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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 11 – NO. 39

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 25, 2013

Gill Seeks Study of Bank Erosion

By DAVID DETMOLD

Bank erosion is not a phenomenon confined to Wall Street.

With landowners on both sides of the Connecticut River between Northfield and Turners Falls demanding answers as to why their fields and riverbanks continue to wash away in the 20-mile section of river between the Turners Falls and Vernon dams, characterized by FirstLight Power as the lower reservoir of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility, the Gill selectboard and the Gill conservation commission agreed to send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Monday, July 15, requesting further scientific studies to determine the cause.

The letter requests certain studies of the river and its banks in conjunction with the ongoing 30-year federal relicensing of the 1080-megawatt Northfield Mountain facility, due to be completed in 2018.

Gill has twelve miles of shoreline in the affected zone of the river, including a section of town-owned land opposite the tailrace of Northfield Mountain, where four giant reversible turbines pump 20,000 gallons of water per second out of the river and up the mountain to the 300-acre reservoir at the top, from which it is released at times of peak daily demand to generate electricity.

“We’re trying to support the Franklin Regional Council of Governments request to have the FERC require more scientifically rigorous studies among the documents being put together,” said conservation commission acting chair Chris Polatin on Monday. “In particular, studies relevant to streambank erosion, with replicable methodology.”

The letter requests studies of the river and its banks in conjunction with the 2018 relicensing of the Northfield Mountain facility.

The Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee (CRSEC), sponsored by the FRCOG, has complained over the years that FirstLight has commissioned studies of streambank erosion along the river that use differing benchmarks, making it harder to compare one year’s study with a previous year’s.

According to the CRSEC this clouds the issue of whether the utility is responsible for the loss of soil along the so-called Turners Falls Pool, north of the Turners dam, or

see EROSION page 5

Center School Condo Project: Final Permit Approved

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Planning Board has approved another special permit to allow the former Montague Center School to be transformed into a 22-unit apartment building. On a unanimous vote (one member was absent), the board allowed the prospective developer, Olive Street Associates, “a use rendering impervious more than 20% of a lot area within a Water Protection Supply District.” The property’s sale is the next expected step in a process that has been controversial with neighborhood residents.

Currently, sixteen percent of the lot is considered “impervious” to storm water runoff as a result of the presence of the former school building. The proposed project will increase that percentage to 30%, well above the threshold allowed for a water protection district without a special permit. The present school has no parking on the lot itself and only a few spaces directly across the street.

Developer Mark Zaccheo used a map of the proposed site to argue that despite the increase in



The pond at the former Center School, nearly overflowing after Monday’s rain.

the impervious area the project would actually enhance storm water management. According to a memo produced by the Berkshire Design Group, Inc., these features include several new catch basins, a new drainage system for the roof, and “shallow elongated rain gardens that provide water quality and groundwater recharge.”

Approximately a dozen Montague residents attended the hearing, most of whom appeared skeptical of the project’s impact on the

local community. School Street resident Mary Averill expressed concerns about inadequate parking, causing overflow into the street and undermining access after a major winter storm. Members of the Montague Center Fire Department noted access problems for fire trucks. “Check out May Day,” one member of the Department declared, referring to a popular local pagan celebration that draws large crowds and much

see PERMIT page 5

Battlefield Grant: Feds Reject Town Proposal



Most of the battle is assumed to have been fought on the banks of the Connecticut River above the falls.

By MIKE JACKSON

PESKEOMPSKUT– The National Park Service has turned down the joint application by the Town of Montague and The Narragansett Indian Tribal Preservation Office for a \$40,000 American Battlefield Protection Service Grant. The grant would have allowed for an extensive survey of the 1676 Turners Falls/Peskeompskut battle site, in which Captain Turner and Lieutenant Holyoke led an attack on the Native Americans encamped at Great Falls.

The project’s goals were to establish, through GIS mapping, the locations of the Native villages and campsites as well as Captain Turner’s route to and away from Great Falls; create an oral history from

Yankee and Indian accounts of the battle; consult existing historical and archeological records; and secure permission for future archeological digs on privately-held property. The ultimate objective was to protect the site and to gather information and artifacts to create eventually a Great Falls Native Cultural Park.

Ultimately, the Park Service funded 24 of this year’s 46 applicants, and Montague did not make the cut. According to Town Planner Walter Ramsey, the proposal scored well, but competition was fierce, and he suspects the federal budget sequester may have further narrowed the field of grantees.

“I was disappointed, because it’s a good project,” said Ramsey, “and we had a lot of

great stakeholder support. And we put a lot of time into building that support.” The application garnered backing from neighboring towns, local historical societies, state and national representatives, and the Narragansett Tribe.

The grant application was supported, though not fully, by the Montague selectboard. Mark Fairbrother strongly objected to it when it came up for a vote last year. The majority votes of Pat Allen and Chris Boutwell allowed the grant to be submitted to the Park Service.

The town has been invited to apply again in October for next year’s grant. Ramsey expressed optimism that the town will continue to pursue the project.

see GRANT page 5

Music Festival Returns to Turners Falls

By ANNE HARDING –

The eye-catching banners are back and the buzz is getting louder as the Upper Valley Music Festival (UVMF) returns to Turners Falls from noon to midnight on Saturday, July 27. Downtown will be full of musicians and performers of every ilk, and the five venues are even closer together than in 2012.

While the village may not be a typical music festival site with acres and acres of open land, it boasts several performance spaces well within the environs of typical festival acreage.

Organizer Tommy Byrnes feels the festival has found its home in Turners Falls with a local government that supports “events” as well as a plethora of downtown businesses and community organizations that participate in or enhance community activities. These include several full-service food venues, and a quintet of shops to visit: Nina’s Nook, Gary’s, Loot, FunkShun, and Madison on the Avenue. Just Monday night, the Selectboard approved a general use permit for festival artists to busk on the Avenue between acts.

The UVMF is organized by Byrnes and his wife Jessica of Bernardston, with help from a host of volunteers. Tommy lost both of his parents to cancer, and both of his sisters are cancer survivors. From the organizers, to the musicians, to the

stage hands and the sound crews, this remarkable all-volunteer festival turns over every penny of profit to the American Cancer Society to fund cancer research – literally everyone volunteers their time.

With more than 40 acts, staggered start times, full 45 minute sets and rotating intermissions, the festival is intended to give viewers the maximum musical exposure in just 12 hours – all for the modest price of \$15. Children under 12 are free.

There have been many opportunities to buy tickets in advance, but all five venues will sell tickets at the door. Byrnes has been featuring a musician-of-the-day on the UVMF Facebook page for the past month so fans have been treated to snippets of information about most of the performers.

There have been a few changes to the venues, with the addition of The Extra Point Club at Between the Uprights. Byrnes has called this adult-only venue the “Club Stage.” Here, festival goers can enjoy bands like Wishbone Zoe; Daniel Hales, and the frost heaves; Tawdry; Wildcat O’Halloran and more in a small, rocking venue. Owner Lou Collins is excited to have a part in the 2013 Festival, and Byrnes is very happy with the more compressed footprint of the venues so the audience can do less walking and more listening.

The Great Hall at the Discovery Center will be the “Acoustic Stage,” starting out the day with the music of Katie Sachs followed by an exciting workshop with re-

see MUSIC page 7



This year’s performers include (clockwise from top left): John Sheldon; the Sun Parade; Una Jensen; and Here Come The Foxes. All photos courtesy of the artists.

Pet of the Week

Hanging In There



“Cliffhanger”

Hey there, I am Cliffhanger. It's a cool name, I know, and I am a cool cat.

The story of how I got my name, however, isn't so cool. I fell out of a second-story window. I had two broken legs.

They are all better now, but I got really good at sitting up on my back feet like a prairie dog. Chicks really dig it, it's better than a scar!

People here say “Awwwwwww, He's so cute !” But I can be feisty at times, because being this cute isn't as easy as it looks.

Come down to meet me and we can “fall” in love. (wink, wink...)

For more information on adopting me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.

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Library News

Beading at the Carnegie Library

MONTAGUE – There will be a Teen Beading program at the Carnegie Library on Wednesday, July 31st at 2 p.m. with Ami Podlenski.

There will be a variety of projects for beginners and experienced crafters. The instructor has designed jewelry for over fifteen years and lives in Turners Falls.

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

Puppets at the Slate Library

GILL – Talking Hands Theater presents “A Midsummer Night’s Remix”!

What better way to introduce Shakespeare than through puppets? For beauty and magic in the morning, come see this family-friendly show on the lawn at Slate library in Gill on Saturday July 27, at 10:30 a.m.

Making Connections

GILL-MONTAGUE – The GM School District and the Gill Montague Community School Partnership are piloting a new project called Making Connections. This is a program for families who are new to or unfamiliar with the G-M communities or schools.

Each participating new family will be paired with a volunteer parent. These volunteer “buddies” will be trained, meet the new families at an ice cream social in late August and check in with their new family each week for the first 2 months of school or longer if the buddy chooses. Every new family and every buddy will receive a copy of the new Gill Montague Parent Resource Guide, produced by the Partnership and Suzie Hale.

You can be part of this project if you have or raised children in this

school district or work; have some familiarity with the community, activities, services and schools (a lot of this will be covered in the training); have a little volunteer time to devote to this project; and/ or want to help new families become part of our community and feel welcomed here.

The 3-hour training will be held in late July or early August. The family meet and great event will be just before school starts. The contacts after that will be arranged by you and your new family at your mutual convenience.

Vickie Barber Flynn of Montague Catholic Social Ministries is coordinating this effort. Please contact her at vickie@mcscommunity.org or Cate Woolner at manager@gmpartnership.org ASAP if you are considering being a volunteer buddy.



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By **FRED CICETTI**

Q. When seniors gather, it doesn't seem to take long before we get to our aches and pains. You must get more than your share of that.

My friend, Pete, has instituted a *colonoscopy rule*. He insists that, if a bunch of us geezers are talking about aches, maladies and visits to the doctors, everyone has to change the subject as soon as someone uses the word *colonoscopy*. Usually we switch to grandchildren, which is a lot more fun.

But, while we are on the subject of colons...

Colorectal cancer – cancer of

the colon or rectum – is the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. Early detection of colon cancer is especially important because, if it is found in its early stages, it can be cured nine out of ten times.

Who's at risk? The chances of getting it increase with age. But other risk factors include polyps, your history, diet and whether you've had ulcerative colitis.

Polyps are benign growths on the inner wall of the colon and rectum. Not all polyps become cancerous, but nearly all colon cancers start as polyps.

Colorectal cancer seems to run in families. And, someone who has already had colorectal cancer may develop this disease a second time. So greater vigilance is a good idea if you or your relatives have had it.

This form of cancer is more likely among people on a diet high in fat, protein, calories, alcohol, and both red and white meat. Low-fat, high-fiber diets seem better for the



LOOT owner Erin MacLean stops to chat with neighbor Edite Cunha during last week's lively Third Thursday event in Turners Falls.

Summer Workshops at the Brick House

The Brick House Community Resource Center at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls is offering ongoing, free workshops for kids and adults. Call Erin at 413-336-2208 or visit workshopseries.info for more information or to register for events. Here's a taste:
Saturday, July 27
4 p.m. Fandom
Tuesday, July 30
10 to noon: Kids Gardening

5 to 7 p.m. : Printmaking / Color Theory
Thursdays, August 1, 8 & 15
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bookmaking
Saturday, August 3
10 to 2 p.m. First Aid in Spanish
2-3 p.m. Making Butter for Kids
4 p.m. Fandom
Wednesday, August 7
4 to 6 p.m. Bike Maintenance
Thursday, August 8
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bookmaking

Making Corrections

The Turners Falls Block Party is not on Sunday, August 11. It's on Saturday, August 10. Apologies to our reporter: we tried to make a helpful insertion to her article and fell flat. Saturday, August 10.

In our “Montague Reporter On

The Road” feature we erroneously credited photographs of our readers in both Arizona and Cape Cod to Tom Carroll. He took neither photograph. It would be pretty crazy if he took both.

Thank you for your patience!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Colonoscopies, Colitis, and Colorectal Cancer

Ulcerative colitis is a condition in which there is a chronic break in the lining of the colon. Having this condition increases a person's chance of developing colorectal cancer.

The following are some symptoms of colorectal cancer: blood in the stool, diarrhea, constipation, stools that are narrower than usual, frequent gas pains or cramps, unexplained weight loss, unrelieved fatigue, vomiting.

Go to your doctor if you have symptoms. The medical profession has many detection tools. These include: a test to check for hidden blood in the stool; a sigmoidoscope, a lighted instrument for examining the rectum and lower colon; a colonoscope, a lighted instrument to examine the rectum and entire colon; a barium enema with a series of x-rays of the colon and rectum; a digital rectal exam to feel for abnormal areas.

Two recent studies showed

that colonoscopy can find many pre-cancerous polyps that sigmoidoscopy misses. Another major advantage of the colonoscopy is that it enables the doctor to remove any polyps found during the procedure.

There is a *virtual colonoscopy*, a minimally invasive procedure. Doctors are able to see the entire colon using 3-D computer graphics from a computerized tomography scan, or CT scan.

Known as *CT colonography*, this exam is an alternative for patients who are at risk of complications from colonoscopy such as patients who are frail. If a virtual colonoscopy finds significant polyps, they have to be removed by conventional colonoscopy.

If you would like to read more columns, you can order a copy of “How to be a Healthy Geezer” at www.healthygeezer.com.

Senior Center Activities – July 29 to August 2

GILL-MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 7/29

10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:55 a.m. Chair Aerobics
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/30

12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Sing Along with Morningstar

Wednesday 7/31

10 a.m. Aerobics
12 p.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/1

NO morning Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. to noon Brown Bag
12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 8/2
10 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party

ERVING

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

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

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

Monday 7/29

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

Tuesday 7/30

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday: 7/31

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/1

8:45 a.m. Aerobics
12 noon Cards
Friday 8/2
9 a.m. Bowling
Lunch TBA

LEVERETT

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

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

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

WENDELL

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

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come learn about local brick manufacturing and architectural styles and designs with brick in Turners Falls. Local industrial-era mills, businesses, tenements, and homes were built from the ground up - quite literally from the clay found on the banks of the Connecticut River right here in town.

The program, *Watershed History: Backyards*, takes place at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 6 to 7 p.m. this Friday, July 26.

Ken and Corki are bringing their delightful musical talents, amazing harmonious voices and whimsical brother/sister humor for an entertaining morning of singing at the Turners Falls Branch of GSB on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. The range and variety of their songs will definitely result in some toe-tapping and hand-clapping on your part. The event is free thanks to the generosity of Ken and Corki in partnership with Greenfield Savings Bank. Come for a few minutes or stay the entire time.

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a **Psychic Fair** on Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office. For more information, contact TN-SA's website, spiritualallianceusa.org.

The documentary film, *The Horse Boy*, will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. The *Horse Boy* is a heartfelt exploration into the worlds of autism, horses, shamanism, and Mongolia - and a family that went to the end of the earth to find a way into their autistic son's life.

The filmmaker, Rupert Isaacson, took what he learned from his son's interactions with horses and developed the Horse Boy Method, a system for promoting communication and enhancing the gifts of autism. After the movie, Chris Wings and Su Hoyle, owners of Be With Horses (SM) in Wendell, will talk about learning the Horse Boy Method from Isaacson at a recent training in Ontario, and their subsequent certifications as Horse Boy Method Basic Practitioners. The event is free. Contact bewithhorses@gmail.com

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION for more information or to RSVP.

The Swift River Valley Historical Society, at 40 Elm Street in North New Salem, is hosting an **Ice Cream Social** on Sunday afternoon, July 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. The public is invited to bring a picnic lunch and blanket, and enjoy free ice cream and toppings - local ice cream from Maple Valley Creamery in Hadley - served up by Serendipity Dairy Bar of Orange.

Admission to the **Swift River Museum is free this year** in honor of the 75th anniversary of the dissolution of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott before the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir and the flooding of the Swift River Valley to provide safe drinking water for the Boston area.

The museum recognizes the way of life and sacrifice made by the more than 2500 residents of those towns whose homes were moved or destroyed. For more information about the museum and a schedule of upcoming events, visit www.swiftrivermuseum.org, email svhs-museum@gmail.com, or call 978-544-6882.

Christmas in July Fireworks is scheduled for this Saturday evening, July 27, starting off with a decorated boat parade at 8:15 pm. The best vantage points are along the Connecticut across from Unity Park in Turners Falls or the boat ramp area on the Gill side of the river. This yearly tradition is sponsored by the Franklin County Boat Club and the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club.

The Leverett Library once again welcomes Julie Collier and her birds of prey on Tuesday, July 30, at 6:30 pm. Collier is co-founder of the raptor rehabilitation organization **Wingmasters** in Leverett. Collier will present and talk about these exciting birds, from the powerful peregrine falcon to the munchkin-like saw-whet owl.

The **Gill Common People Concert Series** continues on Tuesdays July 30, August 6 and 13. The concerts start at 7 p.m. and are held on the Gill Town common or in the Gill Congregational Church if inclement weather.

Camp Kee-Wanee is hosting the *Smurfs 2* at the Greenfield Garden Cinema on Saturday, August 3, at 10 a.m. All proceeds will go to the camp's capital improvement fund.

All seats are just \$5, and 100% of the profits go directly to camp. Bring the whole family. Call (413) 775-3528 to reserve your seats, or show up Saturday morning.

Karen Traub brings her relaxing and therapeutic integrative **acupuncture**, free of charge to anyone wishing 15 minutes to preview Karen's private, individualized and stress-release sessions at Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, August 3, from 9 to noon. Karen holds training degrees and certificates in this emerging field. GSB will definitely be taking reservations for this event. Please call Christina, Kerri or Linda at (413) 863-4316 to reserve your chair-spot.

The **Turners Falls Block Party** organizers are plugging right along. On Thursday, July 25th, at Jake's Tavern they're hosting **Trivia Night** at 8 pm. They are also bringing **Flash Mob Dance** to the party. Interested in finding out what that is all about? Attend one or all of the lessons to be held at the Brick House, 3rd Street, Turners Falls, on August 4 from 4 to 6 p.m., or August 7 and 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

We The People, Pioneer Valley, present **Reclaiming Democracy**, an inspiring documentary film about how communities can regain control of their rights in the face of corporate constitutional rights, and how communities can speak up for the rights of nature. The film will show in Turners Falls at St. Kazimierz, 197 Avenue A at 6:30 p.m. on August 8 and again at 6:30 pm, August 22 in Greenfield at All Souls Unitarian Church, 399 Main St. Q&A and discussion follow each showing. Call Diane McAvoy at (413) 522-4194 for more information.

The Great Falls Coffeehouse on Friday, August 9, features **Banish Misfortune**, a 6-piece group of musicians in Western Massachusetts who play traditional music from Ireland, with occasional forays into tunes from Scotland and Cape Breton. Their instruments include fiddle, concertina, flute, mandolin, accordion & guitar. They play as a session: an informal gathering of musicians playing traditional Celtic music for the sheer enjoyment of it.

Doors to the Great Falls Discovery Center open at 6:30 pm, concert begins at 7 p.m. Donations are accepted (\$6 to \$12 suggested) and help the Friends of GFDC support free programming at the center.

Organizers also want to remind everyone about the **Block Party Parade**, which kicks off the festivities at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 10. The more the merrier in this year's parade is the plan and desire.

Send local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

New Swap Shed In New Salem



Students involved with the Carpentry Program at Franklin County Technical School spent the past school year building a new shed at the New Salem Transfer Station. The shed replaces the old swap shed and will be used for the same purpose - a place where people can leave items no longer needed, but still in good condition for someone else to take.

The new shed also has storage space in the back. The following students from the 2013 and 2014 graduating classes worked on the shed, under the direction of teacher, Mike Nobregia:

Class of 2013 - Jeffrey Blake,

Northfield; Rebecca Brisson, Charlemont; Courtney Brown, Montague; Jacob Earl, Buckland; Jasmine Farr-Marcum, Greenfield; Ciarra Jamieson, Greenfield; Matthew McCarthy, Greenfield; Gerald Richardson, Orange; Jamie West, Deerfield; Patricia Woods, Greenfield.

Class of 2014 - Alyssa Andrews, New Salem; Cody Booska, Montague; Cooper Grace, Montague; Mark Levasseur, Gill; Jacob MacDonald, Colrain; Brooke Meuse, Orange; Scott Modica, Orange; Brittany Park, Conway; Tyler Peters, Montague; Robert Reed, Winchester, NH.

Please remember to pick up after your dog. It's the right thing to do.

PRE-REGISTRATION is now being offered for children in grades K-2 at Our Lady of Peace Church.

In addition to the educational components, students are gradually introduced to service opportunities and participation in prayer through monthly children's Masses.

For registration or further information contact Carol Holubecki, Director of Religious Education at 413-863-2585 or 1952gary@comcast.net.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Massoorie-Montague Miscellany*

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August, 2002

Resurgent Turners Falls

A week ago we wandered along Avenue A to take in the second Turners Falls Third Thursday. It was a hot and humid evening but the streets were packed with folks of all types and of all ages strolling along the busy streets, listening to music, going out to dinner, shopping in the stores, and generally just enjoying themselves. We spotted a number of out-of-towners who had come into Turners to partake of the festive atmosphere.

By all indications the shops were doing a lively business (although it may have been the popsicles that were responsible for the large crowd at Loot). Daniel Hales and the frost heaves pumped up the sidewalk atmosphere with their catchy tunes and their fine musicianship. A crowd gathered at Gary's Coins; Nina's Nook saw the opening of Barbara Milot's fine show; newcomers to the Avenue, Christa Snyder at Funk*Shun and Rodney Madison of Madison on the Avenue were welcoming shoppers to sample their eclectic wares. It was hard to get a table at Jakes or the Voo or Black Cow Burger or 2nd Street Baking. It felt like a party; it felt real; it felt good.

Third Thursday is the first of many suggestions for enlivening the downtown that came out of the recent Livability Study. Lisa Davol, the just-departed director of RiverCulture, seized on the idea. Within a month of the discussions at the Livability meetings, Third Thursday was a reality. Which is not to say, that it didn't take work. It did: lots of it.

The merchants, the artists, and RiverCulture all worked together

to make it happen. It bodes very well. The first Third Thursday was a tremendous success as firsts often are. But the second Third Thursday drew as many people as did the Third Thursday in June, maybe even more.

We can't be more delighted to see downtown Turners undergoing such a revitalization. It suits the village. It gives us hope that we are witnessing a true transformation. The downtown, more and more, is looking like a place where we want to be, where we want to hang out, meet friends, make friends, just be.

The increased events at the Shea and The Discovery Center, the new restaurants and shops and the spruced-up old ones, the Farmer's Market, the library programs, the ongoing workshops and activities at the Brick House and Catholic Social Ministries all contribute to a new Turners Falls where everyone can congregate, or as we used to say in the '60s, "where it's happening."

In the last issue of this paper we commented in this space on the other side of Turners. But if Turners takes off as a place where a host of people of different stripes can live and work, there may be glimmers of hope that increased economic activity may begin to change not just the surface image of the downtown, but the quality of opportunities for many who at present are left behind.

We look forward to the Upper Valley Music Festival this weekend, and to the Block Party on August 10 with music, vendors, and liveliness that becomes us and our community. And we'll also be strolling along the Avenue at the next Third Thursday. We hope you will be, too.

Letter to the Editor

Support Our Local Nurses

Today, Thursday, July 25, there is a community rally to Keep Care in Franklin County, in front of Franklin Medical Center at 5:30 pm.

I'm concerned about the erosion of health services available at our local hospital. Many of the services formerly offered here have been moved to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. We cannot allow our local hospital to become a means to funnel patients to Springfield. We need a full-service hospital right here!

Springfield is NOT just down the road, as Baystate has called it. For many it's an hour's drive or more.

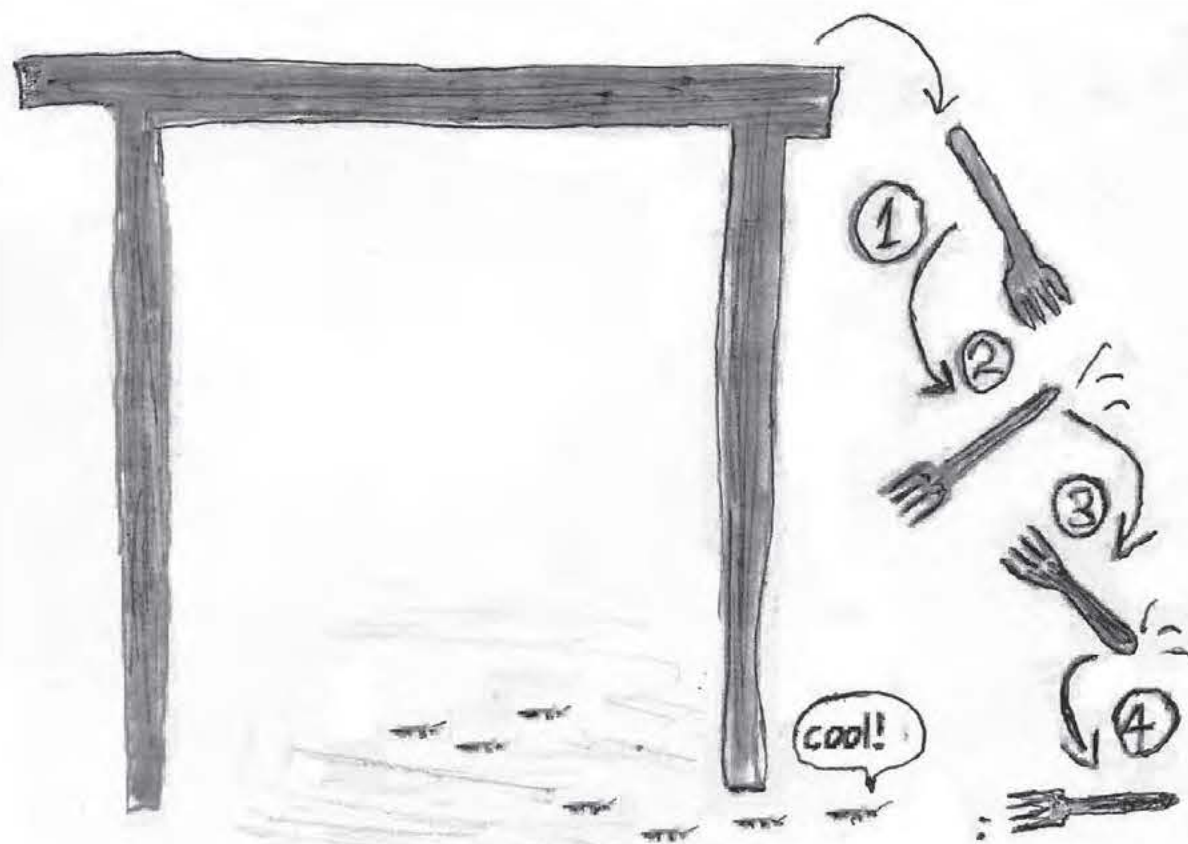
Visiting a sick relative or friend so far away is extremely inconvenient, and a true hardship for many of us in this low-income county. Patients need their families and friends

nearby when they are in the hospital, especially the children who are no longer served as inpatients in Greenfield! Nor is it easy for many to drive down to Springfield for routine tests or to pick up records.

Now Baystate has announced layoffs at our hospital! Is this a ploy to retaliate against the nurses for exercising their rights to collective bargaining? I don't believe their justification that they "cannot successfully recruit and retain doctors". If they're having a hard time, maybe they're not offering competitive pay.

Join in and let your hospital administrators know your concerns about Keeping Care in Franklin County!

— Gloria Kegeles,
Wendell



DIARY OF A DROPPED FORK
CONCEPT BY AISHA PRUITT-GONZALEZ, AGE 8

GUEST EDITORIAL

When Hair is More Than a Fashion Statement

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE — Last night my wife showed me an iPhone photo of our seven-year-old grandson. He was sporting a Mohawk haircut given him by his biological father. I was so upset I couldn't sleep.

The photo jettisoned me back to a time when I was riding an uptown New York subway early on a Sunday morning. The train was practically empty, but across from me was a family all dressed up for a special occasion. Two parents, a girl, and a younger boy.

I couldn't help but notice how loving and affectionate they were with each other. I listened to what they were saying. The boy wanted to know what a "spic" was. The mother asked where he'd heard the word. It was in a joke someone told at school, and the boy didn't understand why it was funny. The father explained the joke and then told another one to illustrate what he'd said. Everyone laughed. Then the girl told a joke she had heard about another ethnic group, and the parents joined in with some jokes of their own about "rednecks." What a great day this was turning out to be for this family!

When we think of the ways hate is taught we don't usually associate it with loving families enjoying good times with one another, but this is often the way it happens. The lessons are transmitted subliminally. The adults, who have internalized their culture's prejudices, might not even be aware of what they're doing.

Our grandson lives in Virginia. The nearest professional football team is the Washington Redskins. Some of his friends wear Redskin jerseys when they try to replicate on local fields the athletic achievements of their favorite players. Some of the adults wear them when they punch beer cans over grills on game days. Not many think about the dehumanizing affect their apparel has on the Native Americans who continually see themselves reduced to the level of mascots. And the kids, who really are too young to know any better, what's the message they're getting?

How different is it from the one the children riding the subway learned? New York Wops, Pittsburg Polacks, Washington Redskins. What's the difference?

So now our grandson has, in all his innocence, reduced the indigenous population of America to a fashion statement. How did it happen? Where did it begin? In the park playing with his friends? Attending a Redskins football game? Did his father, who cuts his hair every summer, playfully ask him if he'd like to see what he'd look like with a Mohawk? Did it go the way of the rest of his hair once the photo was taken? Does it matter if they were just fooling around or taking advantage of an opportunity to bond? Isn't the message about Indians still the same?

And what effect has it had on the boy? What's now been placed in his subconscious storage container for the future? Tattoos? Pierced eyebrows? Jackboots from Doc Martin? T-shirts boasting a Confederate flag held together with safety pins? Isn't this all part of the same shtick? And once the someday teenager's period of adolescent transgression ends, and he manages to cross the threshold of adulthood without being shot by an overzealous police officer, and he starts looking like so many others of his class in Virginia, what then? The Tea Party?

Right now, there are two revolutions taking place in America, and they are occurring with almost as little notice as a Redskins jersey or a Mohawk haircut. The first is occurring at the level of the Supreme Court, which recently struck down a key provision in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That provision protected minority populations from being disenfranchised by states that had enacted legislation to keep African-Americans from voting.

It gave people discriminated against on the basis of race a political power that they wouldn't have been able to attain without the corresponding economic power historically necessary for change in this country. The Court decided that the provision was no longer needed because America is not the same place that it was during the Civil Rights Movement.

But without the law, might the country in some places regress toward that time? No sooner did the Supreme Court announce its decision than a group of white citizens in Beaumont, Texas, renewed their efforts to change the voting regulations in their district so they could remove from their school board the majority of African-Americans who sit on it. And what about the states that will now rush to require voter identification cards that can only be purchased?

Hunting licenses, for example, will be an acceptable form of identification in these states, but student

identification cards will not. Doesn't this kind of legislation discriminate against those who cannot readily afford to buy their right to vote? Aren't these among the people who traditionally vote Democrat?

Perhaps the country has not changed as much as Justices Roberts and Thomas think. Or perhaps their decision to write for the majority in this case is an attempt to enable an unfortunate part of our past to once again play an active role in the history currently being created by those in power.

The second revolution has also played a part in the deliberations of the Supreme Court, which recently voted to honor the human rights of gay Americans and declare unconstitutional the government's policy of denying federal benefits to same-sex couples who were married under state law. Did the court have much choice? Fifty-five percent of the American people now support and twelve states honor gay marriages with California, Illinois, and Oregon soon to follow. Or was the decision, as are most of the decisions of this conservative court, once again political?

Republicans need votes if they are going to continue to have a major influence on the way the country is run. Not only from gays but from other groups whose cultures differ from the white, racist, economically well-off, homophobic, Christian fundamentalist base usually associated with the Republican Party. Could it be that immigration is another part of the GOP's marketing strategy? How many undocumented workers can be bought off with a path to green cards?

When Rip Van Winkle wakes up after being asleep for twenty years, he notices that a sign which once featured a painting of King George III has been replaced by an image of someone called George Washington. Talking to those who have been awake for longer than he has, Rip discovers that he's slept through a revolution. When I saw the photo of our grandson-cum-Mohawk, I wondered whether I had been sleeping through not one but two revolutions. Both culminating in decisions by the Supreme Court to garner more votes for Republicans.

It's easy to see what's hypocritical and wrong-headed in action taken in support of a narrow-minded political agenda. It's not easy to know what to do about it. Especially when the chances of success are so limited by a government that boasts freedom of speech abroad but doesn't listen to anyone without substantial sums of money at home. Perhaps in a place like Montague, where people still meet to debate the issues that separate them, a difference can be made. At least some of the time.

see GUEST page 5

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EROSION from page 1

whether, as Northfield Mountain has claimed, the wakes of passing speedboats are responsible for the ongoing loss of riverside farmland.

Not long ago, the town of Gill proposed that FERC require Northfield Mountain to excavate a closed-loop lower reservoir as part of the 30-year relicensing approval process, in order to eliminate the fluctuations in river level and currents associated with the utility's daily pump and release regimen. But that suggestion is not included in the July 15 letter. The letter notes, "Landowners and Concerned Citizens for License Compliance and the CRSEC attempted to work with FirstLight to develop a suitable Quality Assurance Project Plan and appropriate methodology for the 2013 Full River Review, but the Quality Assurance Project Plan has not been finalized since FirstLight stopped collaborating on the Plan." The letter also urges "FERC to require FirstLight to work with stakeholders to complete a credible Quality Assurance Project Plan, and to then undertake studies that are based on technically defensible science."

The letter further points to a request for a study of shoreline erosion caused by Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage operations requested by the National Marine Fisheries, a federal agency.

This year's Full River Review by FirstLight "could potentially inform all of the other studies required by the relicensing process."

The letter claims FirstLight has brushed aside similar requests from the town and the FRCOG because they were not federal resource agencies. But the National Marine Fisheries is one, and therefore may not be as easily brushed aside.

As the letter states, "listed among [NMFS's] numerous resource management goals was the concern that elevated levels of suspended sediment are associated with a diminution in water quality encountered by trust resource species," such as migrating shad, sturgeon, and other anadromous fish the federal government has spent millions of taxpayer dollars studying, or attempting to reintroduce into the Connecticut River, in recent decades.

Reached by phone, Kimberly McPhee, land use and natural resource program manager for the FRCOG said, "FERC told FirstLight that they were expected to work with stakeholders on a Quality Assurance Project Plan and a methodology for the 2013 Full River Review. It hasn't happened. We haven't seen an updated version of either one of these documents since the beginning of the year."

She said the issue is important because this year's Full River Review by FirstLight "could potentially inform all of the other studies required as part of the relicensing process. FirstLight was directed by FERC to work with the Streambank

Erosion Committee on the review, and to provide adequate time for the committee to review the results and "to detail how our comments have been addressed," McPhee said.

John Howard, in charge of license compliance with FERC for Northfield Mountain, is away on a business trip and unavailable for comment this week.

Polatin said the town of Gill has an interest in "watching the process" of the once-in-a-generation relicensing, "and making sure they are looking out for the best interests of the river."

Other Selectboard Business

The question of the riverbank was not the only business the selectboard dealt with at its July 15 meeting.

The board waived the right of first refusal on 16 plus acres of steeply sloped land along Main Road formerly owned by Martin Yarnac, which has been held in Chapter 61-B protection as recreational land for the past two years.

As the land is being sold to a new buyer who proposes to take the land out of protected status, and pay about \$1000 in back taxes to the town, the selectboard had the right to bid first on the land, but declined to do so.

The new roof on town hall has been completed at about \$15,000 under budget, for a total cost of about \$53,000, according to town administrative assistant Ray Purington. He also said it doesn't leak.

The inflow and infiltration study of sewer pipes at the Riverside water district could not be coming too soon, said Purington, who noted the April through June quarterly report from the district showed the highest number of gallons being pumped under Barton Cove to Montague for treatment since at least 2005.

Purington said the inference that a very wet spring had indirectly led to this peak flow through inflow and infiltration of the sewer pipes will soon be analyzed by consulting engineers from Tighe and Bond.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien has asked the town if his department can again access the Northfield Mount Hermon account, a fund contributed annually to the town by the private school in lieu of direct tax payments and in recognition of the emergency and safety services the town provides the school.

Beaubien would like to purchase \$5,000 worth of replacement hose for the department's fire trucks, as he did last year, using funds from the Northfield Mount Hermon account.

The selectboard will write to Northfield Mount Hermon to determine whether the school plans to continue funding the account at the \$25,000 a year level, as it has for the past three years. Before that, the school contributed just \$10,000 a year to the town. Selectboard members asked Beaubien to prepare a chart of anticipated expenses for equipment such as hose, and also noted a need to build up the balance in the fund, since "there is going to be a really big purchase, one of these days."

One of the town's three fire trucks is well past the age of replacement; another is approaching retirement age.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG
Swimmers, Bikers, Scammers and Skunks

Monday, 7/15

10:40 a.m. Assisted with tractor trailer unit stuck on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

11:30 a.m. Sick skunk reported at Main Road residence.

2:45 p.m. Complaint on Route 2 of truck pulling a trailer.

5:10 p.m. Phone scam reported from South Cross Road residence.

Tuesday, 7/16

12:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with arrest in their town.

4:27 p.m. Responded to 911 call at French King Highway residence.

Wednesday, 7/17

11:36 a.m. Investigated past break-

ing & entering at West Gill Road residence.

1:50 p.m. Restraining order issued to subject from New York.

2 p.m. Responded to subject begging for money at Gill Mobil.

Thursday, 7/18

1 p.m. Restraining order issued to French King Highway resident.

3:30 p.m. Unwanted subject at North Cross Road residence.

6:30 p.m. House alarm reported sounding on Franklin Road.

Friday, 7/19

9:15 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at French King Bridge.

2:55 p.m. Motorcycle complaint

from South Cross Road resident.

4:30 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with safety issue concerning people swimming in the river.

10:45 p.m. Subject reported laying on French King Bridge railing. Located same on Erving side. All OK.

11 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle in Long Rest area. Driver waiting for AAA.

Saturday, 7/20

11:45 a.m. Suspicious person reported in construction site on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

2 p.m. Alarm sounding at Four Winds School on the French King Highway.

PERMIT from page 1
on-street parking.

One member of the Montague Center Water District, noting that he had not taken a position on the project, complained that "no one called me" or any other member of the district's board despite the fact that water quality issues had been a major focus of the discussion.

"I keep reading about it in the paper but no one called us," complained Gary Dion. Town Planner Walter Ramsey apologized, noting that he had left a number of messages on the district's voice messaging system. Dion went on to suggest that the problem of low

water pressure in Montague Center, an issue raised at previous meetings, would not be exacerbated by the project.

The Planning Board solicited written comments from abutters, receiving responses from seven of fifteen. Of these six opposed the project and one was neutral.

When asked about the impact of frequent "public input" from residents of the neighborhood, which seemed to produce overwhelmingly negative responses, Ramsey and Planning Board member Bruce Young suggested, to the contrary, that public input had produced significant changes in project de-

sign. Young proposed a number of modifications, including a small berm around the proposed dumpster to contain hazardous waste and a written salt reduction plan for the winter months.

The Planning Board decision completes the general permitting process for the project; construction permits will be issued after the sale of the building, which is the next step in the process.

The project still faces a potential lawsuit from neighbors who believe the permitting process has violated state law.



GRANT from page 1

For thousands of years the site had been of significance. The Pocumtucks and their ancestors had long welcomed Native peoples from throughout the region, as the village was located at the confluence of two major Native American travel routes, the Mohawk Trail and the Connecticut River. In the spring, when the salmon and shad ran the river, Native peoples from far and wide came to partake in the river's spectacular bounty. It was precisely this traditional gathering that was attacked on May 19, 1676.

The attack came during Metacom's War (King Philip's War). At dawn on May 19, with 50 garrison soldiers, among them Lieutenant Samuel Holyoke, and 100 other men, mostly farmers, the company led a surprise attack on the main Indian camps at Peskeompskut. Although the accounts of the number of Indians killed varies from 200 to 350, what all agree on is that the victims were mainly elders, women and children.

Turner, along with 36 of his men, was killed on the retreat to Northampton; Holyoke was

wounded but survived. The defeat was a major blow to the Indians, and is generally regarded as a turning point in Metacom's War. Not only did the English victory greatly compromise the food supply for the Native Americans, the attack also destroyed the blacksmithing and gun repair capabilities of the Indians. Within three months Metacom was dead and the war at an end.

According to the application, it was necessary to protect the battlefield from further residential, commercial, and industrial development.



GUEST from page 4

When Europeans first landed on the shores of North America, the Indian population - called "Indian" because Columbus thought he'd landed in India - is said to have numbered around ten million. By the end of the nineteenth century, that number had been reduced to about 300,000.

The number is higher now, but most Indians today exist in cultural concentration camps west of the Mississippi River where they depend on government subsidies. Those whose ancestors wore Mohawk haircuts in this part of the country are barely distinguishable from the white population.

An important part in the program of maintaining dominance in any country is for those in power to insert their forms of oppression into the popular culture in such a

way that its members aren't aware of the prejudices that are being formed in themselves or the damage they may be inflicting on others. To wear a Mohawk haircut is not to honor a once proud people. It is to condone, contribute to, and perpetuate the oppression of a minority population too small in number and too weak in dollars to have their voices heard outside their own communities. And sometimes not even there.

This social condition that plays itself out on the national stage also occurs on smaller, local levels. Turners Falls is named after a man whose crowning achievement was the massacre of an undefended Indian village in which most of the people killed were women and children. The nearby town of Amherst is named after an early colonist who gave as gifts to Indians blan-

kets that had been contaminated by smallpox.

The people of Amherst, with their vested interest in one of the most recognized colleges in the country, would never consider changing the name of their town. But what about us in this collection of villages known as Montague? With our increasingly diverse population, might not this be a good time to revisit and open for discussion the human rights role that naming plays in our community, our high school, and our athletic teams? Given the recent decisions by the Supreme Court, might this not be a good time to take a share of the lead in a revolution to recognize all culturally diverse populations as equal Americans?

Why not go one step further and celebrate us all?



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Two Montague Detectives Receive Commendations

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO

Detective William (Bill) Doyle and Detective Lee Laster both earned Letters of Commendation from Chief Charles (Chip) Dodge for exemplary service. Doyle's commendation was for his work as a Juvenile Detective. Laster was singled out for arresting three men who were attempting to burglarize Sirum's Equipment on Route 63 in Montague.

Dodge said in his letter for Detective Doyle that "from the day of his appointment until today's date he has done his job in an outstanding fashion, second to none." Dodge explained why he had singled out Doyle for commendation: "Detective Doyle has been extremely proactive with his cases and he never turns down a request from another officer or agency to assist with their ongoing investigations or to just give his advice about a case.... I have to tell you, he being a parent and myself being a parent, I just can't imagine how difficult his job is when he is investigating the type of abuse he has to investigate and prosecute involving children of all ages including the very young."

Detective Laster's arrest of three men accused of attempting to break and enter cracked an ongoing case in two counties, and resulted in

the same men being brought up on similar charges in both Amherst and Sunderland.

During the early morning hours of July 11 Laster observed an unoccupied vehicle parked along Federal Street (Route 63) in Montague. According to Dodge, "Detective Laster's training and instinct made him stop and check on this vehicle.... Detective Laster located two subjects who had just come out of the woods and were wearing dark colored clothing. Their clothing was soiled and both subjects were very sweaty." The two subjects, Sean Rattigan, 19, of Turners Falls and Patrick Boyer, 26, of Greenfield were questioned by Detective Laster then detained by Officer James Deery, who was also on duty, and charged with "vandalism, damage or defacement of property, and attempt to commit crime with a burglarious instrument."

Detective Laster next headed to nearby Sirum's Equipment for any signs of breaking and entering. But before he arrived at Sirum's, he spotted a third subject walking along Lake Pleasant Road dressed similarly to the other two. The man was carrying a flashlight and a large bundle of items under his arm. Laster stopped and searched the subject, and located burglary tools in the bag. The subject gave Laster a false name but he

checked with Montague Dispatch for any marks or tattoos that matched that of the subject he was detaining. The dispatcher advised Laster that Michael Boyer fit the description, and that two warrants had been issued for his arrest. Laster immediately took Boyer into custody.

Laster and Montague K9 Officer John Dempsey traced the suspects' movements to Sirum's where they discovered an attempted break-in had taken place, with damage to the building. Aware of other recent break-ins in the area, Montague Police contacted the Amherst and Sunderland police who converged on Sirum's to meet with Laster.

"After speaking with the Amherst and Sunderland officers and comparing evidence it became clear that the parties that were being detained by the Montague Police had also been responsible for the break and enterings in their towns," noted Dodge. "Because of the efforts and investigative techniques used by Detective Laster, K9 Officer John Dempsey, Patrolman James Deery and Dispatcher Kyle Walker, many local cases were solved on this very early morning and the responsible subjects were brought before the Courts and the District Attorney for prosecution."

Downtown Planters Get New Boss

By ANNE JEMAS

TURNERS FALLS – Besides the historic brick architecture, what visitors to downtown Turners Falls often comment on are the planters lining the avenue. And why wouldn't they? Along with showcasing the springtime blossoming trees, each planter is an expression of the gardener who has volunteered to plant and tend it.

Originally, there was funding for uniform landscaping and maintenance, but the money for that had been long gone when a group of folks in 2005 formed the Streetscape Committee and organized a major cleanup of the litter and high weeds along the avenue and implemented the idea of each planter being "adopted."

Like the expression "it takes a village to raise a child," it has taken the collaboration of the town, individual volunteers, businesses, and organizations to bring the planters back to life.

If you take a stroll down

the avenue, you will notice that some planters have an understated look, with mostly ground cover planted, others are rich with family heirloom perennials, some are blanketed with bright flowering



Christa Snyder, new planter boss, on the job already.

annuals. Others have hidden treasures, such as interesting stones and chimes or not-so-hidden displays of daily

changing art and antiques. The end result is a reflection of the creative and eclectic spirit that is the Turners Falls of today.

Speaking of creative spirit, Christa Snyder of the new Funk*Shun shop on Third Street not only adopted a planter, but has volunteered to be a program organizer this year. If you have any questions you can call her at 863-0003, email her at rokerok@verizon.net, or contact longtime committee member Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library at 863-3214.

While every planter has been adopted for this year, there are other ways to help, such as weeding Spinner Park, helping make the signs for each planter that acknowledge the sponsors and gardeners, or perhaps volunteering to help a gardener with weeding or watering.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who has ever been involved in the Streetscape and Adopt-a-Planter pro-

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Summer Smorgasbord Includes Permits, Dog Hearing, Parking Ban, and \$\$\$ Payout

By PATRICIA PRUITT

The July 22 meeting of the selectboard was jam-packed with agenda items ranging from the Upper Valley Music Festival permit to a liquor license to a dog hearing, to payout on the emergency sewer project on Industrial Boulevard, to the town's Facebook page. About 9:15 p.m. the chair, noting the last item was an executive session, asked if some items could be held until next time.

Permits for Cultural Events

The first of these, the Upper Valley Music Festival scheduled for July 27 from noon to midnight, is the brainchild of Tommy and Jessica Bymes. It is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and all musicians donate their time and talent to make it happen. The venues for music are the Shea Theatre, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Rendezvous, Between the Uprights, and the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant (formerly Burrito Rojo). Bymes was granted a permit for street musicians along Second and Third streets and Avenue A from noon to 10 p.m. on July 27th.

Next, Sharon Cotrell, manager of Powertown Apartments received a permit for a picnic in Peskeompskut Park on August 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for residents of Powertown and will include a tent with tables and chairs. Food will be provided, and there will be games for kids.

Pam Allen, one of the current group of Block Party Organizers came before the board to see if the Block would be covered this year under the town's insurance. Abbondanzio explained that the group needed to be recognized to the insurance company as a special municipal entity and as such could be covered for the duration of the Block Party by the town insurance. A motion made to do so passed by majority vote, to the chair voting no.

grams.

The following is a current listing of who is making the program a success for 2013: Calvary Baptist Church, Rist Insurance, Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, The Montague Reporter, Avenue A Dental, Montague Public Libraries, Funk*Shun, David Jensen, Gary's Coins & Antiques, Turners Falls Pizza House, Demers Landscaping, Nina's Nook, Black Cow Burger Bar, Kharna Salon, Between the Uprights, Greenfield Farmers

Personnel Business

Chief Dodge was again before the board seeking an extension to Sergeant Suchanek's 111f leave of absence; the extension was granted through September 9th. In addition, he sought appointment of former town dispatcher Jesse Sinclair as a part-time dispatcher who comes with solid experience and training. Sinclair will earn \$15.00 per hour. Waste Water Treatment Plant superintendent Bob Trombley was also seeking to rehire a former employee, Tim Little, at grade H5, step 5, \$17.85 per hour. Trombley spoke highly of Little as a former employee and one he was happy to have return to town service.

Police Business

Chief Dodge presented two Letters of Commendation to Officer William Doyle and Detective Lee Laster and spoke of their accomplishments in great detail. (See adjacent article.)

Chief Dodge announced that the parking ban on the north side of 7th Street was going into effect as of Sunday July 28th. As of this date tickets can be issued to those parking on the north side of 7th Street.

In other business the board accepted Badge Quest as the Assessment Center vendor for the Police Sergeant's evaluations. Badge Quest has conducted assessment centers in the past for the town. The range of cost was \$6,300 to \$8,300 depending on the number of candidates in the department.

Vicious Dog Complaint Hearing

Joel Bryant of Randall Wood Road lodged a complaint against Julie Fallon, also of Randall Wood Road, and her dog, a Husky/Great Pyrenees, named Juno, who had attacked his dog, a Jack Russell named Josie. After much back and forth, during which both parties said they did not wish the other's dog to be destroyed, the chairman of

the board was able to suggest a compromise acceptable to both parties as follows: Both dogs must be on leash, or dog run, or yards enclosed by a fence to assure they remain out of reach of each other whenever either dog is out in his yard.

Other Business

Sahirat, LLC d/b/a Carroll's Market, Vidyaben Patel, Manager, came before the board seeking a change in their liquor license type from Off Premise, Section 15, Wine and Malt Liquor to Off Premise, Section 15, All Alcohol Liquor License. The board granted the change of license by majority vote, Chris Boutwell recused himself to avoid conflict of interest.

Paul Gilbert of CD-MSmith, Bob Trombley and Tom Bergeron were before the board to request pay outs to Baltazar Construction in the amount of \$474,814.75. CDM Smith invoiced \$37,852.38 for engineering services rendered thru July 8. Change order #1 was approved at \$191,750.

The Lake Pleasant Association came before the board looking for access to town legal services in trying to make clear title and ownership of the Bridge of Names, the Bell Tower and the Old Fire Station. The Association has been discussing these properties with the Turners Falls Water Department which has had control over them. Fairbrother suggested the Water Department might, through its own legal budget, share the legal costs with the Association. Abbondanzio suggested there is some Community Development monies for legal work.

Selectman Mike Nelson, who had suggested at a previous meeting that the town develop its own Facebook page, continued the discussion again this evening.

The board adjourned to go into executive session for reasons of collective bargaining. The next selectboard meeting will be August 5.

daily job of keeping the avenue clean of litter using her motorized scooter and wagon filled with cleaning tools.

Last, but not least, a big thank you goes to town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, and to Montague DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron and the Montague DPW, for their ongoing support for keeping the program going and providing the planters with mulch and working water!

A special shout-out to Sandra Facto, who has taken on the

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief Fireworks Continue

By KATIE NOLAN –

Erving selectboard members Andrew Goodwin and Margaret Sullivan accepted the fire chief selection committee's recommendation of Philip Wonkka and Mitchell LaClaire, Sr. as fire chief candidates. They also decided to hire a mediator to work with fire department members, and agreed to research changing the fire chief selection process.

Approximately 20 people attended the July 22 selectboard meeting, which was moved temporarily from the selectboard meeting room to the larger basement meeting room to accommodate the extra people. Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo, who recused himself from all deliberations about who will follow interim chief Almon "Bud" Meatey, did not join the group in the larger room during the discussions.

In a letter read aloud by town administrator Tom Sharp, selection committee chair and police chief Chris Blair wrote that the committee had interviewed the three chief candidates (Wonkka, LaClaire, and Meatey) on July 18 and by majority vote narrowed the field to Wonkka and LaClaire.

Board of Engineers

Goodwin told the meeting that, "in the best interest of the town" the town should change the chief selection process, by creating a board of engineers (BOE), as allowed by Chapter 48 of Massachusetts General Laws. The BOE would be responsible for running the fire department, including appointing the chief and other officers. Goodwin said that the change to a BOE system might require special town meeting approval. He said that the BOE could appoint "a different chief or the same chief" and that it should be made up of some lifetime (retired) fire department members and a majority of active department members, up to twelve people in all. He recommended an interim chief until the BOE could be formed.

Jacqueline Boyden of Northfield Road said she was concerned that allowing firefighters on the BOE to appoint the chief would be against state conflict of interest laws. She thought that, considering the vacancies on town boards, finding enough people to join the BOE would be difficult. She also felt that creating the BOE would take a long time. "You appointed nine people [to the fire chief selection committee] to do a job and

they worked diligently. I am failing to see why you won't go forward with this."

One of the attendees asked Goodwin, "Why do you want to change everything?" Goodwin replied that he would like to "appoint the current chief and sort out the issues."

Fire Chief Selection

Boyden asked Goodwin, "Why would you disregard the hard work of the committee?" Goodwin responded, "We should never have had a committee to begin with." He said that a year ago, the board started to negotiate a contract with Meatey. After a while, the talks were abandoned and the fire chief search was started. "I think we should go back and have contract talks," Goodwin said.

Mitchell LaClaire Jr. of Forest Street said, "The selection committee was put in place for a reason." A woman in the audience asked the selectboard to "go with the two names they gave you." Goodwin said that proceeding with hiring a new chief was not in the best interests of the town, and would create "a huge rift in the fire department."

"We already have one," a man in the audience responded. A man in an orange shirt who did not want to give his name to a reporter said, "Obviously this is an issue: Station 1, Station 2, he said, she said...the issues need to be resolved. We've gone a year not knowing who's our chief. We need to know."

Boyden said that fire department divisions were now involving the whole community: "You need to resolve a portion of it. Interview the candidates and make a choice."

Mediation?

Sullivan told the meeting, "I think we have a severe problem, the fire department is severely divided. Maybe we need to go to a professional mediator and get to the root of it. Sit them all down, let them confront each other. They need to resolve it from within." She said she was not opposed to researching the BOE concept. However, she said she would like to bring in a mediator "now" and that it was the selectboard's responsibility to interview the two final candidates.

Jake Smith of High Street suggested that the selectboard could pursue all three options until Meatey's interim appointment ends on August 31: interview the two candidates, research the BOE system, and hire a mediator. Smith said that with more information, the board would be able to

make a better decision.

Another suggestion was to appoint two separate chiefs and have separate budgets for the town's two fire stations. Gary Burnett of High Street said, "I don't see the problem being solved no matter who you appoint." He suggested "going out of town for an interim chief" who could, as a short-term outsider, work out the department's problems."

Sullivan commented, "I've been thinking we need an outsider to resolve issues...and get back to being a friendly town. It needs to be one town." Goodwin remarked that hiring a short-term outsider was a "brand-new idea" and that he would have to think about it for a while.

Sullivan and Goodwin voted to take Smith's suggestion of continuing the interviews, hiring a mediator, and researching a BOE system. Later in the meeting, they agreed to hold interviews with LaClaire and Wonkka on August 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, and make a final decision about the fire chief position on August 26.

"No Confidence" Letter

Cody Traceski of Forest Avenue presented the board with a letter dated July 14 from "members of the Erving Fire Department and Citizens of the Town of Erving" expressing "no confidence" in Meatey. The selectboard refused to provide their copy of the letter to the press. The copy available from Traceski was unsigned.

The letter stated that Meatey had appointed two fire department members as ranking officers, with pay raises, "based on none other than the fact that they have backed him in town meetings." The letter called the appointments "a huge conflict of interest and unethical."

Pumper/Tanker and Truck

The selectboard closed the fire chief discussion, moved back to its regular meeting room and considered signing the purchase order for a \$490,000 pumper/tanker for the fire department. This amount was approved at the 2013 annual town meeting. Sullivan wondered if it was appropriate to buy a new truck when "the fire department is in too much of an uproar."

Meatey said that all of the department officers had had input on the truck's features. Michael Nugai of Greenwood Emergency Vehicles said that emergency vehicle costs go up 8 to 10% each year and putting the purchase off could raise the price.

Meatey said the truck's

MUSIC from pg 1

nowned percussionist Stephen Brown who will be teaching a workshop on playing the bones – the traditional folk percussion instrument made from a pair of animal bones.

Other favorites of the acoustic scene are the Love Sprockets, the iconic '70s sounds of Lisa Null and Charlie Baum, the legendary Bill Shute along with the Celtic Heels Irish Dancers and a host of other bands.

The Shea Theatre, with its large seating capacity, has become the "Main Stage," with many favorites of the Indie Music scene. Opening with the highly touted Amherst-based sibling duo June and the Bee and closing with the Wendell-based reggae/hip hop Rhythm Inc, the Main Stage will be hopping until midnight with many, many Valley favorites – Here Come the Foxes, Gaslight Tinkers, LuxDeluxe, Zamia and Sun Parade.

Byrnes stresses the importance of UVMF as a forum for the independent music movement. With so many changes in the distribution of music, artists are becoming better and better versed in producing and marketing their work along with booking their own

shows. Many of Saturday's performers will have CDs available for purchase. Valley legends Ray Mason and John Sheldon each have a slot at the Shea. The one difficulty at their shows will be deciding which of their many CDs to purchase. Another special treat will be the 6 pm performance by extraordinary cellist Eugene Friesen.

The Rendezvous has been classified as the "Bar Stage," and their focus this year will be a host of amazing young and mature local artists whose professional performances and indie savvy are bringing them accolades in the business. If you haven't seen rising star Holly May's video "Go Big or Go Home" (with over a million YouTube hits in just a few short months) you might want to check it out. Much of the terrain is very familiar. Montague's own Una Jensen will also be at the Voo as will Turners Falls-based Sandy Bailey, not to mention the four-piece soul band Pain, The Snaz from Brattleboro, Boston-based Alex J. Cohen Project and some Irish sessions.

UVMF says farewell to Burrito Rojo, and welcome to the Great Falls Harvest, as the host of the "Emerging

Artists Stage." Once again coordinated by Addison Rice of Love Sprocket, there will be 11 or 12 scheduled artists along with a couple open mic sessions. Turners Falls has been eagerly awaiting the opening of its newest restaurant.

Proprietors Chris Meneconi and Bridgette Chaffee are thrilled to put aside their paint brushes and scrub brushes to host the emerging artists. While not yet open for the restaurant business, there may be a taste of the Harvest available for the UVMF.

Byrnes extends his thanks to all the volunteers and the underwriters of the event – Ryan and Casey Liquors, Coll's Cleaning Service and MOTU. MOTU, a leading developer of computer-based audio and video production hardware and software, will be sending a video crew to the festival, interviewing artists and taping performances.

So take a stroll down the avenue and support both local charity and local artists. The acts are too numerous to mention them all but the full schedule is posted at www.upervalleymusicfest.com and programs will be available. It's time to plan your route now!!



Notice of Hearing

The Erving Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40, will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 5, 2013, at 7:30 PM at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, to discuss a Notice of Intent. The Notice was filed by Town of Erving Highway Department to work on the Church Street fire hole.

Chairman, David Brule

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Two Warrant Arrests

Monday, 7/8

7:30 p.m. Assisted at medical emergency on Lillians Way.

Tuesday, 7/9

7:08 a.m. Report of sick raccoon on High Street. Unable to locate.

1:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for outstanding warrant.

5:15 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for outstanding warrant.

7 p.m. Package reported stolen on Pleasant Street.

10:25 p.m. Northfield Road juvenile runaway reported.

2,500-gallon tank made it a "hydrant on wheels", useful in the parts of town where there are no hydrants.

The board voted unanimously to approve the purchase order.

The board signed agreements for \$85,513 for a new highway department truck: \$46,924 to H.P. Fairfield, Inc. for the truck body and \$38,589 to Rountree for the chassis and cab.

Same located in Turners Falls.

Wednesday, 7/10

3:15 pm. Assisted at medical emergency on High Street.

4:42 p.m. Alarm at Box Car. Building was secure.

7 p.m. Took report of possible animal cruelty regarding dog dropped off from vehicle.

Thursday, 7/11

9:30 a.m. Report of annoying telephone calls at High Street address.

10:10 a.m. Welfare check on Prospect Heights residence. Subject OK.

12:20 p.m. Assisted at medical emergency on River Street.

Friday, 7/12

6:11 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle reported at intersection of Routes 2 and 63. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 7/14

7 p.m. Assisted Gill PD with motor vehicle lockout at Barton Cove.

9:30 p.m. Call to River Street address for possible restraining order violation. No violation found.

Other Business

The board approved the request for proposal prepared by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for an environmental study to "identify potentially developable areas and environmental resources" at the former Usher Plant. The cost for the study was set at \$12,000.

The board approved a \$1,900 increase in costs for Tighe & Bond's work for the

former Usher Plant, based on the increased paperwork resulting from the EPA's \$50,000 brownfields grant.

The board signed off on the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission liquor license granted to Ralph Semb for the convenience store/Dunkin Donuts on Route 2.

Smith was appointed to the part-time information technology support position for the town.

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By BRITTANY BRUCE

TURNERS FALLS – *It's a ridiculously hot morning. I'm sitting with Turners Falls-based musician Sandy Bailey on her back porch, drinking iced coffee. Her daughter hands me a rock, and tells me it's a potato and that I should eat it. Sandy finishes her coffee and begrudgingly says she's ready to start.*

BB: What Inspires You?

SB: What inspires me? Are these going to be questions where I have to think? Definitely not my pets. Coffee. Do I really have to answer this? Are you going to type everything that I say? Um, people. Yeah.

BB: What kind of music did you listen to growing up?

SB: I grew up in a very strict Pentecostal Church where I was pretty much forced to listen to Christian and Gospel music, and it made me feel imprisoned, so I would sneak Pop radio. I loved the Fugees, because they would come on the radio, along with Kriss Kross – who just made you want to “jump!” – but I didn't really like it, I just wanted to listen to it because it's what my little nine-year-old friends listened to on the playground.

When I was sixteen I would also sneak. I got my first job in an OB/GYN office, and I had found a Simon & Garfunkel tape – “The Best Of” – and I stole it. I would put it in my car and I would sneak-listen to it. I would just listen to it over and over again, and I would dream about

Sneakin' with Sandy Bailey: A Human Sound Finds Human Funding



ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN PHOTO

Sandy Bailey

running away.

Sandy's son and future filmmaker Julian reprimands her for stealing.

BB: How old were you when you started playing the piano?

SB: Four. That's a quick question.

BB: I think, and I've heard a lot of other people say this, that you have an amazing singing voice. Did you ever take any lessons?

SB: I took lessons when I was in my twenties. I took opera lessons for a year, just to do it. I've been singing since I was kid, but I kind of just wanted to learn how to sing opera. But then I realized that I really didn't

want to sing that.

BB: So, what are your thoughts on autotune?

SB: I hate it. I hate it so much. I hate all of it. I hate it. HATE. I can't even listen: it is unlistenable. Yeah, it's unlistenable. Sadly, a lot of people use it, even if it's obvious or just flat-out autotune. People use it to correct their pitches and most musicians use it these days and it makes my stomach turn. It makes me want to throw up all over music.

When I was recording my album I tracked all my vocals live and I refused to overdub or make any corrections, so there are certain tracks where you can hear me swallowing water or breathing or my voice

cracking, or I lose the pitch, kind of. I wanted it to sound like a human being was singing. I hate autotune.

BB: Do you have exciting shows coming up?

SB: All my shows are exciting, Brittany. I'm excited to play at the Bookmill in Montague on July 26, because it's right up the road. I love the Bookmill and I've never played there. I'll be playing in a room that's all wooden and it smells like old books, and it's right next to a brook. Everybody should go to that show.

BB: You're working on an album. What are the details on that?

SB: Ooooooh, details! I actually recorded this album last August at my house here in Turners Falls. I decided I wanted to make a record in my house. You know, I looked around at studios and then I thought I like things that sound like everyone is right there, in the room, playing their instruments all at once.

So, I had an engineer come up from New York, and we turned my house into a recording studio. I got to have my friends playing on it: Ryan Hommel, Darby Wolf from Rubblebucket, Sturgis Cunningham. And we just put together this thing.

I'll have the CD in hand in a couple weeks, and I'll be releasing it sometime in September.

Oh! Another huge detail is that

this record was entirely fan-funded. I was able to raise over \$65,000. I had put out a Kickstarter, because I'm a single mom and I don't have thousands of dollars to spend on that stuff. So, it worked and I raised the money, gratefully and humbly, to make a record for people who want to hear it. It's very cool and humbling and I'm a little shocked.

BB: If you had a million dollars to make a music video, what would it be?

SB: I would never spend a million dollars on a music video! No way. I would invest in real estate and make more money and then make a budget music video. You would be in it.

Let's see, what song could it be? Who would direct it? I would have Julian, my six-year-old, write it, because he loves to write films. I would probably film it at night because that seems like it would be fun. I'd want it to be dark just because I can. I would probably have it take place on a river, on a boat, at night, with lots of fog. Yeah, that's what I've got so far.

BB: Are you having fun?

SB: Right now? Yes. I am always having fun.

In addition to Friday's 8 p.m. Bookmill show, Bailey is playing Saturday's Upper Valley Music Festival on the Rendezvous stage at 8:40 p.m.

For recordings check out sandy-bailey.com.

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

Zach Bartak and
Dr. Darius Greenbacher

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

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

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

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

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

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SEEING INTO METAL

By RICHARD BALDWIN

WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library presents the second exhibition of color photographs by local artist Gloria Kegeles. Twelve mounted prints treat the viewer to a sparkling show of images at once as lively as they are surprising.

The artist bases all of the work here on photographs of the reflective surfaces of vehicles and motorcycles.

The results transform real objects into abstract compositions of shape and color.

She writes about her work: "My photographs are unfiltered, full frame single exposures, not computer generated or enhanced. I compose 'in the camera' as I shoot with a vintage



"Blocks," by artist Gloria Kegeles

Nikon F 35-mm film camera and 105mm portrait lens. The negatives are scanned; the prints are digital. Vintage vehicle shows provide my canvases, abounding with highly chromed and polished vehicles at every step.

"From the largest antique semi-trucks to fire trucks, dump trucks, pickups, automobiles of the chrome age and motorcycles, images are everywhere to be captured."

Kegeles' fascination with photography began in 1981, focusing mostly on the effects of light on objects. She experimented with using mirrors as key elements in image making, the reflections becoming more important than the object photographed.

Eventually this led to photographing the chrome and highly polished surfaces of lovingly cared for vehicles of all types.

For the most part these photographs are abstract, though some contain bits of recognizable imagery: a dog in "Diesel Dog Walking", the rear window of an antique car in "Partly Cloudy with Red", the rear wheel of a motorcycle in "Bike Swoosh".

But it is the arrangement of shapes and colors that really make these compositions stand out.

Since the surfaces she photographs are frequently curved, the resulting images are filled with

sweeping curves, e.g., "Dagmar Swoosh" and "Coupe du Jour". She often chooses compositions that combine flat and curved shapes as in "Federal Circle" and "Bike Swoosh".

The curved shapes often have blurred or soft edges and in combination with the sharp edges of the flat shapes make for compositions that pop with energy and movement. Words in titles, "swoosh", "swoop" and "wave" emphasize her interest in movement. It is no accident that these photos are based on vehicles designed for movement and speed.

It is relevant to point out that in this show of work Kegeles' choices of images mostly incorporate the primary colors red and blue. This use of intense color adds to the drama and energy of the compositions.

Humor plays an important role here as well, beginning with her amusing self-portrait, "Camera Head", where a reflection of the photographer in a hub cap is hallowed by a ring of four chrome lug nuts.

Other humorous bits stand out as in "Diesel Dog Walking" and the swan hood ornament in "Swanny Blue."

Gloria pointed out that the title of the print, "Dagmar Swoosh", refers to the chrome plated bumper that was so popular in car design of the 1950's. It is so named after its namesake who was 'a busty blond actress of the fifties'.

Ms. Kegeles is a member of, and regularly shows at, Gallery A3, the cooperative gallery at 28 Amity Street in Amherst. You can view more of her work and that of other area artists at www.gallerya3.com.

If you would like to have Gloria make photographs of your special automobile, motorcycle or pickup please contact her gallery and discuss a commission.

Gloria writes, "My goal has always been to create photographs unlike any I've seen before...". Please stop in at the Library and see for yourself.

This exhibition is sponsored in part by the Wendell Cultural Council and runs from July 9 through August 31 in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library.

*Hours: Tuesday 3 to 6;
Wednesday 10 to 8;
Saturday 9:30 to 3:30.*



Pam Allan, Christa Snyder, Lorraine Algozer and Anne Harding (left to right) paint a sign for the upcoming Turners Falls Block Party. The Block Party is on August 10.

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD

Readers Bob & Sue Bellemare of West Whately catch up on hometown news before enjoying a crawfish dinner in Henderson, Louisiana..



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on July 24, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Police Chief Exam: Failed

Results are back from the Civil Service police chief test, and the news is not good. All seven Montague police officers who took the chief exam on May 10 failed.

On February 25, after a battle between former selectboard chair Sam Lovejoy and the state Civil Service board over which officers should be allowed to take it, the Civil Service deputy general counsel ordered the town to open the list to all officers. That did not leave much time to study. The union requested a delay but the Service turned that request down.

Millers Falls Gives Selectboard Earful

The Montague selectboard began their annual summer tour of the villages with a July 14 stop at the Millers Falls library, and took comments from three dozen vil-

lagers. A number of residents weighed in on the parking situation at the corner of Bridge and Crescent streets. "The crosswalk signs are not in the right place," said Joan Felton. "They should be up by the crosswalk."

Junk Cars in Wendell

Tom Magnon of Wendell Depot Road met with the selectboard to discuss his 12 unregistered vehicles. He is preparing to have two of them removed. Christine Heard said the town bylaw caps the number of unregistered cars at ten and said he needs to remove the two cars by September 1 in order for them to issue a permit.

Junk Cars in Erving

At its July 14 meeting the selectboard discussed an ordinance regarding restrictions on visible, inoperable vehicles. The police department recently issued roughly 100 of these citations. Abel Morris, Jr. of High Street submitted a letter of complaint centered on the fact

that several properties near the center of town had multiple derelict vehicles in plain sight, and suggested he had been singled out for the infraction.

Skate Park Fix Days

The Montague Skate Park closed early this spring, due to unsafe conditions. But with the help of donations and funds raised at the recent Skate Park Benefit Concert at the Shea Theater, supporters quickly got to work to make repairs.

On July 9, volunteers including Hot Spot Teen Center coordinator Jeremy Latch, Parks and Rec director John Dobosz, Chris Haigh, Brian Heath, Mark Heath, Cody Clark and Dave Longe worked on cleanup and built small, portable ramps.

Dobosz closed the ramps in poorest condition with an angle iron, but the next days, skaters ripped it off. The skate park committee urges users to respect these temporary barriers or Parks and Rec will be forced to close the park again.

Retired Army Bandmaster, James Girard, Receives Legion of Merit

By PATRICIA PRUITT AND CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. – Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) James Girard, commander, 215th Army Band, son of Don Girard of Turners Falls, received the Legion of Merit during a ceremony at the Massachusetts National Guard Headquarters here July 9, 2013. The Legion of Merit is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

Girard grew up in Turners Falls, and graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1970. He enlisted in the army on October 13, 1970 and served 34 years in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard until his retirement in April, 2012. He commanded the 215th Army Band for 24 years, holding command longer than any other officer in the Massachusetts National Guard. He returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in 2012 and retired shortly after.

James Girard, like his father, is known for his warm, outgoing personality but also for his commitment to excellence and his love for the Army.



James Girard, Army bandmaster

Sharing a memory of serving with Girard, 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Hyde, 215th Army Band said, "There are so many, but one that sticks out in my mind was when the 215th Army Band traveled to the Netherlands in May of 1995 to help commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

"We performed at a parade where thousands of Soldiers who fought in WWII marched as well. As we made our way through the cobblestone streets of the town we could see the audience was getting larger and larger and the street was getting smaller and smaller.

"As we marched and played I could see many of the civilians in the audience were putting flowers in our pockets or our shirts, kissing our cheeks or shaking our hands and saying, 'Thank you', 'thank you.' Never had I witnessed anything like that before. At the conclusion of the parade Mr. Girard gave a speech to the band and said,

"Although it was not directly us that fought in World War II and liberated the Netherlands no matter where you are, or what you are doing always remember that when you put on the uniform of the United States Army you represent the men and women that fought and died before you.' I have heard that said many times before,

continued next page

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Ninja Advised to Keep Sword Low

Monday, 7/8

7:42 a.m. Resident complained of ongoing problem with neighbor's dog defecating on lawn. Owner spoken to.

8:11 a.m. Vandalism reported on Turners Falls Road. Vehicle was covered with mustard and bologna last night. At time of report, caller had removed the bologna, but mustard was still on the car. Last week same vehicle was egged. Report taken.

10:11 a.m. Assault and battery in Millers Falls. Report taken.

11:00 a.m. Woman bitten in face by pit bull on Hillside Road on Friday came into station to file report. Incident referred to Board of Health.

5:25 p.m. Report of a man abusing a dog that he was walking on Prospect Street. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 7/9

10:06 a.m. Herd of sheep reported loose in roadway on Route 63. Unable to locate sheep or owner.

12:50 p.m. First of five separate reports of a phone scam where the caller demands ransom money in return for a loved one who was in an accident.

Wednesday, 7/10

1:09 a.m. Report of loud banging and clanging

coming from train in Millers Falls. Railroad notified.

6:31 a.m. Report of vehicle break-in attempt at Unity Park. Glass was broken in truck. Report taken.

1:51 p.m. Shoplifting at F. L. Roberts.

3:59 p.m. Shoplifting at Family Dollar.

6:12 p.m. Possible drug deal reported on Second Street. Under investigation.

10:05 p.m. Report of male in his underwear using a laptop inside vehicle outside of the Carnegie Library. Officer found male clothed from waist down (jeans); had removed his shirt because he had gotten hot.

Thursday, 7/11

1:45 a.m. Following a vandalism spree that affected at least two local businesses,

and were arrested and charged with vandalism, damage or defacement of property, and attempt to commit crime with a burglarious instrument.

was arrested on the same charges plus two straight warrants.

6:58 a.m. A Turners Falls

resident called to complain about two women who walk by her house every morning and wake her up with their talking.

7:15 a.m. Two women reported being followed by a female motorist who told them that their talking wakes her up in the morning.

1:25 p.m. Two reports of a domestic disturbance on Fourth Street. Services rendered.

2:00 p.m. A gutted deer was reported hanging from a tree in Millers Falls. Referred to environmental officers.

3:11 p.m. Bike reported stolen on Avenue A. Located nearby a short time later.

9:07 p.m. Hit-and-run accident with property damage at Thomas Memorial Country Club. Suspect was allegedly inebriated. Citation issued.

10:19 p.m. Trespassing reported on Federal Street in Millers Falls.

was arrested on a straight warrant.

Friday, 7/12
10:21 a.m. Assisted Dept. of Agriculture in locating the owner of a field.

11:00 am: Complaint regarding diesel odor from trains in Millers Falls.

1:53 p.m. Report of attempted breaking and entering at a Central Street residence the previous night. Damage to door frame/casing.

3:59 p.m. arrested on three default warrants.

10:11 p.m. Bear struck by motor vehicle on Federal Street in Montague Center.

11:07 p.m. Burglary/breaking and entering on Turners Falls Road. Report taken.

Saturday, 7/13

1:43 a.m. was arrested on a straight warrant and charges of speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

6:33 p.m. Items reported stolen from a backpack that party had been asked to leave at the counter at Between the Uprights bar on Avenue A.

8:32 p.m. Report of vandalism to front door of Powertown Apartments.

8:52 p.m. Party returned from vacation to find Warner Street residence broken into and burglarized. Report taken.

11:47 p.m. Loud explosion reported near G Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 7/14

1:29 a.m. Burglary/breaking and entering reported at an apartment on Fourth Street. Several items missing.

1:33 a.m. Multiple accounts of gunshots heard near Newton Lane. Unable to locate.

4:22 a.m. Report of suspicious white female knocking on window on H Street. Unable to locate.

5:05 p.m. A Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with a restraining order violation.

5:45 p.m. Possibly sick raccoon reported at Turnpike Road and Montague City Road.

10:27 p.m. Turners Falls man arrested on probable cause for violating a restraining order.

Monday, 7/15

10:39 a.m. Report of noise and diesel fumes from an idling train near Prospect Street in Millers Falls. Railroad notified.

6:56 p.m. Complaint of ongoing violations of pooper scooper regulation in Millers Falls. Referred to an officer.

9:23 p.m. Report of pickup truck driving on bike path behind Cabot. Unable to locate.

10:27 p.m. Single-car collision with telephone pole at North Leverett

and Gunn Road. Vehicle operator and 7-year-old passenger transported to Franklin Medical Center.

11:05 p.m. Report of three white males, one of whom was guiding another with a mask on, walking along the road by the airport. Officer spoke with parties, one of whom had a ninja sword. Advised them to keep sword low and move along.

Wednesday, 7/17

3:20 p.m. Single-vehicle collision with telephone pole at Lake Pleasant and Swamp Roads.

5:13 p.m. Threatening/harassment reported on Fourth Street.

6:11 p.m. Breaking and entering reported on Fourth Street. Items strewn about, but none seem to have been taken.

9:40 p.m. Reports of a fight in the parking lot of Cumberland Farms. Investigated.

11:15 p.m. Report of suspicious activity at Unity Park. Officers found residents roasting marshmallows on a hibachi. No problems.

Thursday, 7/18

2:20 p.m. Multiple reports of smoke coming from roof of Shea Theater. Police, TFFD, and DPW responded. A rooftop A/C unit had caught fire.

5:26 p.m. Structure fire damaged a residence on Millers Falls Road. Turners Falls and Greenfield Fire Departments responded.

9:45 p.m. Caller reported that a passing vehicle threw an explosive device which detonated under his parked vehicle in Lake Pleasant. Investigated; appears to have been a large firework.

Saturday, 7/20

1:07 a.m. Complaint regarding unknown parties ringing doorbell and knocking on window on H Street. Determined to be several youths playing "ding dong ditch," a game that involves ringing a doorbell then running off. Services rendered.

11:47 a.m. Woman who entered river by the Gill-Montague Bridge to try to rescue her dog was reported to be in distress by a friend. TFFD responded and, along with officers, rescued swimmer. Dog made his way back.

10:07 p.m. Officers investigated a report of threatening/harassment on Avenue A.

Sunday, 7/21

4:45 p.m. Small brush fire reported at Springdale Cemetery on Turners Falls Road. TFFD advised.

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continued from previous page

but never until then had it been so meaningful.”

The award citation, signed by Maj. Gen L. Scott Rice, The Adjutant General Massachusetts National Guard, noted that Girard’s technical expertise, infectious enthusiasm and spirited attitude propelled him to be the bandmaster. The citation went on to say: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Girard was the first “Commander/Bandmaster” to serve an unprecedented twenty-four years in the 215th Army Band.

He deployed to Afghanistan as the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Officer for the 26th “Yankee” Infantry Brigade, serving approximately 10,000 service members, Coalition Forces and contractors. As a senior warrant officer in Massachusetts, he was chosen for this highly visible and diplomatic position, where he fulfilled the mission and surpassed all expectations. His service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States Army was dignified, honorable and admirable. Without a doubt, his retirement is a loss heard around the world.”

James’ father, Don Girard, is a familiar figure in the valley where he has been a virtuoso musician for more than a half-century. Girard, himself, did not serve in the military. He recalled that he had gone down in the early 1940s to Westover, at the urging of Art Gilmore, to audition for the Army Air Force band. He won the audition but



LYNN PELLAND PHOTO

Girard’s father, Don, plays taps on Memorial Day in Turners Falls.

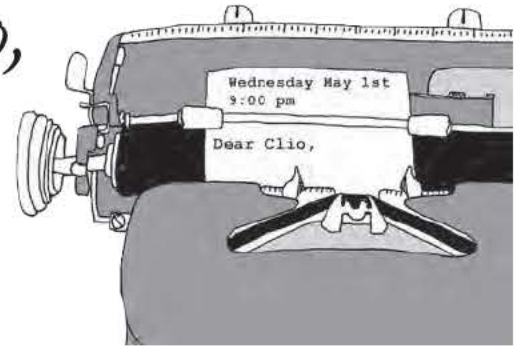
when he went to enlist, he was pronounced 4F due to a perforated eardrum. He did, however, eventually get to conduct his son’s band.

At an Army band concert in Peskeomskut Park, James stepped aside to allow his dad to conduct the last

number. “It was thrilling,” recalled Girard.

Much of the information in this article was taken from *The Massachusetts National Guard Public Affairs Office*.

Dear Clio,



Dear Clio

I need help. My husband of 10 years just isn’t into me any longer. He seems totally bored with me and spends all his time out with his friends (or at least that’s what he says). He’s also a workaholic so he makes good money but he’s stingy with the “allowance” he gives me. I still love him. I find him attractive.

I’ve tried to get him interested in me again by doing special things for him, making dates with him, trying to find things to do together. But nothing seems to work. When I ask him if he wants to leave, he says no and tells me he’s not unhappy. How can he not be unhappy? I’m miserable frustrated and angry and don’t know what to do. P.S. We don’t have kids since he never wanted them.

– Miserable, Frustrated, and Angry

Dear MFA,

My Aunt and Uncle were married for over 60 years. They shared a bed all that time, but they barely spent a waking hour together each day. He was always at work, and she invested herself in family and friends. I have a friend my age who is in a similar situation. She has decided to stay with her husband, even though they have little in common and the spark is gone, because he is a good provider and father.

She says that she gets the connection and intimacy she needs from her friends. I think there are a lot of people whose partners are more like roommates. The key to making that arrangement work is to have a fulfilling life outside the marriage—friends, career, etc.

It sounds like you want more from your husband than a good roommate, though, and personally, I think that you deserve more. You have already made several attempts to bring the fun and intimacy back to your marriage. You have also tried to communicate with your husband about the situation. If he will not acknowledge that there is a problem, I think you need to make it clear that, from your perspective, there is. You can’t go through life being miserable, frustrated, and angry. It’s not good for your health, and besides, it’s not much fun.

You will probably need to push your husband on this until he is forced to address the issue. He needs to commit to investing his time and attention in the relationship. There is the risk, of course, that he will not be willing to do this, which is probably why you have not already confronted him. So I think this could be scary. It would be for me.

You had better brace yourself for

some pain in the short run. This is probably one of those situations where it’s going to hurt more before it gets better. It’s like having a fish hook stuck in your foot. Pulling it out is going to hurt a lot, but that’s not a reason to walk around with a barbed piece of metal under your skin.

You have already been living with this pain and frustration for a while. You are probably somewhat numb to it at this point, so you don’t have to confront your husband today or tomorrow. Gather your strength. If you can enlist a friend or sister to support you before and after, even better. When you feel like you might be ready, tell your husband that you are unhappy, that something needs to change, and that you need him to commit to making the effort.

I have seen couples weather all kinds of challenges, like infidelity, addiction, mental illness. I think that two people can overcome almost anything, if both partners are working hard. On the other hand, there is no way that one partner can fix the relationship by herself. If you press your husband, I believe it will be clear to you whether he is willing to do the work.

Assuming he is, you could suggest going to couples counseling. I also recommend *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* by John Gottman. This book has exercises that you can do as a couple. If neither of these options is your style, you could just commit to going on a date once a week and to finding ways to have fun together.

MFA, don’t be afraid to pressure your husband into addressing this issue. You are worthy of love and appreciation. I know that you are strong enough to ask for it, even if you do not feel that way right now. May your husband recognize how lucky he is to have a caring partner with such strength of commitment, and may you find your way together. Good luck!

Yours, Clio

Contact Clio confidentially at: editor @montaguereporter.org

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Dog Issues and Energy Concerns

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Outside temperatures were still high at 7 p.m. on July 17 when the Wendell selectboard met. Inside, the town office building was a bit cooler. Blueberries, recently picked in New Salem, were on the selectboard table. The agenda was short, the meeting lasted less than an hour, and the sky was still light when board members left the building.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich began by passing to board members for their signatures an appointment slip for Ray DiDonato, who volunteered to be on the open space committee. Selectboard chair Christine Heard said his appointment brings the open space committee up to four out of the authorized five members.

The town only got two bids for heating oil and furnace service, and board members unanimously approved the lower bid, \$3.25 per gallon and \$50 per hour for service, from Orange Oil. Selectboard

member Dan Keller said that one furnace in the town hall is not working in spite of three visits last heating season from Orange Oil and he said the town should find someone who can diagnose and repair that furnace before it is needed.

Aldrich said that Wendell’s dog officer, Maggie Houghton, is not comfortable housing illegal dogs at her home as she has done in the past. Keller said that the highway department agreed that they could house a dog in an emergency, but they do not really have the space or the needed facilities and they do not want that added responsibility.

He recommended joining the sheriff run county kennel service, which would cost \$600 to \$700 a year but would also include the service of a second dog officer supplied by the county. Money for joining the sheriff’s kennel was not appropriated at the annual town meeting, but Keller said that amount could be transferred from the reserve fund after consulting with

the finance committee. Town clerk Gretchen Smith says there are still 40 unlicensed dogs in town. One owner does not want to give his dog a rabies vaccination, and without a certificate of vaccination cannot get a license.

Orange and Athol routinely bring owners of unlicensed dogs to court. Usually the owner gets the license before the court date, and the case is dropped. Wendell selectboard members did not like the idea of bringing the matter to court, but did not think of another approach.

Keller said that the owner of the senior center’s gas tanks will disconnect and move them Wednesday July 24, to allow the highway department to alter the slope behind the senior center, so that surface water will flow away from the building instead of towards the building as it does now.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said a resident called because he had a set of home solar panels built and installed,

but he could not get a response from the county electrical inspector and have the electricity sent to his house or to the grid for net metering credits. He found it frustrating to have everything in place and still not get any benefit from it. Heard told him that the backup electrical inspector was Jay Blackbird.

Heard said that the building inspector is again holding regular hours at the town office building, Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings, with hours posted outside the office building.

She also said that the recent contested election made her start to think what her goals were as a member of the selectboard beyond keeping the town running well.

One thing she would do is follow the thoughts of former road boss Dan Bacigalupo and extend the walk that winds along the west side of the commons, north to Stone Road and south to the junction of Locke Hill and Lockes Village Road.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Elementary Reconfiguration Vote Delayed

By DAVID DETMOLD –

Town votes planned for this fall on forming a new preK – 6 elementary school region in Leverett, Pelham and Amherst have been delayed until spring of 2014. That was the decision of the regional school district planning board after a marathon meeting on July 18, during which unresolved financial and governance issues surrounding the proposed new region led a majority of board members to vote for the six-month delay. The new timing of town votes, now planned to coincide with annual town meetings, would “definitely delay the start of the new region until 2015,” according to selectboard member and regional planning board delegate Julie Shively, who went over the reasons behind the delay to her colleagues on the selectboard on Tuesday, July 23.

Shively said she welcomed the delay, because the planning board would be able to use the extra time to develop a more comprehensive analysis of how the new region would affect town finances, and to compare the benefit of forming a three-town elementary region with the possibility of forming a three- or four-town pre-K – 12 region, to possibly include Shutesbury along with Leverett, Pelham and Amherst. Shively said a unified pre-K – 12 region of those four towns would be her preferred outcome, and would allow for greater curriculum alignment, streamlining of administrative functions, and financial benefit to member towns.

The choice to push for a three town, preK – 6 district, according to Shively, was something of a half-way measure, adopted out of necessity when Shutesbury’s delegates to the regional planning board failed to approve the plan for a unified pre-K – 12 region in March of this year. Shutesbury is part of the Amherst-Pelham region for middle and high school students, along with Leverett, Pelham and Amherst. According to the regional agreement all four towns must approve amendments to change that agreement.

Shively called the need for a four-town consensus on changes to the regional agreement “reverse fascism,” whereby one town could overrule changes to the governing regional school agreement sought by the other three.

Governance issues appear to be among the stickiest of the wickets yet to be crossed if a new arrangement is to be arrived at by at least three of the four members of the Amherst-Pelham region. Shively said not all members of the Amherst delegation are comfortable with the idea of how the finances and decision making are likely to be divided among the three towns actively considering forming a pre-K – 6 elementary region.

Under one scenario, Shively said, “Leverett makes out best,” financially, saving about \$500,000 under the proposed region, and “Amherst

pays the most. We’re trying to make it more equitable, at least at the outset,” she added, implying that Leverett’s delegates to the planning board would be willing to give up some financial gains for their town in order to persuade voters in the other towns to go along with the plan for a new region.

Shively said Amherst may also balk at a proposal to allow voters in all three towns to vote for school committee members for the new district at large, with a residency requirement ensuring a governance structure whereby the smaller towns – Pelham and Leverett – would each have two representatives. This would deny the larger town of Amherst, which would have five school committee members, the possibility

of enjoying a supermajority on decision making for the new region.

If school committee members were elected based solely on the population of the three towns, Shively said, Amherst would wind up with 80% of the committee members.

“I’d say there is no chance that Leverett would vote for that,” Shively said.



Collapsed barn on Dudleyville Road

Leverett and Shutesbury considered joining with Pelham and Amherst in a unified pre-K – 12 region back in the early 90s, Shively recalled. Back then, even though Amherst, Pelham and Leverett town meetings approved the proposed regional agreement, Shutesbury torpedoed the plan.

Shively said Shutesbury “receives the most in state aid and pays their teachers the least,” of the four towns, and so, she said, it does not surprise her that Shutesbury has again remained aloof to regionalization plans, which would require a leveling of staff salaries and a different formulation for state aid.

For now, Leverett and Shutesbury remained tied to the towns of Erving, Wendell and New Salem for the governance of their elementary schools in Union 28, which has just hired former Shutesbury principal Bob Mahler as an interim superintendent for one year. Mahler has vowed to be a strong advocate for Union 28, and said in May, “I’m not interested in being the man respon-

sible for the dissolution of the district. If I am given the job, I would do everything I could to promote it.”

The selectboard in Leverett has been openly critical of Union 28, citing high central office costs and the involvement of former superintendent Joan Wickman in hiring decisions and other administrative prerogatives that seem to make a mockery of the concept of small town control of their own elementary schools.

However, it was not so many years ago that members of the Leverett school committee leveled almost the exact same charges at the dominance and intolerance of Amherst committee members at the regional school level.

Gravel Pit Issues Continue

In other news, Richie Roberts, owner of a gravel mining and landscaping business on Route 63, angrily accused the selectboard of interference in the operation of his business three years ago, saying he had heard that the board at that time had “ordered” the Franklin County cooperative building inspector, Jim Hawkins, to shut down his business.

Roberts, who has sued the town zoning board of appeals for their subsequent denial to allow an expansion of his gravel pit onto adjoining acreage owned by Roberta Bryant, demanded access to any documents that might pertain to that decision.

Board chair Rich Brazeau said the board had merely directed Hawkins to examine the relevant permits for Roberts’ business, and that Hawkins acted on his own to issue a stop work order against Roberts at that time. Brazeau said Richard Godsey, a ZBA member, and Robert Schmidt, an abutter to the gravel pit, had brought it to the selectboard’s attention that Roberts might have expanded his operation onto Bryant’s land, even though much of Bryant’s acreage was then held under Chapter 61 tax protection as recreational open land.

The selectboard directed town administrator Margie McGinnis to contact Hawkins to provide Roberts

with any documentary records from that time related to his stop work order at the gravel pit. Roberts hoped to have that documentation in hand before the ZBA meets again on a possible settlement to his lawsuit on Monday, July 29 – but McGinnis told the board that Hawkins is on vacation this week, making it doubtful she would be able to contact him in time to search for any such records.

Roberts said it appeared his plans to expand gravel mining on Route 63 “is probably going to end up in court,” and therefore he needs access to any paper trail on the issue that might exist. “I’ve spent a lot of money,” added Roberts, “and this should come out.”

An Aquifer, a Tipping Grader, and a Falling Barn

The board agreed to notify residents living on land within Sunderland’s aquifer protection zone that their homes are within that zone. In response to a letter from the town of Sunderland, Brazeau noted, “They don’t want us to put a landfill or a junkyard in that aquifer.” No mention of a gravel pit.

Two residents, one on Hemenway Road, one on Cave Hill, called the selectboard last week to complain about overly aggressive roadside mowing, that had taken down lilac bushes and, on Cave Hill Road, a mailbox. Highway superintendent Will Stratford has been on vacation, but his wife, Lisa, attending the meeting in her role as town clerk, noted that on his return he had more troubles to deal with.

The town grader had been parked on Church Hill Road, and four inches of rain Monday night eroded the parking lot to the point where the grader nearly tipped over, and it took much of the morning on Tuesday to right the machine.

Speaking of dangerously lopsided objects in that neighborhood, a survey committee including structural engineer Bob Leet, Matt Kelly, and fire chief John Moruzzi have determined that a barn and shed owned by Steve Blinn on the banks of the Sawmill River at 1 Dudleyville Road are a danger to public health and should be removed immediately.

The board will ask Hawkins to have a letter to that effect hand delivered to Blinn, with a deadline for demolition. If the structures are not taken down in a timely fashion, the board will seek an appropriation at fall town meeting to have the town take the buildings down, and will seek to have a lien attached to the property to cover that cost.

“Does it fall within our historic building [demolition] bylaw?” wondered Brazeau.

“Not if they’re a danger to public safety,” said Shively.

The board will meet in joint session with the finance committee and the school committee on Tuesday, July 30, at 7 p.m. to discuss the 2014 budget cycle.

Millennium Comms Group Awarded Fiberoptic Contract

By DAN WILLIAMS

LEVERETT – On June 20, 2013, the Leverett Broadband Committee recommended to the SelectBoard that Millenium Communications Group be awarded the contract to build and maintain a fiber optic network as specified in the second Invitation For Bids (IFB) issued by the town on May 15, 2013.

The Selectboard approved the recommendation unanimously. The Town received 8 IFB responses by the June 6 deadline. The Committee proceeded to review the bids as it did for the first IFB in accordance with Massachusetts law: MGL c.30, s.39M, as amended.

The Committee started with the lowest bid and reviewed it in accordance with the statute. After careful review by all committee members, the lowest bidder, Millenium, was invited to Leverett on June 13 to answer a series of questions asking to clarify some aspects of their bid package.

Afterwards, the committee deliberated and determined that Millenium did meet all requirements of the Invitation for Bid and is qualified and capable to perform the work. The Committee thus determined that Millenium submitted the lowest bid that met the requirements for a responsible and eligible bidder. The bid amount is \$2,275,731.

As Leverett makes progress with its last-mile project, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (www.massbroadband.com) continues to do the same with the middle-mile. This is the connection underserved towns like Leverett will rely on to connect their local network to the internet. The fiber we’ve seen going up on Leverett utility poles in the past 6 months was installed by MBI.

We will connect our own local network to the MBI fiber when construction in Leverett is complete at the end of 2014. It’s an important piece that must be in place when the Leverett network is ready and we’re happy to see that MBI is keeping to its schedule.

The award of the construction contract marks a significant milestone in the Leverett Broadband project. Preparatory activity to construction is expected to start immediately, with completion and activation of the fiber network by the end of 2014.

Dan Williams is a member of the Leverett Broadband Committee.

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

EVERY TUESDAY
Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*, environmental program for ages 3-6 and their adults. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.
The Millers Falls Library Club: Free after school program. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ART SHOWS:
Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Distant Objects*, featuring mixed-media constructions by artist *Barbara Milot*. July 5 through July 28.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JULY 25
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic Night* with host *Pamela Means*. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben Grosscup*, activist singer-songwriter. 8 p.m., free.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*, blues/jazz. 8 to 10 p.m., free.

FRIDAY, JULY 26
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Marx Bros.' Duck Soup* (1933). B&W, 70 min. NR. Music before the show: *Small Change*, acoustic swing, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Lonesome Brothers*, hick rock, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Two Tree*, electric folk, and *Sandy Bailey*, singer-songwriter. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Atomic Scissors*, '60s and '70s classic rock. 9 to 11:30 p.m., free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Kusmeskus*, solo rock/folk originals & covers. 9:30 p.m., free.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, blues rock 'n' roll. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27
Turners Falls: *Upper Valley Music Festival!*

Main Stage, Shea Theater: 12 p.m. June and the Bee; 1 p.m. Ray Mason; 2 p.m. Gaslight Tinkers; 3 p.m. Here Come The Foxes; 5 p.m. Carrie Ferguson; 6 p.m. Eugene Friesen; 7 p.m. John Sheldon; 8 p.m. Zamia; 9 p.m. Sun Parade; 10 p.m. Lux-Deluxe; 11 p.m. Rhythm Inc.

Bar Stage, The Rendezvous: 1:40 p.m. Paint; 2:40 p.m. Holly May; 3:40 p.m. Span of Sunshine; 4:40 and 5:40 p.m. Irish Session; 7:40 p.m. The Snaz; 8:40 p.m. Sandy Bailey; 9:40 p.m. Alex J. Cohen Project; 10:40 p.m. Una Jensen.

Acoustic Stage, Great Hall, Great Falls Discovery Center: 12:20 p.m. Katie Sachs; 1:20 p.m. The Bones; 2:20 p.m. Brad Hurley and Claire Boucher; 3:20 p.m. Celtic Heels Irish Dancers; 4:20 p.m. Love Sprockets; 6:20 p.m. Lisa Null and Charlie Baum; 7:20 p.m. Bill Shute; 8:20 p.m. Driftwood Fire; 9:20 p.m. Blackstone Cuil.

Club Stage, Between The Uprights (21+): 2:30 p.m. Wishbone Zoe; 3:30 p.m. Wildcat O'Halloran;

4:30 p.m. Daniel Hales and the Frost Heaves; 5:30 p.m. Tawdry; 7:30 p.m. Chris Scanlon; 8:30 p.m. Lesser Animals; 9:30 p.m. Community Smokes.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Marx Bros.' Duck Soup* (1933). B&W, 70 min. NR. Music before the show: *Daniel Hales & the Frost Heaves*, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Hanging Hills*, folk rock, with special guest *Claire Orion*, pop rock. 8 p.m.

Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Alex Snyderman Trio*, jazz. 8 p.m., \$

Montague Bookmill: *J. Mascis, Dredd Foole, and Passerine*. New local talent. Rescheduled from a few months back. 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, guitar-based blues. 9 to 11:30 p.m., free.

SUNDAY, JULY 28
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Howlin' Brothers*, americana, with special guest *Clarence Bucaro*. 2:30 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JULY 29
Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, a night of spoken word. Doors open at 7 p.m., open mic at 7:30, featured readers to follow.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 30
Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock, with special guest *Steve Subrizi*, singer/songwriter/poet. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *The Metropolitan Opera Live in HD. Rossini's Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. 6:30 p.m., \$

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Chain & the Gang*, which is Ian Svenonius's current band, with *Anthro Rex, Sharkee Katz, and the Young Enthusiasts*. 8 p.m., all ages / substance free.

Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Paint*, indie soul. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ben's Miner Movie Night*: movie TBA. 9 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1
Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau*, alt rock dance pop, with special guests *Barn Fresh Collective*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Roosters*, classic rock dance music by *Bruce Scofield*. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
Montague Bookmill: *Bunwinkies*, meticulously drifting jams; *Quilt*, idea-heavy hippie indie stuff; *Soft Healer*, fantastic psych in from Austin, TX; and *Keiran Lally*, of Horse Spirit Penetrates fame, doing a solo set. Phew! Show up early to claim a couch. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls:

Jeremy Lyons, folk roots blues. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae fantastico!, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Happier Valley Comedy Show* with the *Ha-Ha's* and *Bear Eats Cow*. Improv. 8 p.m., \$

Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae roots rock. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6
Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Fancy Trash*, indie folk rock. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Tina & Her Pony*, indie folk. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Brook Batteau*, indie rock dance pop, with special guest *Jill Connolly*, blues rock jazz pop. 8 p.m.
Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Surly Temple*, with Jim Henry, Guy DeVito, Doug Plavin & of course, Tommy Boynton. 8 to 10 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *The Evens*, who are Ian McKaye and Amy Farina, basically the most famous people in Washington DC. 8 p.m., all ages / substance free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Miyazaki's My Neighbor Totoro*. Color, 86 min. G. Music before the show: *Ken Swiatek*, folk, 7 p.m. Film at 7:30.

Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: Art opening and concert: *Patti Rothberg*, indie pop rock. 8 p.m.
Arts Block Café, Greenfield: *Janet Ryan & Straight Up*, blues. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
Downtown Turners Falls: *Block Party*. 2 to 10 p.m.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
Mocha Maya's Shelburne Falls: *Cal Folger Day*, country folk pop punk. 2:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, warped americana.

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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

The More and the Less of the Lazy Gardener



By **LESLIE BROWN**

As an avid new gardener I was a fanatical weeder. The first sign of a blade of crab grass or the start of a pigweed sent me for the gloves and the cultivator. Friends and family did not admire my avidity; they despised it and joked often that if weeding was so much fun, I could weed their gardens, too. Personally I was proud of my nearly weed-free space.

However, as the garden grew larger and weeding took up much of my outdoor time, I began to begrudge it like anyone else and soon gave thought to how much was really necessary. Aside from the esthetics of happy plants growing weed-free and well cultivated, when is a weed just a weed and not an alien invasion?

The truth is, I have found, that weeding is only most critical for

new seedlings. Your new plantings have enough to do just taking in moisture and food and just plain growing. They don't need competition for the basic needs of life.

Unfortunately this means the most tedious and picky of weeding. It's difficult to pull the shortest of weeds without snapping them off leaving the roots to flourish again. If you are too assiduous, you run the risk of so disturbing your new seedlings as to do them in.

This is where mulching comes in. A good layer of mulch will do much to keep down the weeds and hold in the moisture for your beginning plantings. When transplanting a flower or vegetable that is well established, consider using plastic, paper or cardboard and cutting a hole through which to insert your new plant. If you've planted new seeds, just weed the best you can until your plants are a few inches tall and then consider grass clippings or compost spread gently to help keep the invaders down.

Once plants are well established, it saves time and the gardener's good temper to let the weeds grow a bit before taking them on. A handful of crabgrass or pigweed that is

several inches tall is much easier to grab and you will also more likely be successful in removing the whole plant roots and all. If the soil is dry, weeding is all the easier.

Sometimes any weeding is just plain contrarian. Once my pea plants are well settled, I leave them alone to their weedy companions because the peas are so shallow rooted that pulling on their weedy companions is so disruptive I invariably lose valuable vegetables for my efforts.

As a mature gardener, I am also a lazy one. There are many things I want to do on a summer day besides hang out in the garden. I give it an hour every other day or so, and then let it do what it needs to do. This may mean weeding, picking beetles, removing dead growth or feeding to keep plants happy and healthy.

This all leads the lazy gardener to thinking about what really has to be done to keep a healthy and productive garden.

Good soil is extremely important as it is the back bone of everything else you can do to have a successful garden. The lazy gardener believes that less digging is more. We have cultivated a very happy population of earth worms over the years and

we try not to disturb them. Instead, we apply a new layer of aged manure and compost each year but do not turn over the soil. Where we do need to dig a small hole for new transplants, we fill it with manure and compost as well.

If you have done a decent job of cleaning up weeds and spent plantings at the end of each garden season, there's absolutely no need to rototill or turn over the soil with a spade.

Plant nourishment is important to vigorous growth and fruit or flower production. When the garden is dry, add water. A hose and sprinkler system is fine and set to work for a few hours in the early morning or late afternoon will keep plants moist and happy if the rain man has not provided.

Some folks like to feed their plants also with commercial fertilizer in dry or liquid form. As a lazy gardener I like manure tea and keep an old watering can for just this function. Place a handful or two of manure in the bottom, add water, stir and apply as a foliar or root food. Feed crops like tomatoes, and squash. Beans and peas feed from their own stores and don't need

your help. Then there's the weeding. Take care of your new seedlings and you will be well rewarded later. When plants are mature, let the weeds go until they're easier to pull. In the meantime, they'll help hold moisture of the rain and dew.

What weeding you do will feed the gardener as well. It is really a mindless task which requires so few brain cells that most of them can be occupied otherwise. We are often so rushed and busy in life that there is little time for thinking. Weeding empties the head and lets the mind roam freely. You may find that you have sorted out a problem, reassessed a situation or prepared for a meeting or an uncomfortable upcoming event. Once you've taken care of all that mental business, your weeding time can become contemplation and for some, even a meditation which will leave your plants weed free and you regenerated.

If gardening is just one more undesirable chore, give it up. Search for some other pastime about which to be passionate. Gardening should be a source of joy as well as food for the body and for the soul.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: A REVIEW

By **ELLEN BLANCHETTE**

TURNERS FALLS – In their premier production at the Shea Theater, the Ghost Light Theater Company chose to present a deceptively simple production: two actors, not a lot in the way of elaborate sets or costumes, and yet, as it unfolds, the complexity amazes. It is part of the magic of theater that a few actors on a stage with hardly anything around them to enhance the vision, can somehow create a reality out of nothing that entrances an audience, bringing out emotions, as well as surprise, fear, and awe. It doesn't always happen but when it does, it

is to be appreciated.

The Woman In Black, written by Stephen Mallatrat, based on a book by Susan Hill, begins as a simple portrayal, a kind of play within a play, where a young actor seeks to assist an older man who has a story to tell. This man, Kipps, played with great skill by Colin Allen, stands on the stage, reading his story in a stiff and unemotional manner but is stopped just a few lines in by the actor, played by Ted Trobaugh. They have a bit of back and forth, the older man feeling compelled to tell his story his way, out of a passionate need to be free of the nightmares it has brought.

The actor, reminding him that he is there to help him in the telling, gradually convinces him to let the story unfold as it did before. The actor takes on the part of Kipps, and the older

man by agreement, plays the other parts as they arise in the story. It seems straightforward enough at the beginning, but as it proceeds, each of the two men succumb to the growing horror that lies within.

The actor is at the start full of confidence in his skill as an actor and his ability to help the older man learn how to dramatize his story in a way that will hold audience attention. Kipps repeatedly says he has no ability or interest in acting but at some point he becomes one of the characters he is portraying so successfully that the actor asks him how he did that, to which Kipps says, did what? The actor (Trobaugh) turns to the audience at that point, arms wide and with a smile says, "One must appreciate the magic, one must not ask how the magic works."

With only a few boxes and bits of furniture on stage, these two actors turn the theater into many things and many places using only their skill and the art of imagination.

There is also a very dark presence that haunts everything that occurs. This is the woman whose personal tragedy brings the dark fear that permeates the town Kipps visits. Her ghost haunts the place and follows him home to live in his dreams. It is Colin Allen as Kipps whose powerful performance carries the fear and foreboding into the play at the start. The young actor, so willing to help Kipps tell his story, learns through the telling just how terrifying her being actually is, and as the play proceeds, he and the audience are drawn into the darkness.

Ted Trobaugh is compelling in his portrayal of the actor dramatizing Kipps' story, as his demeanor changes, grows more emotional, fearful, panicked, terrified at one



Ted Trobaugh (left) and Colin Allen (right) in the Ghost Light Theater production of *The Woman in Black* at the Shea Theater, July 20.

PHOTO BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

point lying prone in a fetal position on stage, so torn is he with grief. The twist at the end leaves both the actor and the audience stunned.

Credit must be given to Kim Overtree, producer, and Kevin Tracy, director, who together are the founders of Ghost Light Theater company. Their choice of these talented actors and this play, a daring choice, establishes them as a serious theater producers. The production was flawless, directing superior. Good actors work best with good directors and it is clear that Tracy has the gift of giving actors the space to develop their characters fully and perform at their best. Tracy also was in charge of set, sound

and lighting design. Ted Trobaugh wrote the musical score.

Also contributing to the production were Karen Webb Hinds and Melina McCreven for costumes, Jeannie Miller was the stage manager, Samantha Hinds, assistant stage manager, Pete Bradley provided the trailer, Mike Glazier was the sound operator. Kim Overtree was the light operator. Bart Doty and Kate Filanowski worked with Tracy on set construction. Filanowski, Sue Shedd, Regina Diemand and Sarah Devine made up the tech crew.

This has clearly been a collaborative effort, in the spirit of community theater. All involved should be very proud.

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