine.

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## Phone Scam Reported in Gill

**BY DAVID HASTINGS** – The Gill police have received reports of phone scam, and would like to make the details known, to warn the general public to be on guard against similar scams.

A senior citizen living in Riverside received numerous calls this past week from a company going by the name of American Cash Awards. The person calling stated their name as John White, and said the Gill senior citizen had won \$125,000, but would need to pay a \$250 processing fee to get

the prize money.

The phone calls came from two different numbers: (239)300-6975, a Florida area code; and (876) 476-1512, a Jamaican area code.

A subsequent web search of both numbers and the company show them to be scams. No one should ever send money to a company they do not know. If you have questions, call the local police. In Gill, call: 863-8398.

*David Hastings is the Gill Police Chief.*

## CORRECTIONS

The Leverett selectboard notes from June 28th, (*MR X #39*) inaccurately stated that part time police officer Gary Sibilia was initiating pursuit of a speeding car on North Leverett Road when he accidentally collided with a vehicle driven by Leverett postal employee Susanne Herk, causing damage to both the police cruiser and the mail truck, and causing neck injury to Herk.

Police chief Gary Billings clarified the details of that incident for our readers.

“There was no pursuit,” writes

Billings of the June 9th incident, and “Officer Sibilia was not attempting to perform a U-turn. He was simply following the mail person up North Leverett Road. It is true that a vehicle passed him in the opposite direction at a high rate of speed.

“Officer Sibilia looked down at his side view mirror momentarily, not realizing the mail lady had pulled to the side to deliver to a mailbox. When Officer Sibilia looked back up, it was too late to avoid the accident. The accident was a result of a moment of inattention, not as a result of any

attempt to initiate a pursuit.”

We regret not going to the source before deadline, rather than reporting secondhand from the selectboard on this incident, and we appreciate the chance to set the record straight now.

The June 28th article (*MR X #39*) “Shad Rebound in Annual River Count” inaccurately placed the Bonneville Dam on the Colorado River. Of course, the Bonneville Dam is located on the Columbia River, not the Colorado River.

We regret the error.

## Connecticut River Bacteria Monitoring Program Launches New Website for River Users

The Connecticut River Bacteria Monitoring Program’s new season is underway, with volunteers checking the Connecticut River and tributaries for *E. coli*. Monitoring takes place from June through the first week of October, and results are posted on a new interactive website, [www.ConnecticutRiver.us](http://www.ConnecticutRiver.us).

The website offers guidance about whether the water is clean enough for swimming and boating relative to the weekly bacteria levels, so that river users can make

informed decisions to prevent potential illness. *E. coli* is an indicator for many types of microorganisms that may be present in the river, causing a variety of health issues.

Generally, bacteria levels are elevated after a storm event due to combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural areas. Experts recommend staying out of the water for 48 hours after a storm.

## This Month on MCTV

### TF GIRLS SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP VIDEO

**BY CINDY TARAIL** – MCTV travelled to the Division III State Softball Championships for the Turners Falls girls softball team’s thrilling win. A DVD of the championship, which will be broadcast through July, is available for \$10.

Volunteer Brett Leighton assisted staff with the filming, so three cameras could be used to “get all the good plays,” according to MCTV technology coordinator Owen Weaver.

Like many other video artists and hobbyists, Leighton has been creating his own video work and

putting clips on YouTube. Creating a longer work can seem insurmountable. However, Weaver encouraged Leighton to come into the station and showed him how to convert the footage to be edited on the station’s equipment.

Weaver said, “What’s really cool is that Leighton was a local producer with a lot of footage, and we sculpted an hour-long show out of it, seamlessly editing the clips.”


‘Brett’s Best Show’ is airing late on Friday and Saturday nights.

The MCTV Soapbox Derby Committee seeks volunteers, ven-

dors and sponsors for the Third Annual Soapbox Derby, to be held Sunday, September 16th, from noon to 3 p.m. This year, a much tighter race will last three hours (rather than five or six). All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, get listed in the credits on the DVD, and in general have a fun time with a bunch of great people during a fun, family-friendly event.

To sign up contact Cindy Tarail at the number below or go to: [www.MontagueSoapboxDerby.com](http://www.MontagueSoapboxDerby.com)

Contact MCTV at 863-9200 or visit [montaguestv.org](http://montaguestv.org) for the program schedule, and to access online streaming of these local video programs.

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## A Montague Bookmill Kind of Summer

Strolling down to the Montague Bookmill on a lazy summer day a visitor is soon immersed in a delightful scene, miles from the soulless food courts and somnolent chain store stalls of big city malls.

Descending the sloping pavement or the wooden footbridge stairs brings on a feeling that you are walking step by step back in culture and time to a small Old World market, or an old New England village gathering place unsullied by the trammels of modern corporate consumerism.

For those inclined to eat on the slant, with one eye on a nearby plangent waterfall and one eye on keeping their water glass from falling off the table, the setting could not be more conducive to reverie – or camaraderie.

Unusual entrees like warm brown rice salad adorn the Lady Killigrew's eclectic menu, beside a one-of-a-kind list of artisanal beers, beckoning the adventurous to try not just one but several. In the evening, jazz music wafts along with the aroma of inspired cuisine from the Night Kitchen's doors. Books you may not need but would love to read spill out from the foyer of the Bookmill and soon find their way onto your bedside table. At Turn It Up! there are movies to rent and CDs to buy, while all manner of locally produced arts and crafts await in Sawmill River Arts' welcoming second-story coop gallery.

Not to mention the companionable proximity of a multicultural crowd of gourmands, bibliophiles, music, art and nature lovers from near and far who come to shop and dine and linger. Together, they comprise one of the Bookmill's main attractions, and a tonic for what ails so many owl-eyed, wired denizens of our uber-connected, isolate modern world.

Yes, you may be seated next to a couple of studious types glued by their eyeballs to high-def, flipped

up laptops (is this what a first date looks like now?), lost in a blue galaxy of silicon and blind to the rich pageant of natural beauty drifting by on the Sawmill and its green and glossy banks. But despite the almost audible hum of internet use against the mildly caffeinated, slightly hoppy haze, there is an element here too sadly lacking in too many of our towns and villages.

Trite but true, the Bookmill provides a place for the broader community to gather, to exchange the idle pleasantries and vital gossip that in a real sense binds a village together.

Without such a gathering place, is Montague City, for example, really a village center any longer? Or, despite its rich history and recent memories of a neighborhood school, polling place, ball field, church, library and corner store, is it now just a bedroom community of people who for the most part do not know each other's names and rarely get the chance to exchange the time of day?

Wouldn't Leverett Center benefit from the kind of community space the Village Coop provides in Moores Corners – and couldn't the center of town support a small coffeehouse somewhere close to the Leverett Crafts and Arts and town hall?

Wouldn't Millers Falls be richer as a community if it had someplace other than the evening bars to exchange the urgent matters that help make a town a town, like sports news, weather complaints, illnesses, births, and real estate transactions?

These are the minor social miracles that occur almost by the minute, almost without notice, in congenial gathering places like the Deja Brew in Wendell, the Wagon Wheel and the Tavern in Gill, at the bakery, diner, various eateries and watering holes of Turners, and at the Bookmill in Montague Center.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bottle Bill Advocates Call Proposal a "Sham"

Advocates for updating the state's Bottle Bill, the nickel deposit on beverage containers, issued a harsh rebuke to a recent Mass Food Association 'recycling' proposal. Bottle Bill proponents labeled the proposal a sham, calling it a blatant attempt at greenwashing. The Mass Food Association is the lobbyist for the state's supermarket and grocery industry.

On June 14th, the legislative Telecommunications Utilities and Energy Committee, under pressure from industry lobbyists, voted 10-7 to block a proposed update to the state's Bottle Bill. Although the advocates had announced days earlier the support of a majority of the members of both the House and Senate, the committee's narrow vote places a hurdle before the passage of the measure.

Lobbyists from the big bottlers, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Polar, Nestle, and Ocean Spray, have been pressuring the legislature to reject this bill, which would update the existing bottle bill by adding water,

sports drinks, and juices. These beverages were largely nonexistent when the original law was passed 30 years ago. Big businesses claim that an update to the state's bottle bill would decrease their profits.

The lobbyists' proposal commits \$500K for 200 recycling bins to be placed in locations around the state and to study the effectiveness of pay-as-you-throw systems. "Pay as you throw" systems have been in place in communities around the state and have long been proven effective at increasing home-generated recycling. However, pay as you throw has no measurable effect on litter reduction or on beverages consumed on-the-go.

"Funding 200 new recycling bins in the state is a joke. Cambridge alone has nearly that many," said James McCaffrey of the Massachusetts Sierra Club. "Bottle litter is still everywhere, and the city's recycling rate is only 40%." Containers covered by the bottle bill are redeemed and recycled at 80%.

The bottle bill update has been one of the most talked about bills on Beacon Hill. Legislators have received over 30,000 emails and postcards, thousands of phone calls, and frequent visits from constituents. Nearly 2/3 of the state's cities and towns have passed resolutions asking their state legislators to support the bill, and a recent poll, conducted by MassInc Polling Group, showed that 77% of the state's residents support an update.

"The industry's offer will not make a dent in our municipalities' waste and litter costs," said Claire Sullivan of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative. "It's time for industry to share the burden with local governments. The bottle bill needs to be brought to the floor of both the House and Senate for a vote."

– Janet Domenitz  
Boston

*Janet Domenitz is the executive director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group.*

### Leverett Selectboard Acting in Defiance of State Law on U-28 Benefits

In the June 28th issue of the *Montague Reporter* the Leverett selectboard, at their meeting, complained again about Union 28 benefits. They blame the superintendent for thwarting their will by "continuing to enforce it (a benefit policy) in the face of near unanimous opposition from the selectboards and school committees of U-28 towns."

The reporter then explains what the selectboard chooses to ignore. There is not a Union 28 benefit policy. There is, however, a Mass General Law that specifies how benefits are determined. The policy that is being followed by the superintendent is to comply with the law.

Superintendent Joan Wickman is being castigated by a selectboard for following the law. This is not an issue that is voluntary and the selectboard knows that. In fact, the selectboard is petitioning the state to change the law.

Next, I would quibble with the

language chosen explaining that the town of Erving "gets to" set the level of benefits for central office staff. That sounds too voluntary. Again the statute requires the central office staff to receive the same benefits as all other Erving employees. Erving is the largest percentage contributor to the central office payroll. The central office employees are more Erving's than any other U-28 school district. Further Erving contributes, I believe, 84% of an employees' health benefits and the other districts pay 75% and not the 50% reported. For the one retiree receiving retirement benefits, the other towns would pay 50% to Erving's 77%.

When the selectboard threatens to leave U-28 in fury, where will it go? The only realistic choice is to align with Amherst Regional. The salaries paid in the Amherst labor agreement are higher than Leverett now pays and the increase in payroll and benefits far exceed the

\$4,157 they are currently withholding. While the fury might be real, the logic is lacking.

Finally, I agree that this is a "tear-jerker." When the town leadership knowingly refuses to pay the legal bills of the town and publicly attacks the superintendent for following the law, it sets a regrettable example for the children of the town. We should lament this.

– Charles Paulin  
Leverett

*Charles Paulin is the former business manager of Union 28, recently retired.*

## Help Restore an Historic Treasure in North Leverett



DETMOLD PHOTO

The Sawmill in North Leverett

BY DAN BENNETT

**N. LEVERETT** – The sawmill in North Leverett was sited before the Seven Years War (1756 – 1763), the global struggle between franco- and anglo-phones for settlement 'rights,' the local Final Solution for Indians. The mill was built to its present form, transformed from up-and-down sawing to circular saw-

ing in 1868 by Gilman N. Watson, the post-Civil War squire of the village of North Leverett. The mill was in the Watson family for three generations, nearly a century.

The Leverett Historical Society has the sawmill's original up-and-down blade as part of its permanent collection. Gilman was a Mason, see **HISTORIC** page 12

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### U.S. Casualties in Afghanistan as of 7/11/12

Wounded:	Deaths:
15,332	2,040



### Note to Readers: Summer Print Schedule

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

We follow suit, and print every other week in the months of July and August. There will be no paper on July 19th, August 2nd or 16th or 30th.

We wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer.

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# Upper Valley Music Festival Comes to Turners

**BY ANNE HARDING**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Eye-catching posters and banners have been up around the county for a month or two announcing the Upper Valley Music Festival (UVMF) in Turners Falls (some in Turners, some in Greenfield, and a few in Northampton). Every time I see the poster I wonder.... What is this festival, where the heck in Turners Falls is it taking place, and how do I find out more about it?

I spoke to Tommy Byrnes to learn more. Byrnes, along with his wife Jessica, son Ian and other volunteers is working madly to coordinate the 2012 festival.

The UVMF began last year as a 50th birthday celebration for Byrnes and turned into a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in various venues in downtown Greenfield. Byrnes lost both parents to cancer and two of his sisters are cancer survivors, so the charity is near and dear to his heart.

Following a successful event with 18 bands participating, UVMF investigated an encore performance in Greenfield, Brattleboro, and Keene before settling on Turners Falls as the site for the 2012 festival.

In addition to a supportive town government, the downtown area has several excellent performance venues within walking distance of each other and many of these were available on July 21st (one of the ten proposed dates for the festival). Byrnes is excited to say the event is a perfect showcase for the independent music movement that has "entered the mainstream like a tidal wave" following the collapse of the traditional music industry.

The festival does not feature a "headline act" but rather provides a venue for the wealth of local independent artists who have taken control of their own careers - acting not only as musicians but also booking agents, marketers, and business managers.

This year there are more than 30 bands performing and the detailed schedule can be found at the UVMF website [www.uppervalley-musicfest.com](http://www.uppervalley-musicfest.com) Notable highlights of the festival are five full stages; full 45 minute sets for all scheduled acts; staggered start times so patrons can maximize their viewing pleasure; multiple music genres ranging from acoustic to electric as well as dance performances and a contra dance; along with the

addition of an "emerging artists" performance organized by Addison Rice, whom Byrnes dubbed a "true troubadour." The venues include the Shea Theater, Saint Kazimierz Society Hall, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Rendezvous and Burrito Rojo.

It should be noted the event organizers, bands, sound engineers, and stage managers are all volunteering their time so the event proceeds will directly support the charity. Some volunteer opportunities are still available through the website. Local business Ryan and Casey has been the primary financial supporter of fixed event costs.

Byrnes, a Celtic musician of some renown, is particularly excited to have the iconic traditional musician Lisa Null scheduled for the 4 o'clock slot at the Shea Theater along with Charlie Baum. Byrnes has been a fan of Null for many years since she toured with the legendary guitarist Bill Shute in the 1970s and early 80s. Null has a varied career including time spent performing with Garrison Keillor; co-founding Green Linnet Records; and teaching at Georgetown University. In addition,

Null is also a cancer survivor.

Byrnes spent many years performing in pubs and streets from New England to Ireland and spent 12 years touring the area with the critically acclaimed "Ockham's Razor" before founding Sovereignty Music. ([www.sovereignmusic.com](http://www.sovereignmusic.com)) He's well connected to the regional music scene and when the invite went out for the 2012 festival, Byrnes was happy to get many responses within just a few hours. He's particularly excited to have Brad Hurley and Claire Boucher travelling south from Quebec to play traditional Brittany music; the Evan Goodrow Band - a "mind-blowingly good Boston-based independent music success story"; and Mieka Pauley - a "perfect representative of the independent music movement" who has self-produced several EPs and a couple of full length albums.

So mark your calendars for Saturday, July 21st and plan to wander the village of Turners Falls from about noon to midnight to hear the best in local and regional independent music, in support of a good cause.

from **WARMING** page 1

work achieved prominence in 2001 when the IPCC placed the hockey-stick chart in both their full report, and the thin Summary for Policymakers pamphlet.

The hockey stick became an icon of global warming and, therefore, a target. Skeptics of human-induced warming argued that the data was too sparse and numerically suspicious, and that Bradley and his colleagues' results could not be independently reproduced.

But subsequent scientific papers, using a variety of methods, produced results similar to the original hockey-stick graph, and supported the IPCC conclusion.

The building scientific consensus became a focus of dispute. Energy industries, determined to stop all legislation to control fossil fuel use and carbon emissions, saw the IPCC as a direct threat.

These influential utility and energy interests finance politicians who support their cause, and set out to destroy the reputations of the scientists who came up with the data on global warming, to make it appear that science is wrong.

In 2003, Oklahoma's Republican senator, James Inhofe, made a speech saying that "man-made global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people." He denied any human effect on global warming. Inhofe indicted 17 global warming scientists, including Bradley, for using federal funds to support their research.

In 2006, U.S. Reps. Joe Barton and Ed Whitfield demanded a congressional inquiry to investigate what the alleged to be the statistical failings. To overwhelm the indicted scientists, they demanded all of their research data and contacts going back over many years. Numerous inquiries were launched, but no wrongdoing on the part of the scientists was found.

**Evidence of Global Warming**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) has always been present in our planet's atmosphere and has an insulating effect. Without CO<sub>2</sub>, it would be too cold on Earth to sustain life.

For about 800 thousand years, CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the earth's atmosphere ranged from 180 to 280 parts per million (ppm). Several years ago, environmental author Bill McKibben founded *350.org*, an international climate campaign to keep CO<sub>2</sub> levels at 350 ppm. However, CO<sub>2</sub> has continued to rise in the atmosphere, now measuring at about 390 ppm.

There is currently an European Union plan to limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 450 ppm, at which point the average temperature will increase by about 2°C, leading to massive global repercussions.

Bradley said the 450 ppm goal no longer appears realistic either.

Scientists have proven that the arctic ice-cap has receded dramatically since 1979. Similarly, glaciers in the tropic countries of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as the ice-cap on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, have shrunk by 30% since 1967.

**Results of Global Warming**

Scientists are unsure of all the effects that global warming will have. They do know that rainfall patterns have changed and will continue to do so. More heat and energy in the atmosphere creates more extreme weather.

Arid regions will expand. The Sahara desert has already increased in size, and the dry lands of North Africa are expected to expand into Greece, Spain and the Middle East.

Additionally, areas with permafrost, such as northern Canada and Siberia, are expected to bloom green when the permafrost melts. With that melting, methane, which retains more heat than CO<sub>2</sub>, will be released. Thus, temperatures

will continue to rise.

Sea levels will rise and terrestrial land will be lost along coasts. The oceans have absorbed much of the CO<sub>2</sub> so far. This will eventually kill coral reefs and alter aquatic life in general.

Agriculture will change. Many parts of the developing world will have to rely on genetically modified foods to feed their population. Bradley lamented, "We are running out of options to feed all these people."

Even the insurance industry is being affected by global warming, as the number of claims rises because of the increase in extreme weather events.

**A Culture Suspicious of Science**

Bradley spoke of the misconception that scientists have not come to a definite conclusion about global warming, "which is completely wrong."

Scientists are in agreement that the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> have risen, and that there is no going back to the levels that were the norm over the last millennium. Humanity, he said, is now sailing through "uncharted waters."

The politics of carbon emission regulation has grown more partisan in recent years. For example, under Governor Mitt Romney, Massachusetts went to court to support the EPA's finding that heat-trapping gases from industry and vehicles endanger public health. As the Republican nominee for president, Romney has backed away from his earlier position about human-caused global warming.

In 2011, Texas Governor Rick Perry called global warming "all one contrived phony mess that is falling apart under its own weight ... [it is] flat out hogwash." Last year, Rush Limbaugh said: "We know that data was made up to advance the notion that man is causing the climate to warm."

Bradley said he is aware, "The issue of global warming is very polarizing, as it ties into basic belief in government intervention."

While Republicans lead the way in denying a human role in global warming, these views are now widespread in American society.

Bradley cited a 2011 poll that found that only 55% of Democrats in America thought that there is a consensus amongst scientists that global warming is truly happening.

Bradley claimed, "The media is complicit in promoting this campaign of misinformation." He noted the New York Times ran an article under the headline, "Scientists Accused of Fraud," when doubt was cast on the IPCC report.

**Political Inertia**

International conferences to address carbon emissions held in such places as Kyoto, Japan and Copenhagen, Denmark, ended in political quagmire. Bradley discussed the international blame game and negotiation breakdown that now typify global attempts at climate change regulation: "We're not going to change until you do." China, India and Brazil, whose economies are growing, have allowed their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to increase in recent years.

Still, US emissions per person are greater than any other country.

European countries led by Germany have invested seriously in alternative energy such as solar and wind. In comparison, the United States government has done very little.

**Solutions**

Bradley passionately asserted that humankind must turn to other energy sources to keep CO<sub>2</sub> levels from accelerating further. What's more, Bradley said, because the world already reached 'peak oil,' we don't really have any choice but to go Green.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

Restraining Order Violation

Monday/July 2nd

6:50 a.m. Cows in road on River Road, same removed and owner notified.

12:10 p.m. Harassment protection order received for party from Greenfield, victim from Boyle Road.

1:35 p.m. Restraining order served to party on W Gill Road.

3:15 p.m. Resident from Boyle Road placed under arrest for restraining order violation.

Tuesday/July 3rd

11:00 a.m. Assisted party with lost passport from China.

11:46 a.m. Tractor fire at Northfield Mount Hermon in lower fields.

4:24 p.m. Lottery phone scam reported from resident on Oak Street, investigated.

5:10 p.m. Domestic situation on Riverview Drive, residents assisted in keeping the peace.

Friday/July 6th

11:10 a.m. Medical call on West Gill Road, elderly subject with difficulty breathing.

8:42 p.m. Medical assist of elderly subject on West Gill Road, transported to FMC.

9:30 p.m. Fireworks reported on Main Road near River Road, unable to locate.

9:50 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with 911 hang up call; known home of domestic situations.

10:20 p.m. Medical assist provided at Stoughton Place on Main Road.

Monday/July 9th

10:10 a.m. Responded to medical call for a child at Barton Cove campground; transported same.

Tuesday/July 10th

9:45 a.m. Responded to Barton Cove campground for out of control subjects at a camp site. Assisted rangers on site.

Wednesday/July 11th

9:40 a.m. Assisted Department of Children and Families with the seizure of children from parents at Barton Cove campground.

11:55 a.m. Served resident on Boyle Road with a restraining order from District Court in Greenfield.

Some of the solutions Bradley mentioned include using more efficient technology, reducing waste by insulating homes and producing less trash, changing farm animals' diet so they produce less methane, reducing deforestation, expanding green roofing projects, teaching global warming in schools, and, lastly, engaging politicians. "Politicians should be asked at every speaking event about their position on energy policy."

Bradley admits there are no immediate solutions to interrelated issues of world population and global warming. But he believes, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

Around the world large advances are being made. "People are working on solutions and the incentives are not only ethical, but monetary."

The business community is becoming more engaged as they realize the investment opportunities. Virgin Atlantic Airways founder Richard Branson has created a carbon war room to harness the power of entrepreneurs to unlock market-driven solutions to global warming.

Bradley concluded by pointing out that in the United States and in Europe, "We have an opportunity. We are going to have to invest to get our economies back on track. Let's invest in the right areas."

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Four Winds School Returns to Full Time Schedule in Fall

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**RIVERSIDE** — Steve Hussey, director of the Four Winds School, hopes this will be a turnaround year for the independent middle school, which has been housed at the Riverside Municipal Building in Gill for the last decade.

Down to one teacher — Eloise Michael — and about half a dozen students, Four Winds will resume a full-time, five-day-a-week schedule in September, abandoning the half-time, home schooled-oriented programming the school tried experimenting with last year.

"This will be a building year," Hussey told the Gill selectboard on Monday, July 2nd. Hussey has some reason to be optimistic on that score, since the independent school has received a loan from the Franklin County Community Development Corporation to be used to publicize the school's offerings, individual classroom attention being a particular strength.

The selectboard agreed to extend the Four Winds School lease at the Riverside building for another year, at the rate of \$575 a month, after hearing assurances from administrative assistant Ray Purington that the rent was indeed covering the costs of the building. Hussey spoke of his willingness to pay a higher rent if enrollment increases to a dozen or more students come fall.

Greg Pellerin, chair of the Four Winds board, took the opportunity to bring a few problems with the building to the board's attention, including the fact that there has been no hot water in the upstairs bathroom sink for some years.

The board promised to address that issue immediately, and to give consideration to Pellerin's other requests, such as removing an inoperable water fountain from the main hallway, and installing running water and a drain in one of the classrooms, to assist with science labs and perhaps also to allow for a bit of a kitchen area for student lunches. The board also acknowledged the ongoing need to reglaze and weatherize windows at the Riverside building.

Later in the meeting, administrative assistant Ray

Purington noted that on a recent tour of the Riverside building, the on-demand hot water heater appeared to have been turned off. Could this have anything to do with the lack of hot water in the upstairs bathroom? Stay tuned.

### Krejmas Property

Lawrence Krejmas, owner of a property at 444 Main Road that has been the subject of a protracted struggle with the board of health over the presence of junk materials and possible toxic spills to the soil and groundwater, was back before the selectboard on July 2nd.

The board sought Krejmas' approval to allow the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to provide a \$30,000 grant to conduct a second phase of investigation, to determine whether toxic materials are indeed present in the soil or groundwater at 444 Main Road.

Krejmas began by apologizing for his past behavior at a hearing six months earlier, where he saluted the selectboard with a stiff armed Nazi-style salute and later threw a pill bottle in the general direction of the board.

"I was kind of harsh to you," Krejmas admitted. "When I feel someone is trying to oppress me... I can work with anyone, as long as they're willing to work with me."

Board member John Ward said he had driven by the property recently and seen a marked improvement, as Krejmas has cleaned up an abandoned trailer that had been on the site, and removed other materials.

However, health agent Glen Ayers said that for three years he had been attempting to get Krejmas to return the property to a "clean and sanitary condition," but, despite superficial improvements, "the property is not in a clean and sanitary condition. An initial site assessment," under FRCOG's Brownfield's program, has "determined there is a likelihood there has been contaminant release on the property due to history of use and inspection, under 21-E, as a junkyard, essentially."

Ayers said whether Krejmas agreed to voluntarily allow a Phase II study of

the groundwater and soil to test for contaminants, or whether that study is undertaken under court order, "it's going to get done."

Krejmas objected to allowing a continuation of the study, since, he said, even if the FRCOG paid for the study, if contaminants are found on the property, he will be held responsible for cleaning them up.

Unable to come to any conclusion in open meeting, Ward offered to call Krejmas privately to follow up before the mid-July deadline, when Ayers plans to pursue the matter in land court.

"Resistance is futile, at this point," said Ayers. "I am compelled to do my job."

In other business, the board thanked Sergeant Chris Redmond for his 20 years of service to the department and the town.

"I don't know about another 20," said Redmond, modestly. "Maybe half that."

The board appointed Ernie Hastings to the capital improvements committee, and Jennifer Simms to the conservation commission. But these appointments did little to plug a widening gap in membership on many of the volunteer boards that keep the town functioning.

"We need more volunteers," said Purington, pointing to a list of committees with vacancies that includes the conservation commission, the recreation commission, the zoning board of appeals, the cable advisory committee, the capital improvements committee, and the energy commission, among others.

Call Purington at 863-9347 if you can give some time to help the town of Gill.

The board intends to seek funding for an exploration into a mystery of why the sewer pipes in Riverside are carrying so much more water than residents appear to be draining or flushing into them.

Backing the need for an inflow and infiltration study of the small Riverside water department, selectboard member Ann Banash said, "We buy a certain amount of water from Greenfield, and we're shipping about double that amount over to Montague," for processing in the Montague wastewater treatment plant.

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Reconstruction Proposed on North Leverett Road

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Leverett highway boss Will Stratford told the selectboard on Tuesday, July 10th, that he would like to apply for a Small Town Road Assistance Project / MassWorks Infrastructure grant to install new drainage culverts, and widen and repave North Leverett Road from Moores Corners to the Shutesbury line.

Leverett could apply for up to \$1 million from the state for road improvements, according to town administrator Margie McGinnis, and the selectboard encouraged Stratford to consider folding the needed renovation of the Dudleyville Bridge at Moores Corner into the same application, so that design, permitting, and endangered species clearance could be handled for both projects simultaneously.

The actual widening, reconstruction and possible realignment of the Dudleyville Bridge could then take place as a second phase of construction, selectboard chair Rich Brazeau proposed, if the hoped-for grant funding proves to be insufficient to cover the cost of both road and bridge reconstruction.

The Dudleyville Bridge galvanized steel deck and steel stringers, sandblasted and given a new coat of paint a decade ago, are rusting again, though the fieldstone abutments are in good shape. But Stratford said if state money is used for the reconstruction of the bridge, the state will probably insist on widening what is now essentially a one-lane bridge. In order to widen the bridge, it may be necessary to realign the structure, and move it a few feet further downstream, since it is located very close to an old mill on the northwest corner.

The selectboard felt right-of-way issues could take a long period of time to straighten out, if it becomes necessary to realign the bridge.

Meanwhile, the board urged Stratford to consider adding bike lanes, or at least wider shoulders, to the stretch of North Leverett Road heading up toward the Shutesbury line, since it is heavily traveled by both cars and cyclists nowadays.

In past meetings, Stratford has referred to

North Leverett Road as "an old cowpath." But he said full depth reconstruction of the road would not be possible now from a financial standpoint, and with new drainage and culverts, resurfacing would be all the town could practically afford, and only with state help.

The board appointed Larry Williams as the new truck driver, equipment operator, and laborer for the highway department at a starting rate of \$15.75 an hour, pending results of a physical. Williams takes the place of Matt Buscher, who resigned recently. Williams comes to the town with 20 years of experience with Felton Construction.

After going out to bid for landfill monitoring services at the town's former landfill, the selectboard was pleased to award the bid to ECS consultants out of Northampton. ECS has been providing the same landfill well monitoring, water filtration testing, and related services for the town in past years, but bid \$10,000 less to get the contract this time than the town has been paying the firm up until now. The board felt satisfied with that outcome.

The board discussed an upcoming informational meeting on Tuesday, July 31st at 7 p.m. at town hall to let the public know about Leverett's affordable housing program, made possible through a mandatory 10% set aside from the town's Community Preservation Act funds. Also discussed was the idea of using some CPA funds to purchase and demolish a pair of multifamily houses, southwest of the Dakin Animal Shelter on Montague Road, that have been the subject of ongoing complaint and enforcement action by the town's board of health.

The board would like to demolish these structures, owned by someone named Biddle, and build new affordable homes on the lots.

Board member Julie Shively said, "I prefer this to buying ten acres of land and putting housing on it. This solves such a big problem," while at the same time providing affordable housing, Shively said. She agreed to call Biddle and discuss the proposition.

The board plans to schedule a special town meeting

to revisit the question of amending the town's cell phone bylaw in early October.

Brazeau said he had walked some town-owned land off Jackson Hill Road that might be an ideal location for a cell tower, and the board seemed inclined to put a cell tower up using town funds, and then lease access to the tower to cell phone providers.

McGinnis said she would check with the attorney general's office to see if it would be necessary to hold another public hearing in advance of a special town meeting on this issue, since the board plans to simply put the same bylaw proposal, which narrowly missed gaining a two-thirds majority at annual town meeting, back on a special town meeting warrant in the fall.

"Take the bylaw the way they have it," said Brazeau. "We can amend it on the floor to make longer setbacks, if need be," he added.

An *ad hoc* committee of interested citizens and local scientists are charged with looking at the potential health impacts of cell towers, and whether a town has any right to legislate on the area of health impacts of cell towers. That committee is supposed to report back to the board by the end of September, although the board has expressed little patience for delay on this topic.

Meanwhile, both Brazeau and board member Peter d'Errico complained that their regular Verizon land line and internet service is again experiencing problems with dropped calls and interruptions in service, a complaint that had been general in town in recent years.

"It's ridiculous," said Brazeau. "I'm paying \$80 to \$90 a month for phone service, and half the time I can't even get internet."


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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

### Too Many Committees in the Town Hall Kitchen?

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** – At their June 20th meeting, the Wendell selectboard met Katie Nolan, Judy Hall, and Nina Keller, who had come to express their interest in improving the town hall kitchen facilities so they can be used for community meals, cooking and preserving classes, and possibly small scale commercial food production.

The selectboard liked the idea, encouraged the women to continue, and created a new five-member town kitchen committee, with the purpose of getting that work done.

The committee consists of those three women, plus Jenny Brill, and one open position.

At the July 5th selectboard meeting, energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger and member Betsy Ames met with the selectboard to air concerns about the selectboard creating that *ad hoc* committee for improving the town hall kitchen. Outside the town office building in the community garden, Nolan had been pulling weeds, and Riebschlaeger invited her to come into the selectboard meeting as well.

Riebschlaeger began the discussion saying the food security project, a part of the energy committee, had decided to work on getting that kitchen operational, and she saw the new committee as a duplication and possible undermining of those

efforts. She pointed out that finance committee chair Michael Idoine felt there are already too many food related committees in town.

Ames said her first reaction to the new committee was similar, but after some time mulling the idea over, she felt since the energy to overhaul the town hall kitchen has been focused by the new committee, they might as well continue to work on the project, as long as they communicate with the food security group and the energy committee.

Nolan said the kitchen committee is definitely an *ad hoc* group, and once they are satisfied with the work done, they will stop meeting. When that happens, she proposes oversight of the kitchen become a selectboard responsibility, as is any other use of town hall.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said the new committee will be able to ask for grants and raise funds, and since it will be working on a town building, its work will naturally fall under the wing of the selectboard's responsibility for upkeep of all town buildings.

Selectboard member Dan Keller added it is good to have the kitchen addressed by people who have a direct interest and whose focus is only the kitchen. He also noted the

see WENDELL page 13

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Contract Awarded for Usher Mill Demo

**BY KATIE NOLAN** – The Erving selectboard voted July 9th to accept the \$822,782 bid from J.R. Vinagro Corporation of Johnston, RI, for demolition of the former Usher Mill on Arch Street in Erving Center.

Vinagro will demolish all the buildings, except the boiler building, remove and dispose of asbestos and other hazardous materials, and remove and dispose of non-hazardous demolition debris.

There were three other bidders, with bids ranging from \$927,777 to \$1,591,937.

The bid was accepted "pending funding." The selectboard will ask a special town meeting scheduled for August 6th to approve transferring \$500,000 from stabilization to cover the costs for the demolition, for Tighe & Bond consulting and oversight, plus a contingency fund.

The town will borrow \$115,000 from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and also receive a \$50,000 FRCOG grant to help pay for the demolition. Part of the funds transferred from stabilization would go toward paying off the FRCOG loan.

Town meeting had previously approved spending \$500,000 to demolish and clean up the Usher Mill site, but that sum proved to be too little to accomplish the project.

If the transfer is approved by the special town meeting, selectboard chair Eugene Klepadlo estimated that a contract could be signed with Vinagro by August 20th.

Usher Plant Re-Use committee member Gary Burnett recommended the scope of the project be reduced – "just get the rubble removed" – and then re-bid in hopes of getting a lower cost. Assistant assessor

Jacquelyn Boyden said the town had voted to demolish the buildings and clean up the site, and "It won't get any cheaper."

Robin Sherman, executive director of Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, explained the community development block grant program and asked the selectboard to consider a formal agreement for administering money paid into the revolving loan program on Erving's behalf.

Sherman said federal grant money is used to make interest-free loans to low- to moderate-income households for housing repairs. The loans come due when the property is sold or transferred, and the loan payments are designated for the towns where the property is located. According to Sherman, Erving currently has approximately \$105,000 in the revolving loan fund and approximately \$1.5 million in total loans out.

Erving and the FCHRA have had by letter and verbal agreements about how to administer the money over the years, but Sherman recommended developing a written contract. She said her intention is "that you understand what we're doing with your money and we understand what you want." She provided a draft contract for the selectboard to review.

The board will review the draft and consult with town counsel. Until a contract is finalized, the board agreed that any money paid on Erving's behalf will go into the revolving loan fund.

Selectboard member Margaret Sullivan asked the board to revisit the \$0.20 per 1,000 gallon water rate hike, consider increasing the cost per

see ERVING page 13

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Once More Round the Block – by Wheelchair



David Jensen, Sandy Facto, and Pat Allen on a wheelchair tour of downtown Turners Falls

**BY JANEL NOCKLEBY** – As promised at the July 2nd selectboard meeting, all three Montague selectboard members and town building inspector David Jensen participated in an experiment on July 6th to see just how accessible Turners Falls' buildings are for those using motorized wheelchairs.

This is the second time in the past decade Turners Falls resident Sandy Facto has organized a tour for the Montague selectboard to experience firsthand the difficulties wheelchair-bound residents face when maneuvering the village's brick sidewalks and inaccessible storefronts. Pat Allen, joined by Allen Ross and Patricia Pruitt, moved around downtown by wheelchair on October 30th, 2004, under Facto's guidance. At that time, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said, "I learned just what the handicapped members of our community experience when they use the sidewalks, and what they have to negotiate, particularly at the curb cuts."

On July 2nd, it was *déjà vu* all over again, as Facto once again organized the selectboard wheelchair challenge, with help from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, to bring attention to the many pitfalls of attempting to open heavy doors and navigate narrow aisles at businesses like Family Dollar and Aubuchon's Hardware on Avenue A. The wheelchair challenge showed it takes several maneuvers back and forth and strategic positioning of the wheelchair just to be able to do a little shopping.

Fortunately, the weather was fine, so Jensen, Pat Allen, Chris Boutwell, and Mark Fairbrother did not have to also juggle umbrellas along with their shopping bags while attempting to open the heavy doors.

Facto plans to present a petition to a future selectboard meeting, listing requested improvements to help make village life on a wheelchair a bit easier. Not least among them would be the addition of automatic door openers, with a push button, to gain access at more town businesses, and from the Avenue A entrance

at town hall.

At the selectboard meeting on July 2nd, Facto did acknowledge that at least four area establishments are getting accessibility right – Greenfield Savings Bank, the Carnegie Library, Rite Aid Pharmacy, and Food City. And the parade of wheelchairs did successfully navigate the Turners Falls canalside bike path, a state park, from the Avenue A shopping plaza back to town hall.

In other news, the Lake Pleasant Village Association has been revived, and members have obtained \$6000 in community development discretionary funds from the selectboard for fixing the Lake Pleasant bell and bellhouse.

National Spiritualist Alliance member and village historian David James explained the bell had been in the Lake Pleasant temple when it burned in 1955. Now located on the west side of the Bridge of Names under a deteriorating gazebo, the bell is cracked. Selectboard members said they were happy to allocate the funds to the village, since Lake Pleasant rarely asks for much.

Sally Pick, the Solarize Montague coach, introduced Greg Garrison, of Hadley-based Northeast Solar Design Associates, to the selectboard as the newly selected solar installer for the project, which seeks to provide town residents and businesses a discounted rate for new solar installations in all five villages. Though Montague resident Garrison needs no introduction, as an active participant in town committees, nonetheless, he updated the selectboard that after just one week on the job, Northeast Solar had already contacted 90 of the 100 residents who would like a solar site visit. Garrison and company will also present Solar 201, on Tuesday, July 24th, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at Turners Falls High School, where the solar-curious can learn about how much it might cost to go green.

"Tell your neighbors," said Pick.

The price for installed solar photovoltaics will go down in Montague as more and more people purchase PV arrays through the

Solarize Montague program. For more info on the program, see [www.solarizemass.com/montague](http://www.solarizemass.com/montague), but do it soon. The last day to sign residential and commercial solar installation contracts is September 30th, 2012.

Soon, very soon, the Phase I Unity Park improvements will be completed, explained Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Hunter is administering the town's community development block grant for the Unity Park improvement project.

He anticipates that all construction for the first phase of Unity Park improvements will be complete by July 20th. Additionally, the selectboard approved a change order for \$20,122 and a design amendment for \$2,184 for the park improvements this summer, to cover the costs of additional pavement testing in the new parking lot, installation of an ornamental fence and ballard, changing a catch basin to a man-hole, and repairing existing play structures.

At town meeting in May, town meeting members voted to allow the town to obtain the Ste. Anne's Rectory on Sixth Street as a donation from Citi Mortgage Inc. The selectboard has now signed a purchase and sale agreement honoring this intent.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio explained town counsel has reviewed the agreement and "there were no red flags."

A title search on the property has been completed, but the only issues to be negotiated are zoning ones that Abbondanzio, town counsel, and neighboring Ste. Anne's church property owner Jordan Quinn seem to be willing to work out because doing so will "allow both properties to be developed," Abbondanzio said.

"The purchase and sale agreement starts the ball rolling, eventually leading to signing the deed," he explained.

The town of Montague has once again received grants for Green Communities initiatives - \$14,062

see MONTAGUE page 12

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## FURBISHING THE AVE

## Page Turners Bookshop



Shannon Ramsey brings her mobile bookstore to the Farmers Market.

BY JOHN FURBISH

**GREAT FALLS** – This summer has seen a new kind of business pop up in town. An embryonic “Page Turners Bookshop” has popped up

on tables and bookcases at the Great Falls Farmers Market on Wednesday afternoons – in good weather only, so as not to damage the books – from 2 to 6 p.m.

Shannon Ramsey grew up in the Hartford area. After graduating Middletown High School, she came to Massachusetts to study at UMass Amherst, where she met her husband, Montague’s town planner Walter Ramsey, and completed a degree in Environmental Design.

Halfway through college, she began working in bookish pursuits. First, she worked in the textbook annex, then as a reference clerk in the DuBois Library, and finally at the Amherst Bookstore (where she continues to work).

After college graduation, Ramsey formed an idea to open her own bookshop, and took a class in “Planning for Success” at the Community Development Corporation in Greenfield, which helped her decide to set up a mobile shop in order to gauge the level of interest and the possibility of opening a bookstore in downtown Turners.

Currently, Shannon’s “Page Turners Bookshop” (find it on Facebook) happens with “pop up events” like the Farmers Market. She’s researching additional display opportunities for summer and fall. The August 11th Block Party looks promising. Drop by and check out her wares. I like her selection of cookbooks best of all!

JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

## Kulik Reviews the \$32.5 Billion State Budget



BY DAVID DETMOLD

**BOSTON** – With the state of Massachusetts emerging from the worst years of the Great Recession, adding a total of 37,800 jobs in the fiscal year ending June 30th, driving the Commonwealth’s unemployment figure to 6%, well below the national average of 8.2%, Governor Deval Patrick held a signing ceremony in the statehouse on Sunday, July 8th to ink a \$32.5 billion state budget for FY’13. The budget represents a 4%

increase over last year’s state spending, just under the anticipated state tax revenue growth rate of 4.5%. To balance the budget, legislators drew \$350 million from the state’s ‘rainy day fund,’ leaving \$1.28 billion in that reserve account, which Patrick said was the third-highest reserve fund in the nation, after oil-rich Alaska and Texas.

According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, the budget also relies on no new taxes, and makes up for a potential \$1.3 billion budget gap with a combination of \$615 million in temporary revenue, and cuts and savings, including a \$40.8 million cut to emergency assistance for homeless shelters and an \$8 million cut to child care subsidies. These cuts come on top of more than \$3 billion in cuts to the state budget over the last four years, as the recession drove state revenues into a downward spiral at the same time as more citizens of the Commonwealth faced the need to access social services.

We talked this week with state

see KULIK page 13

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Village Sketchbook

Three Innings at Fenway

JULY 10TH, 1912

BY DAVID BRULE  
ERVINGSIDE –

*His art is eccentricity, his aim  
How not to hit the mark he seems  
to aim at,*

Young Doug Smith stood on the mound at Fenway Park. In the blistering heat, he wiped sweat from his brow, and adjusted his cap. It was 97 degrees in Boston that July 10th, 1912.

Manager Jake Stahl had brought him out in the bottom of the 7th to face the lowly St. Louis Browns, who were actually pushing the league-leading Red Sox around, 8-2. The Browns were fighting to stay out of the cellar; the Sox were leading the league, and likely World Series contenders. But aces Hugh Bedient, Larry Pape, and Ray Collins had given up eight runs already, and Smith, newly arrived from Millers Falls, all of 19 years old, was called on and got his big chance to show his stuff.

Catcher Bill Carrigan flashed signals to Smith, who waved off the first call for a curve ball. Brazen for a rookie.

He had three good pitches in his repertoire: a blazing fast ball, his curve ball, and a fearsome spitball. He was not about to try his spitter on his first major league pitch. Besides, he had left his plug of Slippery Elm in the dugout. So the spitball was out.

He settled on his fastball, the most feared in the western part of Massachusetts, the pitch that got him from Millers Falls to Fenway. He was facing Frank Laporte, a veteran ball player, ready to tear the leather off anything this kid could throw. Smith looked around, checking the runner taking a disrespectful lead at first, goading the youngster.

*His passion how to avoid the obvious,  
His technique how to vary the avoidance.*



Smith's baseball card portrait

Suddenly the new southpaw fired a rocket that left Laporte fanning the breeze. He glared at this upstart, fresh off the train, and up to his neck with the big boys in the big leagues. Doug Smith was a bundle of nerves though he tried not to show it.

"You ain't down on the farm anymore kiddo," he said to himself.

He had mowed down upwards of 22 batters in a game back home, he reminded himself. At one point he had struck out 50 batters in a three-day series.

"I'll take care of this bucko too." He got rid of Laporte in good order, and retired the side, getting the Browns to ground out, or fly out. He strolled off the mound to sit and try to calm his pounding heart, but he could feel himself getting into the flow of his pitching. The familiar cockiness was coming back.

"This ain't so bad," he muttered. He was a Natural. He was wild, and he was young, but real fast, and the only way was up.

*The others throw to be comprehended. He  
Throws to be a moment misunderstood.*

Back out on the mound, he gave the thousands in Fenway something to cheer about, gave them a show for their money. His fast ball was as blistering as the temperature. He found the plate more often than not; he walked no one that day. He was stopping the rout.

*Yet not too much. Not errant, arrant, wild,  
But every seeming aberration willed.*

He grew quickly in confidence, and began moving swiftly through his three innings of ephemeral fame. He knew who was watching, many of the Immortals, many of his idols had their eyes fixed on him. He had Duffy Lewis in left field, Harry Hooper in right, and Tris Speaker in center. Heinie Wagner, Eddie Cicotte, Sea Lion Hall and Smokey Joe Wood watched from the bench. What 19-year-old from the sticks could ask for more? He was pitching



The young Douglas Smith warms up.

his dream game.

Douglas himself, blond, slight of build at five foot eight, was no pushover despite his age and size. He had honed his skills at Turners Falls High School and in ballparks all over western New England. He played hardball in every sense of the word. Playing a game a day at times, he was infamous for "dusting off" a batter or two he didn't like or wanted to rattle.

He was used to having to fistfight his way out of ballparks when he helped roll up the score against lesser teams. He had great admiration for that spike-sharpener, the Georgia Peach, the ruthless Ty Cobb. But pitching was his thing, his ticket out of his one-horse mill town.

He had his nerves under control until the top of the 9th. Facing another veteran player,

George Stovall, he gave up a triple. Stovall came home on a sacrifice fly, and upped the score to 9-2. That was the score when the game ended.

He walked off the mound, tipped his hat to the fans that were still in the stands, feeling good that he had done what he had been paid to do.

However, seems like hardly was he off the mound but he was sent down to a farm team, the Lowell Grays. The Sox were headed for the World Series and already were loaded with pitching talent, having Smokey Joe Wood, High Bedient, and Eddie Cicotte. To pay Smith to ride the bench didn't make business sense. Besides, they wanted him to get a little more experience and seasoning.

As he headed off the field, little did Smith suspect that his major league career was already over.

Looking forward to the 1913 season, and hoping to be called up to Fenway again that year, a series of fateful events separated him from the Red Sox for good. During spring training in 1913, the management let it be known he had developed a "heart condition," but the real reasons were likely more sinister. Was it fate, money, health, or rumor, politics and ethnic prejudice? It's still not clear to this very day.

His Red Sox career ended then and there, but he was not through with baseball, nor was baseball through with him. Smith continued to play for years on other teams throughout New England and New York. He barnstormed with teams from Meriden, New Britain, Springfield, Utica and Syracuse. And the Sox had not heard the last of Doug Smith.

Fate handed him his chance for sweet revenge. The Red Sox came to Syracuse to play an exhibition game against the Syracuse Stars in 1916. Boston was riding high, reigning World Champions, and figured this little warm-up game would help get them ready to play a tough series against Ty Cobb's Detroit Tigers. Doug Smith was slated to pitch for the Stars against none other than opposing pitcher Babe Ruth. But The Babe had another one of those days

when he was "indisposed." Smith and his Syracuse team shelved the Sox 5-2, and Doug was the toast of Syracuse. Headlines proclaimed "Smith Pitches Syracuse to Victory!" "Stars Conquer Red Sox!" "Smith Twirls Baffling Ball. American League Champs Fall Before Syracuse!" Revenge was sweet. He was at the height of his art, and having the time of his life.

*Not to, yet still, still to communicate  
Making the batter understand too late.*

– "Pitcher"  
by Robert Francis

Doug Smith eventually returned to Millers Falls, Erving, where another four years in the Minors, took up a factory job, and lived out his life on Pleasant Street. He continued to play locally, coached several local teams.

Our Uncle Doug regaled us at Sunday dinners over the years, with many a tale of the times when he and baseball were young. He followed baseball all of his days. It was his life, and to be sure, he never had a good word to say about the Red Sox.

Douglas Smith 1893-1973

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# Young Poets at the Slate Library

BY JC PRUITT

GILL – On a perfect morning at the end of June, a simple circle sat cornered at the Slate Library as youthful eyes full of depth, hope, and timid fearlessness squared off for a round of verse.

The poetry instructor of the day was a writer from Connecticut, Dianne Bilyak, an emerging voice in literary publications and academic circles beyond New England.

The ideas Bilyak shared with the poetry group were solid, accessible, and could easily be duplicated on one's own or in another small group – say at a slumber party, on a family vacation or as an activity game at camp. Her prompts to the young poets were fun, but they also happened to be the foundational building blocks a poet's craft is built on: have a daydream, write about the taste, the scent, the sound of something, revisit a favorite memory and reconstruct it through verse...

Combined with Bilyak's emphasis on product, she had the poets writing and sharing their work for the better part of the session, eliciting a wealth of poems from the younger set.

An early activity led to the collectively constructed poem, *Remember*:

Remember  
Drinking water  
Purple wings  
Leaves swirl  
I remember  
Dreaming

I was heartened by my community that early summer day. We bring poetry to our youth; and, we have a younger population willing to accept the challenge to write poetry in the summer shade.

For me, the workshop was an important sign that we are actively maintaining the link to the legacy of Western Mass, and the continued expansion of the Valley Arts Corridor that brings visitors from Boston and New York through Easthampton, Northampton, and Montague on their way out to the theaters and museums of the Berkshires. The Poetry "Seat of the Week" went to the Gill Slate Library, right down the road. That makes us all look good.

When asked to contribute a poem for this article, everyone in the group chose to share their object-perspective poem. The kids had been given a simple but effective poetic challenge: write as if you were an object in the room. The writers were all adept at the literal aspects of the task, but as with all good writing, hidden within their

formal structures are some profound and brilliant lines. Enjoy:

Swish, splash, I am water.  
I am a raindrop that fell  
from the sky. I fell into the  
deep blue ocean. Watching  
schools of fish and hiding with  
turtles, are of course lots of  
fun, but sometimes it can get boring  
but my favorite thing  
to do of all is swimming  
through myself.  
– Amara Balk

I'm a globe  
I sit on top  
of a book  
shelf for people  
to see the whole world on me  
I can show them  
continents, seas,  
cities, and more  
I can be spinned  
around so that  
people can see  
a certain place  
on me. I am a  
globe  
– Noah Speck

VASE  
I am doing nothing but I'm not  
bored. I am quite high up,  
I'm blue & brown. They never touch  
me or take me down. I'm empty,  
with nothing to hold. A vase  
without flowers is like a  
tree without leaves. I see  
everyone who comes and goes  
in a world I'll never know.  
Chloe Castro-Santos

I'm a painting above a shelf. Dust  
collecting near my corners. All day I  
stare out across the room at the white  
wall opposite me. I long to see  
something new.  
– Maia Castro-Santos

## Ferry Meadow Farm - part XLVII

Waking Up Alone  
Turners Falls 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL – This morning I am one person with only one body.

I want to hurry to Ferry Meadow, but I have promised Jason I will wait here for Leah, so I hop out of bed and head downstairs. In the years I have lived in this house, I have spent most of my time working. Before the doppelganger, I spent much of my weekend and evening time in front of the computer, as well.

Now, I am not quite sure what to do with myself. Sure, I developed some hobbies and an exercise routine when I was awake all night, but now the sun is shining.

It's my first time being up during the day as a regular person. The air is crisp, suggesting autumn around the corner, and I am ready to rush out and do – something.

I take my breakfast outside, sitting on my back steps with a bowl of cereal in my lap, which I try to spoon into my mouth without making a mess. While I am chewing, I look around the yard. It's not very big, but, I realize, anyone from the farmers market would be growing vegetables here. Most of the houses have gardens as big as the lots they are on. People don't have a lot of money for food. I guess I will be one of those people myself soon, now that I've lost my job.

I observe the angles of the morning sun and daydream about the vegetable beds I could put in. Plenty of people around here have chickens, too.

In my daydream, Dave comes here to live with me, since, after all, he knows a lot more about planting gardens than I do.

When the doppelganger was living in Turners Falls with me, I had the most carefully tended yard in town. Since I had all night and day for projects, it was easy to devote several daylight hours to yard work each weekend. Looking around now, I notice I have fallen behind a bit since the doppelganger moved to Ferry Meadow. The grass could use cutting. There are weeds in the

flower beds.

I throw myself into the work. By the time Leah arrives, the yard is perfect and I am sitting on the steps again, this time eating a sandwich. I hear her calling through the house, "Hello?"

"Hi Leah," I answer. "I'm back here."

I stand up and walk through the kitchen toward the front door. Leah meets me halfway. "How are you?" she asks, looking at me as though I might be sick.

"I'm OK," I answer. "Fine."

"You're not – was it bad?"

"Have you ever had a dream where you die?"

"Yes. No. Sort of. I think you always wake up before you die."

"Yeah, that's how it was."

She looks at me for a moment without saying anything, then finally asks, "And now? Are you sad? Worried?"

"No. The opposite. I'm happy and relieved."

"You think you're gonna miss all the time you had? Never having to sleep?"

I laugh. "I know that I'm not. Not at all. I do miss being at Ferry Meadow, though," I add.

She gives me a look, almost like she's laughing at me.

"What?"

"I think you miss Dave."

"Well, him, too." Thinking of Dave reminds me of Jay. "Have you seen Jason today?" I ask.

She nods. "Just saw him."

I wait for her to go on, and she does. "He's leaving town. Already left. He'll be on his way to Europe." After a pause she continues, "You want to know how it went?"

"Yeah," I say. "I guess I do."

"Well, no one exactly had experience with hiding dead bodies, you know, so we weren't sure how it would all go. I should say that Marissa and Jason weren't sure, 'cause I had as little to do with any of this as possible."

She shudders.

– Continued Next Issue

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Train Blocking Moore and Lester for Half an Hour

Tuesday, 6/19

12:30 p.m. Report of annoying phone calls on River Street. Under investigation.

Wednesday, 6/20

2:50 p.m. Report of two suspicious males on Gary Street. Same were tree workers in the area.

11 p.m. Report of suspicious person with a flashlight at Strachen Street. Searched area. Unfounded.

Thursday, 6/21

7:10 Report of two suspicious males at French King Bowling Alley. Subjects were waiting for bus.

7:35 p.m. Motor vehicle lock out at Laurel Lake. Entry gained.

8 p.m. Suspicious person at International Paper Mill on Paper Mill Road. Was all set. Teenage daughter and father practicing for driving test.

Friday, 6/22

6:20 p.m. Suspicious activity at Moore Street address. Investigated and report taken

Saturday, 6/23

3:50 p.m. Phone scam reported at Forest Street residence.

4:30 p.m. Report of possible person on the bridge. Subject found. Was fine, not on bridge.

9:45 p.m. Dispatched to Maple Avenue for fireworks. Spoke with same. Advised to stop.

Sunday, 6/24

4:28 p.m. Disturbance on Pratt Street. Verbal only. Report taken.

Monday, 6/25

7:42 a.m. Child custody disturbance at East Main Street residence. Spoke with same. Situation calmed and

referred subject to family court. 1:39 p.m. Assisted Erving fire department with gas detector alarm at Care Drive. All set.

7:30 p.m. Report of train blocking Moore and Lester Street for about a half hour.

Tuesday, 6/26

7:20 p.m. Dog complaint, Prospect Street. No one home at this time.

Thursday, 6/28

12 a.m. Report of woman screaming for help at Pratt Street. Spoke with residents. Nothing found wrong. Incident report done.

Friday, 6/29

3:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to ██████████ for

operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, without insurance and no inspection sticker.

Saturday, 6/30

12 a.m. Assisted Montague police with possible fight in front of Millers Falls Pub. Verbal only. No altercation witnessed. Both subjects separated and sent on their way.

10:30 a.m. Assisted Gill police with motor vehicle crash on Route 2 at Barton's Cove.

11:05 a.m. Criminal application issued to ██████████ for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Route 2.

9:10 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with intoxicated subject on Gulf Road. Same left with responsible adult.

10:50 p.m. Report of bat flying in residence on Central Street. Services

rendered. 11:05 p.m. Assisted Warwick police with

neighbor dispute. Shots fired.

Sunday, 7/1

11:46 a.m. Report of unwanted person at Forest Street residence. Same advised to leave.

12:28 p.m. Assisted Montague police with fight in progress on Central Street.

12:45 p.m. Report of raccoon trapped in dumpster at Box Car Restaurant. Door propped up.

Animal exited same. 5:50 Abandoned 911 call from Old State Road residence. Unwanted male subject on property. Same was removed from property.

7:45 p.m. Unwanted subject at Old State Road residence. Located subject on road. Advised to stay away from residence.

9:37 p.m. Report of people walking through the woods with flashlights at Strachen Street area. Found to be residents looking for lost cat.

Monday, 7/2

2:25 a.m. Report of male subject

harassing ex-girl-friend at Pratt Street residence.

Investigated same.

1:50 Report of car vs. deer accident on

Route 2 at Mountain Road. Mass Highway notified of deer. No vehicle located.

Tuesday, 7/3

11:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with loud party on Millers Falls Road.

Wednesday, 7/4

9:45 a.m. Report of possible motor vehicle crash on Route 2 bypass.

Nothing found.

10 p.m. Report of a pickup truck into a house on North Street.

10:30 p.m. Criminal application issued to ██████████ for

marked lanes violations, leaving the scene of property damage, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle on North Street.

Thursday, 7/5

2:05 a.m. Criminal application

issued to ██████████

for defective equipment, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle on Route 2.

11:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a motor vehicle stop on Bridge Street.

Friday, 7/6

12:03 a.m. Assisted Montague police with suspicious person on Newton Street.

2:15 a.m. Criminal application issued to ██████████ for

operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license on Routes 2 and 2A.

5 a.m. Dispatched to High Street address for a report of a male party screaming for help. Found same.

Had fallen and needed assistance.

9 p.m. Intoxicated male subject walking on Route 2 at Christina's Restaurant. Checked on same. Provided transport.

Saturday, 7/7

12 p.m. Criminal application issued to ██████████ for a subsequent offense of operating a motor vehicle with suspended license on Route 2 at the rest stop.

11:31 p.m. Report of fireworks at Pratt Street. Located same. Spoke with home owner and advised they needed to stop or be charged.

Sunday, 7/8


1:35 p.m. Mountain Road caller reports a low flying plane that sounded like it had engine trouble. No reports of plane or plane crash.

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The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

**Klondike Sound, Green Fields Market,**  
**Dr. Robert Koolkin, Montague Dental Arts,**  
**Carlin Barton, and Michael Muller**

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at [reporter-poems@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-poems@montaguema.net)

# The Poetry Page

It is difficult to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day for lack of  
what is found there.

—William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by  
**Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby**  
design by Claudia Wells

## Residuals of Glitter

Scattered among sands of sediment  
I see wedding crumbs of glittering mica  
sparkling like the chips off a rim of fine china  
in the braided shoal  
of a stream bed  
tumbled down from the ridge above  
like a tossed trousseau of igneous debris  
downsized from castle  
to a trobairitz’ journey toward the sea,  
bending to curves that extoll the travails  
of a winter’s credenza in the gurgle of spring.  
I remember how life can sail along just fine  
when I muse aloud by this stream, set free  
without a care for whom the soliloquy trolls  
for even without you, there’s still me.

—Gini Brown  
Berkeley, CA

## Whisper Whisper

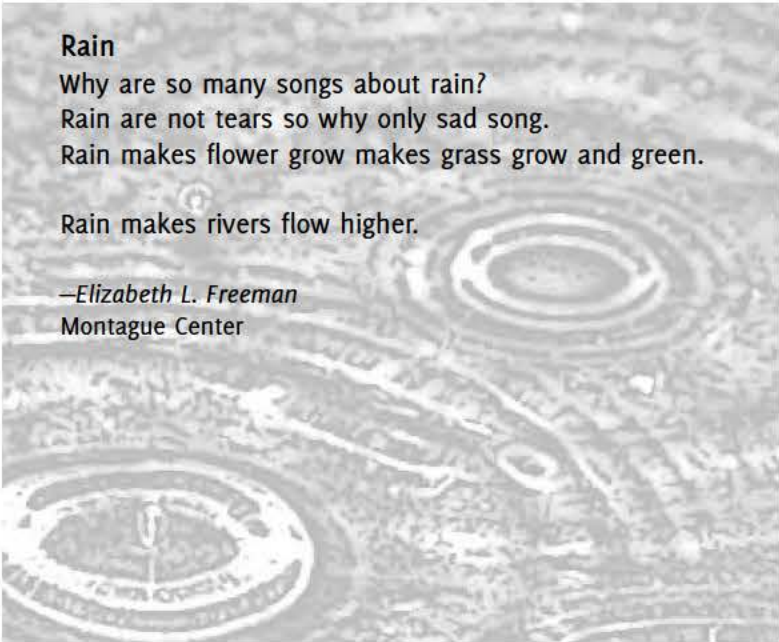
Sh! Sh!  
Did you hear that?  
No I didn’t –  
Must be the cat.  
You’re probably right.  
Sh! Sh!  
I heard it again.  
Just calm down  
It must be the wind.  
You’re probably right.  
Sh! Sh!  
What could it be?  
Just relax,  
I’ll go and see.

—Doug Turner  
New Salem

## The Trickle Down Theory

Financial whore in a room full of fools,  
Reciting outrageous demands;  
The dominance makes you orgasm, and drool  
All over your green, greedy hands  
  
Pseudo-this, pseudo-that, nothing is real  
In your dollar-grubbing domain;  
Smear on a smile, add some bogus appeal,  
And fraternize those you disdain  
  
Told by your father, a tyrant of means,  
That only the richest survive;  
Cold, filthy lucre, and all that it gleans,  
Will promise to keep you alive  
  
Tortuous tongues of obsequious knaves  
Regale in your sphincter’s vast wealth;  
Warm liquid gold for your sycophant slaves  
Commands them to drink to your health  
  
Measured in opulence, drunk on prestige,  
Emotions secured by a mote;  
From this grand castle, you plot your next siege,  
Determined to slit a new throat  
  
All this considered, how shall I suppose  
You have social welfare at heart?  
From a grim sea where the blood overflows,  
The Trickle Down Theory did start

—Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls



**Rain**  
Why are so many songs about rain?  
Rain are not tears so why only sad song.  
Rain makes flower grow makes grass grow and green.  
  
Rain makes rivers flow higher.

—Elizabeth L. Freeman  
Montague Center

## Occupied

There are seven billion people  
on Planet Earth today  
none of them are corporations  
all of them are animals  
all of them must eat  
corporations consume resources  
animals eat food/breath air/  
drink water/copulate/occupy space  
all the other animals as well  
all the same needs.  
corporations are fabrications,  
they are not animals, not at all,  
they are dead, but not dead enough,  
they are lifeless, yet they suck  
the life out of everything  
out of seven billion hosts  
out of all the other animals  
all the elements, all the needs  
with fabricated paper teeth  
metal claws and feet of clay  
marching on the Earth today  
which is already occupied, thank you.  
this space is occupied, by life,  
already far too occupied and  
nearing the end of its’ rope  
ready to use what’s at hand to  
execute the lifeless corporations,  
recycle the remains, and live on.

—Don Ogden  
Leverett

**Contributors’ Notes:**  
Gini Brown is a Berkeley mom watching life go by and kids grow up. Some moments feel like poetry.  
Don Ogden hosts a weekly radio show on environmental issues on Valley Free Radio, Sundays at 10 a.m. 103.3fm or webcasting at [www.valleyfreeradio.org](http://www.valleyfreeradio.org).

Kevin Smith lives in Turners Falls resident, and is a tubist, therapist and poet.  
Elizabeth Freeman is a Montague Center native. The motto of her business is “Everybody needs an ELF.”  
Doug Turner is a housepainter, poet, grandfather, writer, and a trustee of the New Salem library.

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MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Solar 201: Solarize Montague Pricing & Ownership Options

**BY SALLY PICK** – On Tuesday, July 24th, from 7 to 8:15 p.m., at the Turners Falls High School, Solar 201 will offer a brief overview of the Solarize Montague program and present solar pricing and ownership options. Solarize Montague offers reduced cost solar power (photovoltaics or PV) to town residents and businesses.

The program’s solar installer, Northeast Solar Design Associates of Hadley, will explain how all Solarize Montague participants benefit from costs that start lower than the standard prices for PV, and, as more people in town sign on for solar, the price continues to drop at specific amounts of total PV (or tiers) townwide.

Greg Garrison, general manager for Northeast Solar, said, “Our intent for Solar 201 is to provide a clear, simple overview of what we will be offering the residents of Montague under this unique program. Attendees will receive information on the available components, installation options, site visit protocols, financing options, along with our goals for the program. We will be there to answer everyone’s questions.”

Eileen Dowd of Turners Falls went to Solar 101. She said, “I plan to attend [Solar 201] because I think the grant Montague received is an incredible opportunity to investigate and, hopefully, install a solar system for providing electricity. Although the upfront cost is an important consideration, the rebates, tax credits and savings on electricity costs indicate the payback time would be fairly short. Upgrading your property is so important, and installing a solar system is an upgrade that not only affects your life in a positive way but the environment as well. To be informed is always the first step in positive change.”

For a general idea of the payback period and savings from PV, here is an example: A household with an average electric bill of \$75 a month that purchases their PV will see a payback period of a little under six years for Tier 1 pricing, from tax credits, rebates and other incentives. If the town reaches Tier 5, the lowest pricing, the payback will be 4.6 years. To lease PV, there is no upfront cost, and Tier 1 pricing would provide an annual savings of \$222 on a household’s electric bill. At Tier 5, a household leasing the system would see a \$343 annual savings. With a lease, the installer benefits from the incentives and passes along savings on the electric rate to the owner, over the 20 years of the lease.

Northeast Solar has just created a Solarize Montague web page that presents a pricing chart across all five tiers that adjusts the PV size and costs according to a household’s electric use. People can go to their Solarize Montague page, [www.northeastsolar.biz/montague/](http://www.northeastsolar.biz/montague/), click on the “tiered pricing matrix” link, and enter their household’s average monthly electric bill at the top of the matrix page. The matrix will do the math, showing total costs, rebates, tax credits, income/savings, payback periods and more for buying a system outright, financing one, or leasing PV.

Homeowners attending Solar 201 will also be able to find out about ways to lower their electric needs through energy efficiency, to reduce the size and cost of PV they will need. To be connected with Mass Save’s weatherization program and for energy saving ideas, efficiency rebates, and resources, contact Laura Biddulph at the Center for EcoTechnology at (413) 586-7350 x229, or email her at [Laura.Biddulph@CETonline.org](mailto:Laura.Biddulph@CETonline.org). A Mass Save energy assessment is

required by the Solarize Mass program, for homeowners who have not had one in the last six years.

Montague residents and business owners are invited to bring their questions for Northeast Solar and the Mass Clean Energy Center about how it all works and will be able to sign up for a free, no obligation site assessment for PV. Anyone living in or owning a business in Lake Pleasant, Montague City, Millers Falls, Montague Center, or Turners Falls is eligible to get PV through the Solarize Montague program.

For more information or to request a free site assessment to find out if you have a good location for solar, go to [www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague](http://www.SolarizeMass.com/Montague) and email either Northeast Solar or the program’s Community Solar Coach.

from **HISTORIC** page 4

quartermaster of the local Grand Army of the Republic, and a Spiritualist. He resisted the loud voice of Anapedobaptism, which favored the total immersion of adults, mostly in the millpond, locally. Spiritualists wanted direct contact with the dead.

Gilman and his wife Laura recalled his mother, Sarah Leach, who despite the chiding of her Baptist missionary brothers, remained a practicing Spiritualist.

The Leverett Historical Society has been assiduous in preserving these memories, beginning with the work of John Foster, erstwhile president and treasurer of the society, who has long striven to have the mill registered as a national historic monument. Annette Gibavic led the society’s campaign to have the town grant the Kirleys, present owners of the mill, community preservation funds to restore the mill to its 1868 form after the catastrophic collapse of the mill’s roof.

Last year, the dam that gathers the water in the millpond to power the turbine broke through at the point where there once was a water-powered trip hammer, a mechanical enhancement of blacksmithing.

Blacksmithing fashioned the rods, the wheels, the gears needed to translate water power into sawing or milling grain, a function borne by mills in Moores Corner, the next village up river from North Leverett toward Locke’s Pond.

Lance Kirley has restored the wooden part of the dam. Isaiah Robeson has restored some of the stonework at the edge of the mill pond. The town paid Richie Roberts to dredge the pond while the dam was out.

Now, the Leverett Historical Society is funding an improvement of the instrumentation for lifting and lowering the sluice gate in the dam, an improvement fabricated by Fred Skolski of Deerfield Valley Re-fab, and Deerfield Crane Service, Inc.

Next spring, the sluice will be raised, and two projects will be undertaken. The surface of the dam will be sealed with a new layer of rebar and concrete. The turbine will be cleared and refurbished to the point where it can move some rods, gears, and wheels again.

Will you contribute to our funding for the restoration of the North Leverett Mill? Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box #57, Leverett, 01054.



from **MONTAGUE** page 7

Communities initiatives – \$14,062 for energy improvements to the building envelope at the Water Pollution Control Facility and \$58,000 for the WPCF to install a return activated sludge pump with a variable frequency drive to replace an outmoded and less efficient pump. So that means weather-stripping, timers to reduce electrical use during peak loads, grit blowers to reduce electricity consumption, and improved equipment for sludge processing to reduce the carbon footprint of the WPCF and save money for sewer users over time.

The selectboard welcomed newly hired Franklin County

Technical School superintendent James Laverty, past principal of Westfield Vocational Technical High School, with a meet and greet session to start the July 2nd selectboard meeting. Outgoing superintendent Richard Lane is retiring in August.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen presented the selectboard with a new financial policies and procedures manual, which all members have reviewed, and subsequently signed.

The selectboard agreed to approve at a future meeting a proposed update to the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority’s program income poli-

cy and agreement with the town, as presented by executive director Robin Sherman. Abbondanzio requested more information on how the income stream might flow to the town when loan money is returned from the residential housing rehab program from community development block grants.

Coming soon in sewer news: possible changes to sewer rates and updates on sludge handling projects, from Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob Trombley.

The next regularly scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, July 16th at 7 p.m. at town hall.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Driving Under the Influence; Kitten Found; General Disturbances on the Fourth

<b>Tuesday, 6/26</b> 11:40 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Keith Street. Advised of options. <b>Wednesday, 6/27</b> 4:54 p.m. Disorderly conduct on L Street. Referred to an officer. 6:22 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Grout Circle. Advised of options. 6:53 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Alice Street. Services rendered. <b>Thursday, 6/28</b> 8:23 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on West Chestnut Hill Road. Services rendered. 6:08 p.m. Trespassing at Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Referred to an officer. 9:27 p.m. Person well-being check at Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. Verbal warning. 10:26 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Keith Street. Advised of options. 11:07 p.m. Domestic disturbance on H Street. Report taken. <b>Friday, 6/29</b> 2:36 a.m. Suspicious person at Hillcrest Elementary School on Griswold Street. Investigated.	11:56 p.m. Fight at Third Street and L Street. Services rendered. <b>Saturday, 6/30</b> 12:18 a.m. Fight at Millers Pub on East Main Street. Peace restored. 1:16 p.m. Hit and run accident on Turners Falls Road. Report taken. 2:03 p.m. Hit and run accident on Duntton Street. Report taken. 8:38 p.m. Illegal dumping on the Montague Plains. Report taken. <b>Sunday, 7/1</b> 8:13 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for violation of a restraining order on Farren Avenue. <b>Monday, 7/2</b> 1:03 a.m. Domestic disturbance at L and Spring Streets. Investigated. 11:18 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Coolidge Avenue. Investigated. <b>Wednesday, 7/4</b> 4:26 p.m. Structure fire on Central Street. Services rendered. 10:35 p.m. Disorderly conduct at Sheffield Elementary School on Crocker Avenue. Services rendered. 9:23 p.m. General disturbance	at Hillside Road and Millers Falls Road. Referred to an officer. 9:30 p.m. General disturbance at Stevens Street and Marshall Street. Services rendered. 9:36 p.m. General disturbance at James Avenue. Area search negative. 10:42 p.m. General disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Area search negative. 11:16 p.m. General disturbance on Greenfield Road. Area search negative. 11:39 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Laurel Lane. Peace restored. <b>Thursday, 7/5</b> 2:20 p.m. Harassment order violation on Second Street. Advised of options. <b>Friday, 7/6</b> 12:17 a.m. General disturbance at the Shady Glen on Avenue A. Verbal warning. 10:52 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Third Street. Investigated. <b>Saturday, 7/7</b> 11:32 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for second offense of driving under the influence of liquor, operating a motor vehicle to endanger, marked lane violations, possession of an open container of alcohol	in a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of property damage, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Walnut Street. <b>Sunday, 7/8</b> 9:09 a.m. Kitten found on Dell Street. No police service necessary. 1:03 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Second Street. Report taken. 8:16 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a default warrant on Depot Street. <b>Monday, 7/9</b> 12:13 a.m. General disturbance at the Rendezvous on Third Street. Verbal warning. 6:12 p.m. Fire, tree on wires at corner of West and East Chestnut Hill Roads. Referred to other agency. 9:08 p.m. Domestic disturbance on L Street. Services rendered. 9:51 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Seventh Street. Services rendered. <b>Tuesday, 7/10</b> 1:10 p.m. Brush fire on Depot Street. Services rendered. 3:15 p.m. Threatening, harassment on K Street. Advised of options.
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# THE GILL GOURMET

By JOE PARZYCH

## POLISH COLCANNON FOR FOUR.

(SEMI-VEGETARIAN\*)

**INGREDIENTS:**

1. TWO CUPS OF MASHED POTATOES.
2. ONE CUP OF DICED TURKEY KIELBASA, BROWNED IN OLIVE OIL OR BUTTER.
3. ONE CUP OF DRAINED BOILED CABBAGE; SLIGHTLY BROWNED AS YOU PREFER.
4. ONE CUP OF DICED SWEET ONION, ALSO SLIGHTLY BROWNED.
5. A PACKET, OR TWO, OF BEEF BULLION (ALREADY BROWN).
6. ONE HALF CUP OF SOUR CREAM.

IN A HEAVY SAUCEPAN, COOK FIRST FOUR INGREDIENTS ON MEDIUM HIGH HEAT, SIMULTANEOUSLY. MASH ALL THE INGREDIENTS TOGETHER WHILE HOT. ADD SOUR CREAM, SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE.

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from **KULIK** page 8

representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington), vice chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, to go over some highlights of the state budget.

Kulik said, “If there is a signature piece or hallmark in this budget, it is in the area of education and local aid. For example, Chapter 70 education funding grew 5.3% over last year’s figure, an additional \$180 million, a substantial increase. A closely related account is the special education circuit breaker,” which helps to pay for the extraordinary cost of educating some special needs students, “fully funded for the first time in many years, with a \$28.8 million increase, up 13%, to \$242 million.”

Kulik said, “Unexpected special education costs have really been drawing money out of the classroom for a number of years. So this creates some balance for special education and regular education costs. Between the two, we’re getting to where we need to be, although we’re not there yet.”

As to the Chapter 70 increase, which under the governor’s original budget targeted \$145.6 million to allow only about one-third of the school districts in the state – and many of those in wealthier communities – to reach minimum ‘foundational’ level school spending as calculated under the state education reform act, the legislature added

\$37.4 million more, ensuring that every school district will receive at least a \$40 per pupil increase over FY’12 state aid.

Former Gill-Montague school committee member Jeff Singleton said this week, “The overall Chapter 70 increase is impressive, but the vast majority of districts in the state, including most in Franklin County, are getting very little of it. Meanwhile a third of the districts, including some of the wealthiest, are getting much bigger increases. For example, Newton is getting a 20% increase. The problem is the state aid formula, which is broken and should be revised or jettisoned.”

Kulik admitted, “Not every school district is getting a boost. The increase is pretty modest at Gill-Montague, largely due to decreasing enrollment. We still have some work to do there, in terms of covering education needs for districts with declining enrollment.”

As to local aid for cities and towns, that figure was also, essentially, level-funded to \$899 million this year. Although the governor had originally proposed holding back the \$65 million added to local aid late in the last budget cycle, and making that additional sum contingent on continued growth of tax receipts, Kulik said that approach would have represented a cut to municipalities, so the legislature added it back in.

As to higher education, operating

budgets for UMass and other higher education campuses was basically level-funded, and Kulik allowed, “We have not returned to the pre-recession levels of commitment to higher education. Level funding this year is a positive thing in this economic climate. Plus, we fully funded the collective bargaining agreement [with university employees] at the state level – preventing further cuts.”

But in the wake of years of layoffs at the state university, and the recently announced \$1 million cuts to faculty and programs at Greenfield Community College, Kulik said, “I don’t think we adequately fund higher education. I think we need to do more. We’ve made progress at the K-12 level. Next year we can focus more on higher education.

“In the area of human services, which are very important in our region, the budget included a \$20 million increase for the human service salary reserve for the lowest-paid, frontline human service workers. The governor vetoed \$10 million of that; he cut in half what we provided.”

Kulik added, “I’m hopeful we will override that. This is a very important increase – a little over \$600 per person per year for these folks who make under \$40,000 per year, doing important work under contract with the Commonwealth.”

Although the Boston Herald’s analysis of the recently approved

state budget revealed that 43% of state spending is now consumed with health care, via the Medicaid program, the state’s subsidized health insurance program, contributions to public employees’ health plans, and public health programs, some money still remained for spending on basic infrastructure.

Among other things, the budget includes \$200 million in Chapter 90 road money for cities and towns. Kulik noted as a separate measure, “The House has also passed a much larger transportation bond, now being considered in the Senate, more of a multi-year funding mechanism totaling \$1.1 billion. This should help to fund projects like [the full-depth reconstruction of] Greenfield Road [in Montague] for example. We also did an economic development bill in the house a few weeks ago, addressing issues around job training and workforce development.”

Kulik said the legislature was also willing to meet the governor halfway in his effort to reorganize the governance structure of the state’s 15 community colleges to better align their curriculum with the needs of employers in the state. “GCC already does a great job with that, but there are some changes to align the 15-campus system more closely with local needs. Hopefully, that will lead to more funding at GCC and other community colleges in future years.”

Kulik also said, “One thing in the

budget I am personally proud of is the improvement in the Community Preservation Act, to make the CPA stronger and provide more state matching funds for communities,” that enact the voluntary property tax surcharge to provide a locally controlled source of dollars for historic preservation, open space, and affordable housing. Kulik said that the state’s matching funds for local CPA accounts had declined to about 27% to 28% on average, but that with the newly enacted budget, the percentage will rise to about 50% statewide, with a one-time addition of \$25 million to the state’s CPA trust fund. The measure Kulik sponsored will also provide some flexibility for towns to use other funds, like community block grant funds, to augment their CPA accounts.

Kulik said Montague, whose citizens certainly pay into the state funds used for matching the CPA accounts of other local communities like Leverett and Sunderland which have passed the act, “might want to take another look,” at approving the Community Preservation Act soon.

Finally, Kulik noted, “We did significantly increase funds for the Mass Cultural Council and the Mass Office of Travel and Tourism. Both received significant increases in funding for all kinds of things that bring cultural tourism to Franklin County.”



from **COACH** page 1

high school play over the past decade, kept coming back to Haley Ozdarski. Haley is not a starter, but Mullins claims she is “absolutely crucial” to the team’s success. She helps organize practices. She and her sister Morgan mastered the weight program and taught other players the routine. She is always focused on the game, whether sitting on the bench or playing in the field.

Mullins also mentioned Nick Fisher, a basketball player for the men’s varsity team who is not one of the stars. But through hard work and focus, Fisher has elevated his game to make important contributions off the bench.

Mullins clearly believes in improving skill levels up and down the line. But how exactly do you do this?

He argues a coach should not be judged primarily on his or her winning percentage. But clearly, winning creates player ‘buy-in’ to

Mullins’ system. A key to that system is well organized, focused practices.

“Every minute counts,” said Mullins. “I can tell if a particular drill is taking too long.”

To run a practice, you need a strong group of assistant coaches willing to work for nothing. Mullins, like most effective coaches in the region, has built a strong, loyal staff driven by the love of the game and commitment to the school program.

So is there a steep learning curve for a new coach?

“Oh, definitely,” laughed Mullins. There are books and clinics. Now there is the internet. But coaches also talk to each other constantly; they are open to new ideas.

“Add and subtract,” Mullins said a number of times. He looks at previous years’ practice sessions, constantly making adjustments based on experience and the needs of a particular team. His is an evolving system, which perhaps explains why coaching softball

never seems to get old for him.

This suggests you do not just roll out of bed one morning knowing how to coach a championship team. To be honest, Mullins had some advantages. His father was a basketball coach in the Hatfield youth program. (He recalls his father receiving an award from Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach and star player John Havlicek.) Mullins played varsity soccer at Central Connecticut State College in New Britain. He coached for a time in Frontier before landing a job as a physical education teacher at Turners Falls. The school had a successful women’s volleyball team and Mullins wondered why the same group could not excel at softball. That was in 1978-79... and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1990, the team made it to the Division III women’s finals for the first time.

In 1985 Mullins began coaching men’s basketball, a sport that clearly is special for him. He paces the

sidelines dressed in a jacket and tie, towel draped over his shoulder, barking one-word commands to the team. He looks like a basketball coach out of central casting. His teams have consistently made it to postseason play.

Mullins sometimes comes across as a bit old-fashioned, emphasizing the importance of “the team” over the individual. He claims to have gone to one of his pitching stars and told her that henceforth she would play right field, but that as a result the team would win all its games. Apparently she was a bit shaken by the thought of being removed as the ace pitcher of the staff, until she realized Mullins was just making a point. If playing right field would help the team, shouldn’t that be the preferred option?

On the other hand, some of Mullins’ theories seem more in line with those of modern major league baseball gurus like Billy Beane and Bill James (see the book and movie *Moneyball*). For example, Mullins

is not a big fan of the bunt.

“I have 21 outs in a game,” he said. “Why should I give one up just to maybe move a runner forward one base?” Similarly, he is skeptical of the protect-the-plate, “choke and poke” strategy when a hitter is behind in the count. “You spend all season teaching a player how to swing properly and then you tell them not to do it?”

Maybe that is why Tanisha Sanders nailed an 0-2 pitch out of the park to ice the state championship in Worcester last month.

And maybe that is one of the reasons why the softball team won its second state championship in a row.

Hopefully the GMRSD leadership will now move on to more pressing problems facing the district. Gary Mullins’ coaching skills do not seem to be among them. In fact, maybe the district could learn something from the sports Mullins coaches.



from **WENDELL** page 7

new committee has no budget within the town.

Riebschlaeger said Hall is getting paid for some of her work on local food security, and that her being part of this *ad hoc* committee is problematic.

Keller said one way to deal with that might be not to pay her for work she does for the kitchen.

Heard suggested talking with town counsel about Hall’s participation on the *ad hoc* committee.

Keller suggested the kitchen committee’s next step should be a discussion of goals with the energy committee. The selectboard signed appointment slips for Brill, Hall, Nina Keller, and Nolan as members of the kitchen renovation committee.

After meeting with the energy committee on July 9th, Hall decided she would work with the kitchen committee and attend their meetings, but not remain a member of the kitchen committee.

Genevieve Gagnard began the meeting with a request to rent the town hall for the evening of July 28th for a fundraising party. She has been accepted by Yale for graduate work, and is a bit short of money for tuition and expenses. The normal fee would be \$50, but

selectboard members suggested that if she gets a town committee to sponsor her event the fee could be waived.

Dan Keller is part of the succession committee which is looking at ways Wendell can soften the blow that will come when police chief Ed Chase and fire chief Everett Ricketts eventually retire. Both are paid a stipend, working almost as volunteers, but the scope of their jobs has increased dramatically, and any person replacing either one will likely want more pay.

The succession committee has written a survey of citizens’ expectations for the two departments, which they hope townspeople will respond to, and Keller distributed copies to the other board members for review. They discussed ways to get the best return rate when the surveys are sent out in the fall, after children are back in school and people are settled back in town after their vacations. The recreation committee asked if they could sponsor the Wendell Singers so they can use the town office without paying the rental fee.

Wendell Singers have come together through two winters and have performed at a coffeehouse. Participants have learned to sing

in harmony, and to feel comfortable with their own voices, singing in front of other people. At the December 2011 holiday craft fair they formed a flash mob, singing songs and carols, then disappearing among the other people buying crafts.

The selectboard agreed to allow the recreation committee to sponsor the Wendell Singers.

Wendell Singers has a mission statement, that includes performing, but never losing sight of the joy of just singing. They are hoping to include children in the chorus.

Heard and selectboard member Geoffrey Pooser agreed to meet briefly on Wednesday, July 11th so they can sign the final warrant for FY 2012. Keller said he expects to

be away, but he might be able to be there for the signing. Some accounts will need to be carried over into FY 2013, because the projects are not done: for example the Swift River School Green Repairs account, and Capital Improvement account, and the town vault repair account.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich read bids for winter 2012-13 heating oil. Orange Oil came in low at \$3.07 a gallon for oil and a straight service fee of \$50 per hour, days, nights, weekends, and holidays. The selectboard approved that bid.

The town had budgeted for oil at \$3.50 per gallon.

On Wednesday, August 1st in Boston, there will be a public hearing on electricity aggregation,

a program by which towns have saved money on electric bills. Kenneth Elstein of the Hampshire Council of Governments has worked to expand the program to residential customers as well, and the town approved his proposal at an annual town meeting. Elstein has asked for representation from as many towns as possible at this hearing.

Aldrich relayed that highway commission chair Harry Williston said work on the Cooleyville Road bridge is ready to start, and water is low, which is good for the work. A DEP representative has to be on site when the river is sandbagged. The road will be closed for through traffic while the bridge is being replaced.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG			
Strange Male Knocking on Doors; Police Cruiser & Mail Vehicle Accident			
<b>Friday, 6/1</b> 7:20 p.m. Richardson Road resident complaining of loud ATVs in the area creating a disturbance. Gone on arrival. 8:41 p.m. Report of a minor deer vs. car accident in the area of Long Plain Road at Montague Road. Minor damage to vehicle. Deer gone on arrival. <b>Wednesday, 6/6</b> 8:05 a.m. Report of a strange	male knocking on doors in the Lawton Road area. Officer checked area. Gone on arrival. <b>Saturday, 6/9</b> 1 p.m. Cruiser involved accident on North Leverett Road. Leverett cruiser operated by Officer Gary Sibilia rear-ended a mail delivery vehicle operated by Susanne Herk of the Leverett Post Office. Both vehicles towed from scene. Herk transported to Franklin	Medical Center. Under investigation by state police. <b>Wednesday, 6/13</b> 5:59 p.m. Assisted Shutesbury police state police in locating and taking into custody an agitated male in the Pelham Hill Road area. Subject transported to hospital. <b>Thursday, 6/14</b> 8:09 p.m. Loud noise complaint from ATVs in the area of Long Plain Road. Gone	on arrival. <b>Thursday, 6/21</b> 6:55 p.m. Assisted Sunderland police with an assault and battery disturbance. Subject fled area on foot. <b>Friday, 6/22</b> 7:10 a.m. Long Plain Road resident reported a package stolen from his mail box. Under investigation.

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**ERVING** from page 7  
meter reading from \$30 to \$40, increase the amount the water department receives for testing town hall water, and consider the \$100 hydrant fee. Sullivan said that the hydrant fee pays for fire protection, but is paid only by town water rate payers, while the fire protection is available to anyone in range of a hydrant.

Selectboard member Andrew Goodwin asked what the detail was behind the \$100 charge, and characterized the fee as “arbitrary”.

Sullivan said the fee pays for hydrant maintenance and the electricity used for hydrants, but agreed

the figure had not been calculated based on specific hydrant costs.

Boyden observed that the town pays \$9,000 for fire pond maintenance, and the fire ponds protect only one area in town.

The selectboard agreed to consider the fee and fire pond costs at their next meeting, July 23rd.

The selectboard decided to institute every-other-week department head meetings for the departments that report to the board (fire, police, and public works) to “stimulate interdepartment communication and work on issues between departments.”

Department heads from other

departments, such as the library, council on aging, or recreation department would be welcome to attend.

The board agreed to work on developing new employee evaluation forms at the next quarterly selectboard retreat. Town administrator Tom Sharp was asked to work on scheduling the meeting.

Betsy Sicard resigned from the assistant tax collector job, effective July 12th. Tax collector Michele Turner hired Julie Wonkka, currently a part-time payroll and human resources assistant in the treasurer’s office, as a part-time assistant tax collector for water col-

lections. Adding up the hours for both part-time jobs, Wonkka will be working 20 hours per week and will be eligible for benefits.

The selectboard approved closing Church Street on the afternoon and evening of August 11th for a block party.

Sullivan was appointed to the Council on Aging and Leo Parent, Jr. was appointed as Erving’s representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority board.

The board locked in the rate for #2 fuel oil for the department of public works at \$2.87 per gallon with East River Energy of Guilford, VT.

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

No prior experience necessary, as a poet.

**PATCH** from pg 1  
overhead.

Eastern Bridge & Structural Company of Worcester erected the ironwork in 1916 for the privately owned Turners Falls Company, a reorganization of the earlier “Proprietors of the Locks and Canals on the Connecticut River.” The proprietors of the canal originally built a canal 50 feet wide, with locks for river boats and barges to circumnavigate the shallows of the Connecticut and Great Falls, or Peskeomskut, as Native Americans may have once named it.

As Nockleby conducted her tour, she enlisted the aid of several former residents and locals familiar with the area in pointing out landmarks such as the Wells Foundry, the former grocery, candy and general stores, an axe forge, sawmill, and junk yard.

Ed Gregory, who grew up in the Patch, pointed out the sites of the former fish market and the Olchowski Bakery, where his

father got his first job when he came to America.

The Olchowski Bakery made a sourdough rye bread superior to any rye bread in the universe. The wood-fired brick oven was about six feet wide and eight deep, but only about a foot or two feet high inside. It was similar to a pizza oven, but the oven doubled as the fire box as well. The bakers banked the coals of a previously roaring fire into the left hand corner, and spread cornmeal over the floor of the fire box before placing loaves of dough in the oven with a long-handled wooden spatula. The baker pulled the spatula up short to let the loaf slide off, then nudged it into place.

Gregory also pointed out a candy store that once sported illegal slot machines and card games in the basement, providing the major source of the owner’s prosperity. He also identified points of interest such as the route of the abandoned barge canal that once ran behind the modern car wash on Avenue A.

The Patch has a polyglot history of nationalities, beginning with Native Americans. Italians came to work on the canals and to build the pipelines for sewers and water. French Canadians came to build mills and housing; experienced German knife craftsmen were imported to work at the cutlery, and the Irish and Poles came to work in the mills, making Turners Falls and the Patch cosmopolitan. Today, Hispanics are the most prominent recent addition to the blend of nationalities, though most now live in uptown Turners Falls.

According to Gregory, the kids in the Patch were territorial: woe to guys from other parts of town who dared venture there. Adults were not immune to territorial feelings, either, according to my parents. The Poles migrated from a country partitioned out of existence into different territories, each annexed separately and ruled by Germany, Russia, and Austro-Hungary. Each immigrant spoke Polish with a slightly different

dialect, making them leery of others who professed to be truly Polish. The enclave of Poles living in the Patch was from a different partition than those in the rest of Turners Falls, and looked at their fellow countrymen with skepticism.

After railroads supplanted steamboat and barge transportation in 1906, the Turners Falls Company widened the 50-foot barge canal to 125 feet wide and deepened it to 15 feet, using steam drills to bore holes in the ledge for blasting charges. Much of the work involved pick-and-shovel labor, and brute strength loading blasted ledge onto dump carts. Workers set up derricks to load the larger pieces, and mules hauled the broken rock away. Shops paid six cents an hour, but work on the canal paid the handsome wage of ten cents per hour, though the work was dirty, difficult, and dangerous.

Workmen lengthened the canal 1,000 feet to the south and rerouted it away from the original barge canal, which once ran beneath a bridge on Avenue A in the vicinity of Bob’s Auto Body. The NY, NH & Hartford railroads had taken over the dry barge canal for the railroad right of way. There were ten locks and dams along the old barge canal. Remains of five locks can still be seen by the sewer treatment plant on Greenfield Road.

The enlarged power canal, designed to supply water power for mills along the way, eventually reached the present site of Cabot Lodge Station 2.

The power canal spawned a number of factories that used hydro turbines to power their machinery. Nockleby named the Cutlery, Keith Paper, Esleek Paper, the Griswold Cotton Mill, and the Silk Mill. The group walked to the Cotton Mill, which later housed the Rockdale Department Store, where one of the group, Kathy Icom, had once worked. The building is in the final stages of ruination.

Nockleby also pointed out nearby Cabot Station #1, diagonally opposite the former Rockdale Store, where Franklin County Fabricators recently replaced the deteriorating original draft tubes installed in 1912, as reported in this paper.

Cabot Station #2, further downstream, is a much larger generating plant than Station #1. Nockleby noted there is a 60-foot drop from the Turners Falls dam to Cabot Station #2.

The mills first used water wheels to power their operations through a system of overhead shafts, pulleys and belts. Later, more efficient water turbines replaced water wheels, and finally, the turbines were converted to generate electricity to power electrical motors and lights, a much more efficient source of industrial power touted as “White Coal.”

One electric turbine, now idle, is located right at the Turners Falls Dam. The Russell Cutlery had a turbine to power shop machinery. At the former Strathmore Mill, a turbine powers a General Electric generator in continuous use for over 55 years – unattended, except for brief maintenance periods once a year, usually during times of low water flow when First Light pays the Swift River Hydro Company to idle their generating plant.

First Light finds it profitable to put the water to greater use at Cabot Station #2, for which they pay Swift River Hydro more than the small power company would gain by generating electricity at their facility in the former Strathmore Mill. The 60-foot drop from the Turners Falls Dam to Cabot Station #2 accounts for the greater yield of electricity.

The former Esleek Paper Mill, now owned by Southworth, also once generated electricity with a turbine. Southworth has refurbished the turbine and generator to produce electricity once again.

The Boston & Maine Railroad ran along much of the present route of the bike path, but passed over the canal to reach the mills on the west side of the canal. The Turners Falls Railroad Station was located where the Rite Aid Pharmacy is today. The NY, NH, & Hartford Railroad ran along the right of way of the barge canal, along the present Thomas Memorial Golf Course, and then along the east side of the power canal, terminating at coal silos where Unity Park is now. The NY, NH & Hartford RR Station was located in the vicinity of the car wash on Avenue A.

The private Turners Falls

**Notice of Mortgagee's Sale of Real Estate**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given personally by John P. Ancil and Swift River Island Development, LLC to Fabulous Investment Opportunities, LLC (F10) recorded in FCRD book 5494 @ page 122 of which mortgage F10 remains original and present holder, for breach of conditions thereof and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction on July 27th, 2012 at 1 p.m. on the mortgaged premises located at 8 Canal Road, village of Turners Falls, Town of Montague, County of Franklin, State of Massachusetts.

**To Wit:**

The parcel contains 3.192 acres, more or less, and is filed additionally in FCRD plan book 64, page 99. Meaning and intending to convey that same premises as described in a deed dated April 28th, 2008 and recorded in FCRD book 5494 @ page 119.

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- Deposit (to bid) \$5,000.00 USD by certified or bank check
- Successful bidder will be required to sign a memorandum of sale
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- Foreclosure deed will be issued to successful bidder upon receipt of full amount of bid
- Successful bidder is responsible for recording of deed
- Seller will assume all real estate taxes in arrears through August 6th as certified by MLC issued from Town of Montague
- Reserve Amount of bid is \$125,000.00 USD
- Should successful bidder default by close of business on August 6th, 2012, deposit will not be returned and seller will automatically regain property by right.

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The Town of Erving is seeking applicants for an Assistant Tax Collector. This is an approximately 6 to 7 hours a week position. Responsibilities include assisting the Tax Collector and covering when the Tax Collector is not available. Office hours can be established between 9am and 5pm, preferably on Tuesday and Thursday. Experience in tax collecting a plus, attention to detail is a must. Please submit application and resume to:

Michele Turner, Tax Collector  
Town of Erving  
12 East Main Street  
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Applications can be picked up in the Selectmen's Office at Erving Town Hall. Deadline to apply is July 23, 2012.

**Town of Erving  
Job Posting**

The Town seeks a Highway/Grounds/Building Maintenance worker. CDL B and Class II B Hoisting license required. F/T, 40 hr/wk, plus benefits. Minimum of one year of related experience or equivalent. Drug screenings and driver background checks will be performed. Hourly range of \$13 to \$16.

Express interest to:  
Board of Selectmen  
12 East Main Street  
Erving, MA 01344

Deadline to apply is Thursday July 26, 2012 by noon. AA/EOE.

**Town of Erving  
Job Posting**

The Town seeks a Highway/Grounds/Building Maintenance Foreman. CDL B and Class II B Hoisting license required. F/T, 40 hr/wk, plus benefits. Minimum of one year of related experience or equivalent. Drug screenings and driver background checks will be performed. Hourly range of \$19 to \$24.

Express interest to:  
Erving Board of Selectmen  
12 E. Main Street  
Erving, MA 01344

Deadline to apply is Thursday July 26, 2012 by noon. AA/EOE.

Company undertook the ambitious plan of spanning the canal at the end of each cross street to join the island formed by the canal along the Connecticut River. It was common, then, for private companies to undertake what would now be considered public works. Mill owners also often built employee housing along with the mill buildings. The Cutlery Block on 3rd Street is one good example of company-built housing projects in Turners Falls. Economic hard times disrupted grandiose plans, and only four of the twelve proposed bridges were ever built.

Not long after the water powered generating facilities began producing what they termed “White Coal,” several electric companies joined forces to form Western Massachusetts Electric Company. The 11th Street Bridge was part of the deal. Later, in the 1950s, Western Massachusetts Electric Company sold the bridge to the town of Montague for \$1. One town employee said, “It’s like getting a Cadillac with no engine.”

Repairing this “\$1 bargain” was also likened to jacking up the Cadillac’s horn and replacing the car.

Though the bridge’s trusses were in good condition, the substructure and abutments were in sad shape, and the bridge was restricted to exclude heavy trucks. Roger Raymond, who had established a truck repair business on the site of the former sawmill in the Patch, had no alternative but to move out.

In 1996, R. Bates & Sons restored the 11th Street Bridge, lifting the weight restriction. Bates won the contract to jack up the Cadillac’s horn for a price of \$284,000. But the bridge’s substructure was in worse shape than anticipated, and the final cost went much higher.

Meanwhile, Western Mass Electric became part of Northeast Utilities, and through a series of mergers and acquisitions eventually became First Light, now owned by GDF Suez. The government of France has a controlling interest in GDF (Gaz de France), so the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage facility, and the banks of the Connecticut River from the Vernon, VT dam to Cabot Station are now among the holdings of the world’s largest utility with a controlling interest by a foreign power – France.

The Patch, sitting on the island formed by the power canal, is now open for business with no weight limit on the bridge, but the fish market, axe foundry, sawmill, co-op grocery, candy store and bakery are history. Still, it is a nice, quiet neighborhood, where people are remodeling homes in very attractive ways.

“This is a pleasant little community,” said one woman on the tour, who had recently moved to the area. “The realtor wouldn’t show me any properties in the Patch. ‘You wouldn’t want to live in the Patch,’ the realtor told me. I only wish I’d known.”

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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## ALL THE TIME:

**EVERY DAY, ALL SUMMER LONG:** Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Open Sunday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday & Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THURSDAYS in JULY** The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Wilderness Skills*, 2 p.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY** Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.


## ART SHOWS:

**NOW through JULY 22nd** Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Photo Coterie*, year-end images from the class of 2012 at Hallmark.

**NOW through JULY 29th** Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Photographs of a Frosty Window* by David Eade, Cool down this July with this amazing look at ice! Reception: Sunday July 8, 2 to 4 p.m.


**NOW through JULY 30th** Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *David Ryan's 40 Years Later* is the Easthampton native's first solo show in 40 years. Artist reception, Saturday, Jul. 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**NOW through AUGUST 5th** Ursa Major Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Indestructible Mirror*, Modern Tibetan Painting, reception July 1st at 7 p.m.



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**NOW through SEPTEMBER 30th** Hope and Olive Restaurant, Greenfield: *Into the Wild Blue*: Nine luminous paintings by Daniel A. Brown, exhibited at this elegant Greenfield restaurant. Brown will be sharing space with photographer Erica Pinto of Easthampton.

**STARTING JULY 20th** Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: "Splash!" the midsummer show will convert the tiny art space into a veritable aquarium for the month of August! Swimming in the tank will be Undersea Art such as ceramic and soft cloth fish, seahorse earrings, a giant octopus candelabra, a rhinestone crab, and more surprises. Featured painter Ariel Jones will premiere her new "Primordial Joy" series of paintings on canvas. "Splash" opens with a reception with Ariel Jones on Friday, July 20th from 5 to 7pm.

## LOCAL EVENTS:

**FRIDAY, JULY 13th** Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Span of Sunshine* performs at the Great Falls Coffeehouse, 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Peachy's* with special guest *Dharma Bird*, 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Jeremy Dubs Presents *Speak!* with *Happy Jawbone Family Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9:30-11:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 14th** Forestry Informational Tour at the Foy property located on Tully Road in Orange: The Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is hosting a forestry tour for anyone interested in conservation management options on their own property. Consulting forester Mary Wigmore will lead participants through the Foy property from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring a hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent, and wear sturdy shoes or boots. This event will be held rain or shine. RSVP Meghan Cornwall at (978) 248-2055 x14, or email: [steward\\_amer-corps@mountgrace.org](mailto:steward_amer-corps@mountgrace.org).

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Second Saturday Family Series: *Native Plants*. Come learn about native Connecticut River watershed plants. Look at different types of trees, flowers, and plants found in the region. Explore the grounds and exhibits of the different types of plants. Create your own greenhouse out of everyday materials, and plant some native plants to take home with you! 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hillary & Richard Chase*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Afterglo*, 9:30 pm.

**SATURDAY, JULY 14th and SUNDAY, JULY 15th** Greenfield Community College: Green River Festival, two full days of music. See [www.greenriverfestival.com](http://www.greenriverfestival.com) for details.

**SATURDAY, JULY 14th at 7 p.m., and SUNDAY, JULY 15th at 2 p.m.** Orange Town Hall: *Lincoln: The Musical*, Civil War era songs, by Michael Riccards, directed by Genevieve Fraser.

**SATURDAY, JULY 14th and SATURDAY, JULY 21st at 10 a.m.** Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts, Turners Falls: children's production of, *Pinkalicious the Musical*, based on the

famous book written by Elizabeth Kann and Victoria Kann.

**SUNDAY, JULY 15th** Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Country Players presents *The Odd Couple*, 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Daniel Hales*, and *The Frost Heaves*, CD release party for *You Make a Better Door Than a Window*. Includes poetry readings, art opening, video screening. 6:30 p.m. Free.

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

**SUNDAY, JULY 15th and 22nd at 2 p.m.** Ja'Duke Black Box Theatre, Turners Falls: Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts is presents the solve-it-yourself Broadway musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.



*Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves' CD release party for You Make a Better Door Than a Window on Sunday, July 14th is a multi-media happening that includes an acoustic set, poetry readings, an art opening, and video screening.*

**MONDAY, JULY 16th** Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bingo, 8 p.m. Free.

**TUESDAY, JULY 17th** Gill Commons: Common People Summer Concert Series presents *Off the Grid*, Tom Kane Brings Original Gill Sounds, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18th** Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Nite* with Quiz Master Alex, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 19th** Leverett Library: Quebecois music with *le coin volant* (Cynthia Thomas, Doug Feeney & Robin Russell), 7 to 8 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault & Friends*, 8 to 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 20th** Montague Bookmill: *Sorry, Nay, Magic! Magic Roses*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, classic rock, 9:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Ebb First, Then Flow*, 8 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: New Renaissance Players presents *Krapp's Last Tape*, 8 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 21st** Montague Sand Plains: Come learn about the Montague sand plain! Why is the landscape of the sand plains like that of Cape Cod, but the ocean is miles away? Explore a unique threatened habitat designed by fire, ice, and sand. Easy-to-intermediate difficulty hike. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center to carpool to the site. 12 to 2 p.m.

*Upper Valley Music Festival*, downtown Turners Falls: a multi-venue, 12 hour music event including 30 artists to benefit The American Cancer Society. \$10 for the whole day.

Upper Valley Music Festival Venues:

Rendezvous, music artists: Chris Scanlon,

*Span of Sunshine*, *Lentner*, Traditional Irish Session, *Community Smokes*, *Carrie Ferguson Band*, *Una Jensen*, and *LuxDeluxe*.

Great Falls Discovery Center, music artists: *Wishbone Zoe*, *Steve Brown & Raymond Henry*, *John Sheldon*, Celtic Heels Irish Dance School, *Katie Sachs and the Murmurations*, *Claire Boucher and Brad Hurley*, *Jatoba*, and *Rusty Belle*.

Shea Theater, music artists: *Heather Maloney Band*, *Zamia*, *Sun Parade*, *Lisa Null and Charlie Baum*, *Jamie Kent & the Options*, *Mend The Pocket*, *The Feral Woods*, *Mieka Pauley*, and the *Evan Goodrow Band*.

St. Kazimierz Dance Hall, music artists: *Empty Banks*, *Contra Dance*, *Dubs n Frenchy*, *SexWar*, the *Evan Goodrow Band*, *Rhythm Inc*, and *Shokazoba*.

Burrito Rojo, Emerging Artists Stage, hosted by Addison Rice.

Leverett Library: Leverett COA presents Saturday Night at the Movies: *Being There*. Illiterate gardener Chance (Peter Sellers) is run over by wealthy Eve (Shirley MacLaine) and suddenly becomes educated gent Chauncey Gardiner, thanks to Eve's misunderstanding of his mumbled introduction. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Luke Mulholland Band*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, Classic & Blues Rock, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 22nd** Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow*, *Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 7:30 p.m.

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

**TUESDAY, JULY 24th** Gill Commons: Common People Summer Concert Series presents *Nicole Alexandra*, tunes from Berklee College of Music, 7 p.m.

Amherst Books: Slate Roof Press invites you to a reading and book signing by member Janet MacFadyen to celebrate the publication of her newest collection of poetry, *In The Provincelands*. 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th** Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Pammy's South of the Border*, cumbia and calypso, 8:30 p.m. Free.

**THURSDAY, JULY 26th** Leverett Library: Folk Music with *Austin and Elliott* (Lisa Austin & Chris Elliott on vocals, guitar, bass, percussion, and 6-string banjo), 7 to 8 p.m.

**the Rendezvous**

(ALL SHOWS 9:30 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

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FRI 7/13	Jeremy Dubs Presents <i>SPEAK!</i> Happy Jawbone Family Band	9:30 FREE
SAT 7/14	After Green-River-Fest Drinkin' and ... (???)	
SUN 7/15	<i>Daniel Hales and Frost Heaves</i> new CD "You Make a Better Door Than a Window" festivities: poetry reading, art opening, video viewing, album listening, begins at 6:30	FREE
MON 7/16	<b>BINGO!</b> 8pm	FREE
WEDS 7/18	<b>QUIZNITE</b> with guest <i>QuizMaster ALEX!</i> 8pm	
THURS 7/19	<i>Half Shaved</i> (jazz with Larry Klein, Jon Oltman, Seth Hoffsommer) 8PM	FREE
FRI 7/20	<b>TO BE ANNOUNCED</b>	
SAT 7/21	<b>Upper Valley Music Festival</b> . Music, noon to midnight, all over Turners! Voo shows culminating with Lux Deluxe at 9pm. \$10 for all venues all day, benefits the American Cancer Society. Details at <a href="http://UPPERVALLEYMUSICFEST.COM">UPPERVALLEYMUSICFEST.COM</a>	
SUN 7/22	<b>TNT KARAOKE</b> 9pm-1am	FREE
WED 7/25	Pammy's South of the Border feat. rhythms of Valiente Cumbia and Calypso 8:30PM	FREE
THURS 5/26	Scott Kuzmeskus (singer-songwriter) FREE 8pm	
FRI 7/27	<i>Bright Lines</i> (rock/rockabilly/roots...) J	FREE
SAT 7/28	Party for Joshua Warren Art Opening, with words and music by J. Warren, Michael Metivier, and friends. All evening long.	FREE
SUN 7/29	<b>SUNDAY LOCALS:</b> Richard Chase Band (folk rock) 6pm	FREE
MON 7/30	<b>DADA DINO'S OPEN MIC</b> 8pm, sign-ups start at 7:30	

(ALL SHOWS 9:30 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)  
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Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Kuzmeskus*, singer/songwriter, 8 p.m. Free.

**FRIDAY, JULY 27th** Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bright Lines*, rock, 9:30 p.m. Free.

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## The ODD COUPLE Brings Hilarity to the Shea



Michael Starr (l) and Eric Johnson as Felix Unger and Oscar Madison in the Country Players' production of *The Odd Couple*

BY SUDI NIMMS

**TURNERS FALLS** – In the opening narration of *The Odd Couple* television series, the question is asked, "Can two divorced men share an apartment without driving each other crazy?"

Answer: Not at the Shea Theater this coming weekend, as the Country Players presents Neil Simon's play, guaranteed to tickle your funny bone!

With precise direction from Bob Delaney, the comic timing and physical comedy are amped up to their full potential.

And Delaney couldn't have asked for a better cast. Eric Johnson as slovenly Oscar Madison and Michael Starr as uber-uptight Felix Unger play their roles with panache and aplomb.

Speed, Murray the cop, Roy, and Vinnie, the poker gang who gather at Oscar's every Friday night, play up their individual personalities and play off of each other's sore spots with infectious glee.

Speed (Tim Gorts) exerts an abrasive charm with his acerbic one-liners, trying to speed up the game and keep the others on track. Murray the cop (David Lawrence Peck) is a likable guy who, on the one hand, threatens to turn in the game (gambling being illegal in 1970s New York), and on the other hand is the most worried when Felix fails to show up on time. Roy (Marvin Shedd) is Oscar's accountant who complains constantly no matter if the apartment is clean or filthy. Vinnie (Francis Hauert) is the adorable, milquetoast husband too impressed with Felix's cuisine to remember to ante up.

Oscar is the charming slob who likes to call people "Pussycat" (to which Murray the cop at one point responds by calling Oscar "Chicken Licken").

Oscar definitely gets the best lines, as when he answers the phone

to a wrong number, insisting, "There's no 'Gabby' here... Oh, Daddy!" he suddenly hears correctly and asides to his buddies, "For chrissakes, it's my kid!" Divorced, broke, and sloppy, he crowns himself, and seems to embrace the idea.

When talk turns to Felix, before his arrival, he is painted as a nut. It is noted that once Felix got locked in the bathroom overnight at work and wrote his will on half a roll of toilet paper.

Felix's wife, Francis, calls to tell Oscar she's filed for divorce and Felix is despondent. And missing. Felix is suicidal.

Did he leave a note?

No, he sent a suicide telegram.

The gang wonders whether Felix would actually go through with it. "Naw," says Oscar, "He's too nervous. He wears a seat belt to the drive-in movie!"

When the frazzled Felix finally arrives, he's disheveled and down in the dumps. The guys play dumb, but gather around the bathroom door when Felix goes in just in case. The scramble to get back to the poker table is a laugh-out-loud exercise in screwball schtick, elegantly choreographed.

Accused of taking pills to kill himself, Felix says no, well, maybe a few. The poker players go nuts, until Oscar points out, "It could have been vitamins – he could be the healthiest person in the room!"

Finally a kind of calm is created and the rest of the guys leave. Oscar talks to Felix and tries to rub a kink out of his neck. "You're the only man I know with clenched hair," says Oscar. Feeling sorry for him, Oscar offers to Felix that he move in.

Act two introduces the "coo-coo"

Pigeon sisters, Gwendolyn (Louise Krieger) and Cecily (Jean Koester), who giggle and pun their way through an eventful evening of laughter and tears. Ultimately Felix puts the brakes on the romantic double date Oscar had planned. And so it goes.

The quality of acting in this unique cast is definitely worth the trip out to the Shea this weekend. Johnson (Oscar) and Starr (Felix) make their Shea Theatre debut in this wildly funny romp, and are a breath of fresh air to the stage. Let's hope they return – again and again!

*The Odd Couple* is a period piece filled with laughter, a solid set, fantastic costumes (wherever did they find Vinnie's lime green socks?!), a fabulous soundtrack, including the opening music from the TV series, and old and new friends. Big laughs can be had for a small price.

*The Odd Couple* premiered on Broadway in 1965. The success of the 1968 film version, which starred Jack Lemmon as Felix and Walter Matthau as Oscar, was the catalyst for the television sitcom series that ran for five seasons from 1970 to 1975, starring Tony Randall as Felix and Jack Klugman as Oscar.

*The Odd Couple* continues at the Shea this Friday, July 13th, and Saturday, July 14th, at 8:00 p.m. There is a Sunday matinee July 15th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets can be reserved by calling The Shea box office at (413) 863-2281, ext. 1, or purchased online at [www.countryplayers.org](http://www.countryplayers.org), or at the box office. Enjoy the show!

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